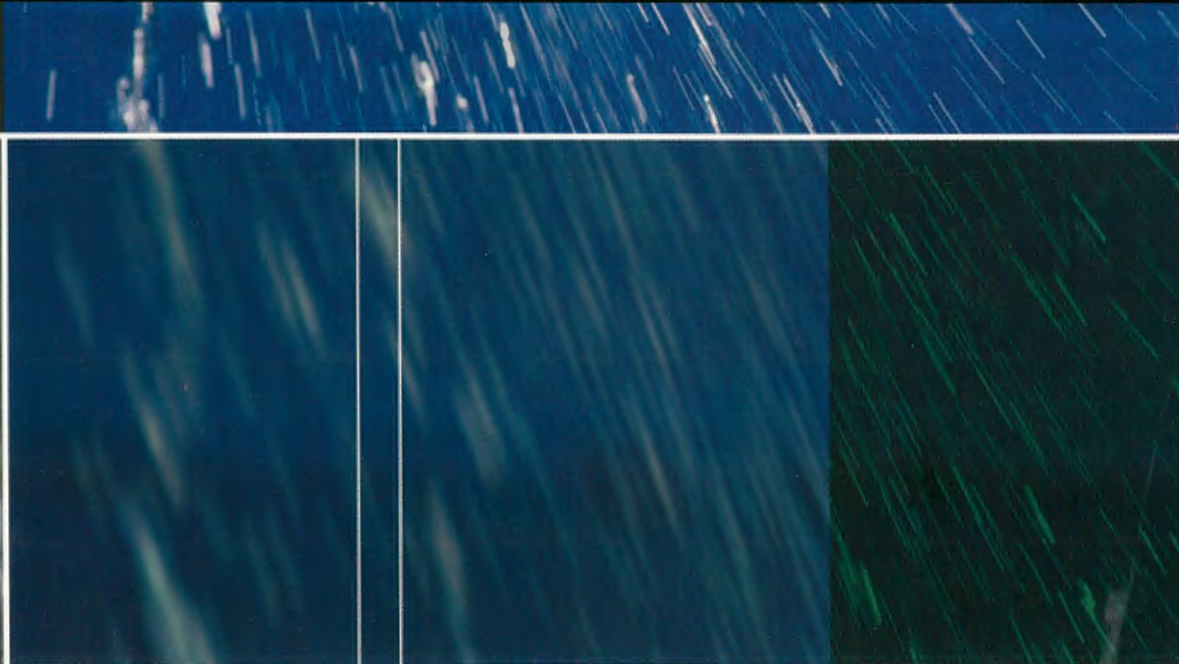


BUREAU OF SUGAR EXPERIMENT STATIONS



MANUAL OF CANE GROWING



MANUAL OF CANEGROWING

Edited by Mac Hogarth and Peter Allsopp

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations

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PO Box 86, Indooroopilly, 4068

Hogarth, D.M. and Allsopp, P.G. (eds). 2000. Manual of Canegrowing, Brisbane, 436 pp.

ISBN 0 949678 05 8

Production editing: PK Editorial Services Pty Ltd, Brisbane
Typesetting, page layout and illustrations: Sun Photoset Pty Ltd, Brisbane
Cover design: Kingsbury Design, Brisbane
Printing: Fergies Printers, Brisbane

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FOREWORD

THE Manual of Cane Growing was first published in 1953 and was revised in 1965. It quickly became the growers' 'standard reference book on most matters pertaining to sugarcane agriculture'. Since 1965, BSES has published technical manuals on a range of subjects, but it has not prepared a comprehensive manual for use by canegrowers. However, I am frequently asked when the Manual is going to be revised, as the Australian sugar industry values the publication very highly.

As 2000 is the centenary of BSES, it was decided to revise the Manual of Cane Growing as the major activity of that year. This new edition is a complete revision of the previous Manual, and includes sections on subject matter that was unknown in 1965. For example, biotechnology and computers were in their infancy, green-cane trash-blanketing was not practised, and mechanical harvesting had just commenced. Yield decline and soil compaction were not major issues, and the impact of farming practices on the environment and the long-term sustainability of agriculture were not serious considerations. All these topics are covered in the new edition, as well as up-to-date information on pest, disease and weed management, nutrition, and plant breeding.

Many people have contributed to the compilation of the Manual. In particular, I thank the authors who embraced the concept of the Manual enthusiastically. Many chapters required the input of people other than those listed as the authors; they are acknowledged in the chapters and their contributions were invaluable. The ability to harness this diverse experience is BSES's greatest strength. I thank Mr John Desmarchalier of ASMC who commented on an early version of Chapter 1. People from various organisations assisted with the compilation of Chapter 21, and I also acknowledge their assistance.

Tribute should be paid to Mac Hogarth and Peter Allsopp who devoted so much time and effort to refereeing and editing the chapters of the book. Thanks are also due to Peter Knight of PK Editorial Services who managed the production of the book so capably.

Colin C. Ryan
Chief Executive Officer