

Welcome to the 2014 winter edition of CaneConnection

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A good crop starts with planting the right variety using high-quality plant material. So, in this edition of *CaneConnection*, we preview three new varieties selected by the Herbert Variety Adoption Committee for production in that region. We also provide an update on the outcomes of the other regional variety adoption meetings held throughout the industry.

After you have chosen the most appropriate variety for your farm, you need sound planting material protected by appropriate fungicides to lay the foundation for future success. To cover both of these elements, we have included articles that discuss the importance of billet quality in successful crop

establishment, and the impact of seedling diseases and how they can be best managed.

With a great crop ready and with the crush either just started or just around the corner, depending on your region, the question often arises as to which block should be harvested in each round to optimise sugar production across the whole farm.

To help you decide, we have included an article discussing how sugar content can be assessed and used as a method to manage harvest sequence. We share with you one Central region grower's experience in making these simple assessments on his farm.

Because pour rate and ground speed affect ratoonnability, we have one article that discusses the impact that these two related harvesting parameters can have on your next crop.

Finally, we have included an article on nutgrass, that hard-to-manage weed that has the potential to rob you of yield in a number of ways. The article offers some possible management solutions that can be utilised to get it under control.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. If you have any suggestions about topics that you would like covered in future editions or how we can improve this or any other publications, please let us know by emailing communications@sugarresearch.com.au

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