

SmutBuster Program

What is SmutBuster?

- The SmutBuster Program was funded by SRDC in 2008 as an extra response to the threat of smut in Queensland.
- It aims to accelerate the release of high yielding smut-resistant varieties.

Why does the industry need SmutBuster?

- Breeding for smut resistance is the most successful way to overcome sugarcane smut disease.
- Research overseas has shown that if two smut-susceptible parents are crossed, between 10-15% of the offspring are smut-resistant, these are the progeny that the SmutBuster program aims to recover.
- Many of the best parent varieties in the SRA breeding program are susceptible to smut.

- The SRA SmutBuster program is recovering high CCS, high yielding, and smut-resistant varieties from crosses between these smut susceptible parents.

How does SmutBuster work?

- The SmutBuster program runs parallel and in-addition to the existing SRA Variety Improvement Program. Thirty thousand potential new varieties from the SmutBuster program were screened for smut resistance at the SRA Bundaberg smut farm. The best clones are sent to all regions for yield trials.
- There will now be 4,000 + clones tested in the Clonal Assessment Trials (CATs) in each region (this is double the normal breeding program!).
- As a result, more smut-resistant clones will be selected for Final Assessment Trials (FATs).



