

Cane News

CANEGROWERS Proserpine's
monthly member newsletter



WELCOME TO THE 2022 ISSUE # 6 OF 'CANE NEWS'



JEPPESEN FARMING CO.

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Tony Jeppesen

0414 322 729

Jake Mitchell

0408 160 660



ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE WITH SRA?



Sugar Research
Australia

Sugar Research Australia publishes a quarterly magazine called *Cane Matters*, distributes a fortnightly eNewsletter and frequently sends out invitations for events. Other publications like the Variety Guides,

Greyback Canegrub Management Manual and Weed Management Manual have also been posted out to growers.

If you aren't receiving content from SRA, please contact Dylan Wedel, District Manager – Central, to update your details, 0490 029 387, DWedel@sugarresearch.com.au

HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR RSD TESTS?

Now is the time to book your RSD testing. The SSP team anticipate a high demand for testing this year, so to ensure your results are received as promptly as possible, please contact Frank (0419 679 427) or George (0488 777 657) to arrange your testing.

The Lab takes approximately three weeks to return testing results. Growers will be advised of their results by text message with an invoice following shortly afterwards.



LAUNCH YOUR
CAREER
WITH AUSTRALIA'S
LARGEST SUGAR
MANUFACTURER

“ I chose boilermaking as there are challenges that the trade brings that I find intriguing and are what drew me to the trade. ”

Jazmine Cook
4th year boilermaker apprentice,
Mackay region



WILMAR SUGAR *Apprenticeships*

Scan the
QR code



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
CLOSE 7 AUGUST 2022



CANEGROWERS
MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

Info, new video & new PDFs to download & read

Watch this month's video and read the PDF updates from the CANEGROWERS Marketing Information Service to learn what's been happening.

You can access this information by logging into the member service section at www.canegrowers.com.au, using your CANEGROWERS membership number.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AWARD UPDATE

Please note that there was an increase to wages rates covered within the Sugar

Industry Award, effective 1st July 2022 can be viewed by visiting:

clicking the button below. Alternatively, wage rate info sheets can be collected by visiting the Proserpine office, as can tax tables, CANEGROWERS employment contract templates, superannuation choice forms and other documents required for the employment process.

It's also important to note that from 1st July 2022, superannuation increased to 10.5% and the superannuation threshold was removed. Prior to July 2022, employees needed to be paid \$450 or more (before tax) per month, in addition to meeting all other eligibility requirements, to be eligible to receive superannuation.

If you would like employment documents emailed to you, have employment/payroll related questions or require wage rates for under-age employees, please don't hesitate to contact the Proserpine office.

POSITION AVAILABLE - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CANEGROWERS is the peak body for the Australian sugar industry, and we are looking to fill the position of Administration Officer at our Proserpine office.

Key responsibilities include:

- Frontline counter and telephone enquiries
- Maintenance of inward and outward correspondence
- Receipting and banking of all funds
- Maintenance of office diary and calendar
- Organisation of & preparation for meetings and events
- Provision of general administrative tasks
- Provision of administrative support to insurance broker

The successful applicant will have:

- Excellent communication skills
- Full proficiency with MS Office
- Capability of creating various text documents

No prior industry knowledge is necessary; however, demonstrated experience in a similar position will be highly regarded. This is a Part-Time/Permanent Position consisting of 22 hours per week over 4 days.

Application close Wednesday, 17 August 2022 and are to be forwarded to:
The Manager, CANEGROWERS Proserpine, PO Box 374, Proserpine Qld 4800
or email: sarah_addis@canegrowers.com.au.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR PRICING



2025 SEASON NOW OPEN

If you want more control over your final sugar price, talk to us about pricing for the 2023 - 2025 seasons.

We have a straightforward suite of pricing options that enable you to lock in prices at your target levels.



To find out more about how Call and Target pricing mechanisms have enabled growers to capture potentially attractive prices, see our latest report: [Wilmar growers' Forward Pricing Performance 2012-2021](#).



SHIRLEY NORRIS
OFFICE Proserpine Mill
PHONE 0437 803 019



SUGAR PLUS ROADMAP

In late 2020 CANEGROWERS initiated a Sugar Industry Leaders' Forum to involve all the key groups in a conversation about our future.

Two years on, a lot of work and discussion has led to the launch of Sugar Plus, a roadmap of priority actions towards a more profitable and diversified future for sugarcane. This future involves using sugarcane for more products such as biofuels and bioplastics.

There is a lot of work to do to make this vision a reality and CANEGROWERS is again ready to lead the way ensuring the voice of growers is heard. The next step will be the formation of a series of working groups.

For more information, visit: <https://sugarresearch.com.au/resources-and-media-sugarcane-industry-roadmap>



HORAN & BIRD ENERGY OFFER FOR CANEGROWERS MEMBERS

Horan & Bird and their energy partners Juice Capital and NBE have packaged an offer for CANEGROWERS Members to save on energy costs. The total farm package offer includes an on-farm energy analysis where Horan & Bird will make recommendations of optimal farm savings including:

- Grid energy – Horan & Bird have negotiated same or better rates with Ergon and can deliver a benchmarked saving of at least 4-6%
- Solar PV systems – they can advise if solar PV systems are beneficial after an analysis of pump loads on farm and can offer a deal for installation and cheaper solar energy.
- Digital meters – Horan & Bird can offer COMMS Type 4 digital meters at no costs (usually \$350) and would waive monthly services charges of \$22 per month.

Interested growers can contact Horan and Bird to make an appointment for the farm energy

analysis to see if there is a benefit and savings for their business. The contact number for Horan and Bird is:

Paul Horan; Sales Manager

0447 213 885

Paul.Horan@horanandbird.com.au

www.horanandbird.com.au

SUNWATER FEES & CHARGES, effective 1st July, 2022

Your scheme's fees and charges schedule effective 1 July 2022 is now available on the Sunwater website here: bit.ly/swfeesandcharges.

For irrigation customers, the allocation and usage charges published are inclusive of the 15 per cent Queensland Government irrigation pricing discount for 2021-24. Sunwater will automatically apply the discounted rate on irrigation customer bills from 1 July 2022. The additional 35 per cent rebate will be available to eligible horticultural crop growers via the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA). More information on this rebate is available here: bit.ly/irrigationdiscounts2021-24. For further questions on the rebate, please contact the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water on 13 74 68.

For non-irrigation customers, this is not a pricing charges review notice and where your contract has a 2022 review date, you will receive a notice about new prices once the review is completed.

Should you have any further questions about the fees and charges, please contact customer support by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via sunwater.com.au, Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

Sunwater Customer Support:

P 13 15 89

E customersupport@sunwater.com.au

W www.sunwater.com.au

The Sunwater logo consists of the word 'sunwater' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'sun' is in dark blue and the 'water' is in a lighter blue.

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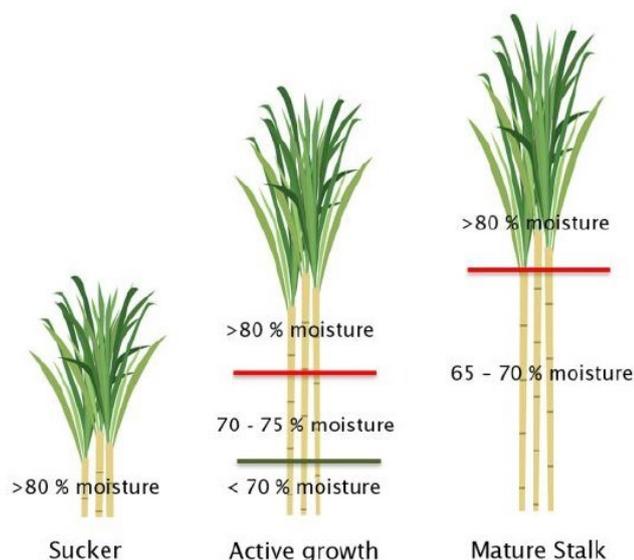
Get in touch:
JACOB SNYMAN
Agribusiness Agronomist
0419 174 616



SRA CENTRAL DISTRICT - CROP RIPENER DEMONSTRATIONS

What did we do:

- Selected two sites which had actively growing cane.
- Measured the cane to confirm that the average moisture in the stalk was above 70% (see the photo). This confirms that the cane is still actively growing.
- Applied Potus (250 g/L Trinexapac-ethyl) in May and harvested in June.
- Potus has the same active as Moddus.
- The aim was to artificially increase the maturity of the cane. We expected to see an increase in CCS and possibly a small reduction in cane yield at harvest.



What did we find:

- On average CCS in the Potus treated crop increased by around 0.8 to 0.9 units
- On average yield of cane reduced by around 1 to 2 tonnes.
- The results were variable within each paddock, and the differences seen were not statistically significant.
- On average, the ripener acted as expected but variability within paddocks affected the results.
- On average the increase in sugar per hectare was greater than the cost of application.
- In the two trials it was in the range of \$312 to \$440/ha benefit to the grower after the application and chemical costs were deducted.

What are the learnings:

- There appears to be a potential benefit from the use of this crop ripener, but the specific selection of which crops to treat is an important consideration.
- identify which crops are likely to benefit from the application of a ripener by testing moisture in the stalk. They must be actively growing and be harvested in 5 to 8 weeks after application.

Trial design:

- The two demonstration sites were established in May, with harvest completed in the first 10% harvest round of the crushing season.
- Both demonstration sites prior to the treatment had an average moisture content of the stalk was >70% (measured with the SRA maturity trailer). That means both sites still had actively growing cane and would respond to Potus.
- Both demonstrations consisted of a control treatment and a Potus treatment (250 g/L Trinexapac-ethyl). Replicated strips were randomised across the paddock.
- Potus was applied as per label recommendation of 800 mL/ha and within the recommended window to harvest (5 to 8 weeks).
- The cost of product at time of application was \$48 per ha, plus application cost.
- The treatments were applied through a drone due to the small, randomised treatments. In a commercial application, local helicopter contractors would offer a lower application cost ~\$80/ha, for gross margin calculations, \$130/ha for treatment (product + application).

If you are interested in using a crop ripener on your farm, please give us a call:

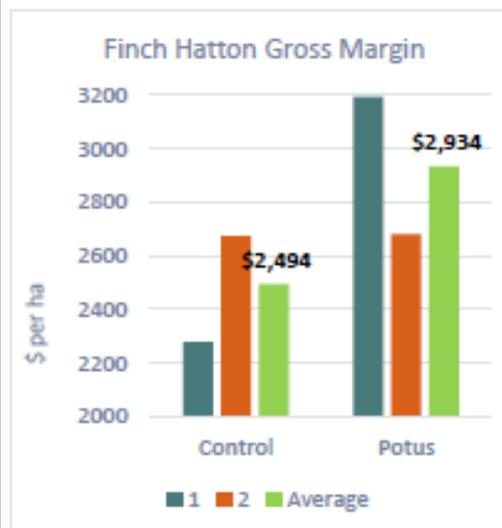
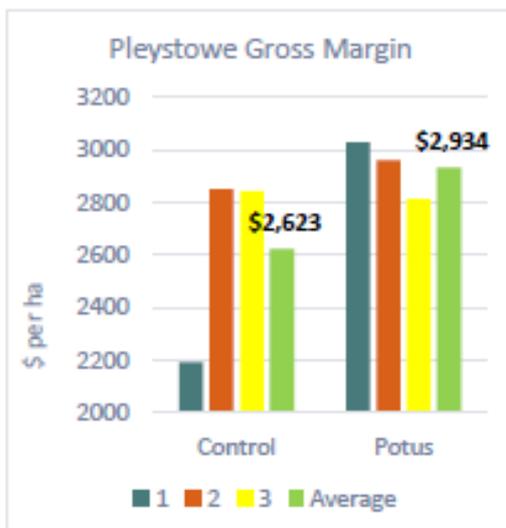
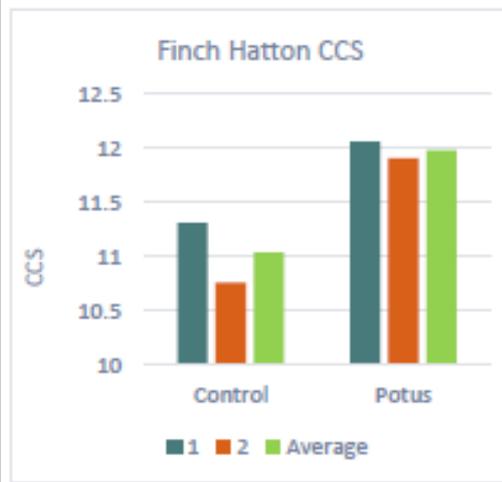
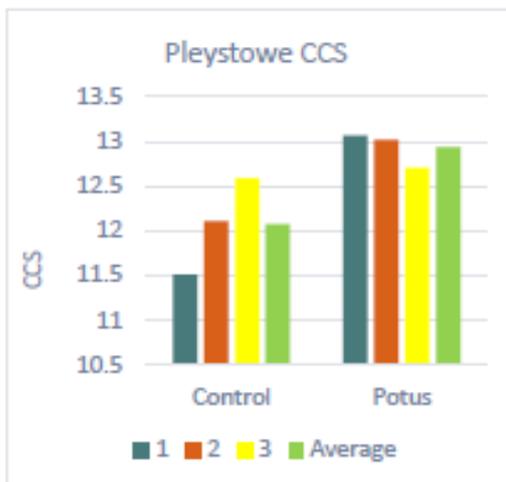
Dylan Wedel, District Manager – Central,
0490 029 387, dwedel@sugarresearch.com.au

Stephanie Duncan, District Delivery Officer,
0459 863 298,
sduncan@sugarresearch.com.au

Article cont. over page....

Pleystowe
 Application Date: 5th May 2022
 Crop Moisture at Time of Application: 75.21%
 Harvest Date: 23rd June 2022
 Variety: Q208
 Area per Treatment: 0.8ha, Total area: 4.8ha
 3 replicated strips of control and treatment
 7 weeks from application to harvest

Finch Hatton
 Application Date: 27th May 2022
 Crop Moisture at Time of Application: 73.15%
 Harvest Date: 30th June 2022
 Variety: Q183 Plant
 Area per Treatment: 0.45ha, Total area: 1.82 ha
 2 replicated strips of control and treatment
 5 weeks from application to harvest



Average Results	CCS	t/ha	TSH
Control	12.07a	88.6a	10.7a
Potus	12.93a	86.7a	11.2a

Average Results	CCS	t/ha	TSH
Control	11.04a	101.1a	11.2a
Potus	11.99a	100.0a	12.0a

Gross Margin Equation: $((\$550/t * 0.009 * (CCS - 4) + 1.12) * t/ha) - t/ha * \$10/t(\text{harvesting}) - \$130/ha(\text{treatment})$

Values followed by the same letter are not statistically different ($P > 0.05$)

BEWARE OF AGRICULTURAL SCAMS

Australians lost over \$2 billion to scams in 2021, including over \$1.5 million lost by farmers and agriculture businesses, according to the ACCC's latest [Targeting scams report](#) released today.

The most common agriculture scam was fake online sales of agricultural machinery such as tractors, backhoes, bobcats and excavators, accounting for reported losses of over \$1.4 million.

Scammers created fake websites to sell new tractors, and operated second hand tractor scams on platforms such as Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace. The ACCC will continue to raise awareness later this year to help prevent farmers and agriculture businesses from being scammed.



OPTIMUM APPLICATION OF IMIDACLOPRID FOR GREYBACK CANEGRUB MANAGEMENT

Life cycle of canegrubs

Greyback canegrub (*Dermolepida albohirtum*) has a one-year life cycle which is shown in Figure 1. Although the diagram shows a January-December timeframe the actual dates of each life-stage can vary depending on climate, cane-growing region and soil properties.

The important life-stages for chemical control are:

Eggs: Laid in batches of 20-30, at 22-45 cm depth. When the eggs hatch after a couple of weeks they develop into early (first) instars in January-February.

Early instars: First instars are small and feed on a mixture of soil organic matter, weeds and cane roots and gradually move up the soil profile. It takes about a month for them to develop into larger second instars.

Late instars: Second instars live for 5-6 weeks and cause more damage to cane roots than first instars. Third or late instar larvae, eat more cane roots and feed for several months causing significant damage. If not controlled effectively damage will result in stool tipping of mature cane in Autumn - Winter when more than two grubs are observed per stool.

What affects cane grub populations?

Cane grub abundance and damage levels are affected by many factors including chemical insecticides, soil moisture, rainfall dry period, soil type and natural enemies. We can control our use of chemical insecticides but have little control over other factors.

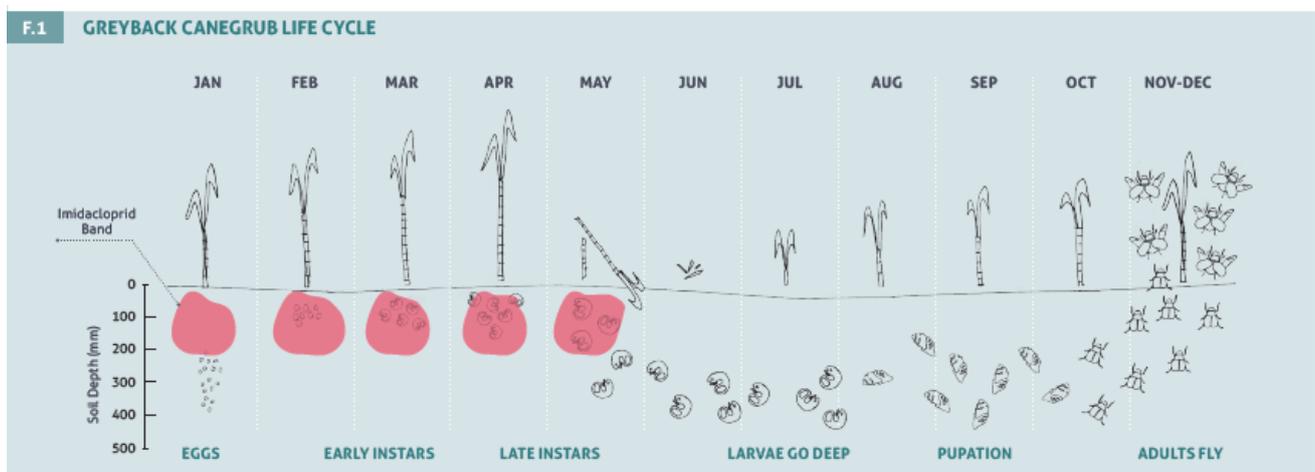
Soil properties and climate:

Soil moisture levels will be influenced by rainfall, dry period and soil properties.

Heavy rainfall and waterlogged soils will reduce survival of eggs and early instars. Free draining soils are less likely to waterlog

In dry periods eggs may desiccate more easily and fewer early instars will develop. However later instars are less affected by wet or dry soils as they are larger and more mobile and will move up or down the soil profile according to the moisture level to escape wet or dry conditions

The number and timing of flights of adult canegrubs is also affected because soil moisture and temperature affect pupae emergence.



CHEMICAL CONTROL

Although the life-stages targeted by chemical insecticide are the root-feeding early to late instars, which occur from January to May, insecticides are applied several months earlier.

Because of the movement of the early and late instars in the soil it is important to ensure insecticide placement is made at the correct time, rate, depth and width to maximise this control option (Figure 2A - 6A).

Incorrect application of imidacloprid based products will result in inadequate protection from cane grubs, economic losses and potential environmental losses (Figure 2B - 6B).

When moderate to high grub pressure is expected (> 2 grubs / stool), use high label rates. Imidacloprid has three modes of action - it is toxic on ingestion, acts as a repellent and acts through contact with the grubs cuticle - therefore correct placement is essential to maximise efficacy (Figure 7).

OPTIMUM APPLICATION FOR GREYBACK CANEGRUB

PLANT CANE

suSCon MAXI INTEL

F.2.A **SUSCON MAXI INTEL BEST APPLIED AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP**

BEST APPLIED AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP

- Sufficient soil between sett and application band
- Apply in a narrow band 150-200 mm
- Cover granules immediately with 50 mm of compacted soil or 100 mm of loose soil
- Granules should be covered by 150-200 mm of compacted soil once the row is finished and hilled up.

F.3.A **SUSCON MAXI INTEL AT PLANTING**

APPLICATION AT PLANTING

When applying suSCon maxi Intel at planting, follow the three-step process described in F.3.A

- Place suSCon in a 150-200 mm band
- Mix suSCon granules with incoming soil behind the planter boards to form a layer 20-30 mm deep and 150-200 mm wide across the row
- Most suitable when there is 200 mm or less soil above the sett in the finished hilled row.

For other planting methods, always ensure the product is applied in a narrow band and there is 50-150 mm soil between the sett and the application band

PLANT CANE

Liquid Imidacloprid

F.4.A **LIQUID IMIDACLOPRID BEST APPLIED AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP**

BEST APPLIED AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP

- Sufficient active remaining when it is needed for grub control
- Sufficient soil between sett and application band
- Apply in a narrow band 50-100 mm* wide OR using one or two jet stream nozzles directed at the centre of the planting row
- Cover product immediately after application with at least 50 mm of soil. There should be at least 100 mm of soil over the treated layer after the final hilling operation.

*Refer to each product label for the correct application band width.

F.5.A **LIQUID IMIDACLOPRID BY STOOL SPLITTING**

STOOL SPLITTING

- One slit in the centre of the stool.
- Slit depth 100-125 mm.
- Close the slot after application.

F.6.A **LIQUID IMIDACLOPRID AS A SIDE DRESSING**

SIDE DRESSING

- Two slits no more than 500 mm apart.
- Slit depth 100-125 mm.
- Close the slots after application.
- Can be applied later than stool splitting but no later than November.

INCORRECT APPLICATION FOR GREYBACK CANEGRUB

F.2.B **INCORRECT SUSCON MAXI INTEL APPLICATION AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP**

INCORRECT APPLICATION AT FILL-IN OR HILL-UP

- Do not apply a band wider than 200 mm
- Too diluted for adequate protection.

SEE FIGURE 2A FOR CORRECT APPLICATION

F.3.B **INCORRECT SUSCON MAXI INTEL APPLICATION AT PLANTING**

INCORRECT APPLICATION AT PLANTING

- Do not apply in a manner in which the granules fall below the sett at planting
- Too low in the soil profile for adequate protection against greyback cane grub.
- Do not mix throughout the soil profile at planting
- Too diluted for adequate protection
- Risk of runoff losses.
- Do not apply any wider than 200 mm.

SEE FIGURE 3A FOR CORRECT APPLICATION

F.4.B **INCORRECT LIQUID IMIDACLOPRID APPLICATION AT PLANTING**

DO NOT APPLY WITH THE SETT AT PLANTING

- Too low in the soil profile
- Too early; insufficient active remaining when it is needed for grub control.

SEE FIGURE 4A FOR CORRECT APPLICATION

F.5.B **INCORRECT STOOL SPLITTING**

INCORRECT STOOL SPLITTING

- Do not surface apply.
- Do not apply shallower than 100 mm.
- Do not leave the slot open
- Risk of runoff and UV degradation.

SEE FIGURE 5A FOR CORRECT APPLICATION

F.6.B **INCORRECT SIDE DRESSING**

INCORRECT SIDE DRESSING

- Do not surface apply.
- Do not apply shallower than 100 mm.
- Do not leave the slot open
- Risk of runoff and UV degradation.

SEE FIGURE 6A FOR CORRECT APPLICATION

Registered Imidacloprid Formulations

- Liquid formulation: Nuprid® 350SC and a range of generic liquid brands
- Controlled release granule: suSCon maxi Intel®.

Rates of application are expressed in ml or g active per 100 linear metre of row, which means your rate per hectare varies with your row spacing (Table 1).

T1 RATE CONVERSION FOR IMIDACLOPRID PRODUCTS						
	Rate per 100 linear metre row for high grub pressure	Rate per ha, 1.5 m row spacing	Rate per ha, 1.56 m row spacing	Rate per ha, 1.65 m row spacing	Rate per ha, 1.8 m row spacing	Rate per ha, 2m row spacing
Liquid (i.e. Nuprid® 350SC)	22 ml	1.47 L	1.41 L	1.33 L	1.22 L	1.1 L
suSCon maxi Intel®	225 g	15 kg	14.4 kg	13.9 kg	12.5 kg	11.25 kg

In dual row, apply half the rate on each row.

Key references

- Horsfield, A., *et al.* 2008. Role of climatic factors on damage incidence by *Dermolepida albohirtum* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), in Burdekin sugarcane. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 101: 334-340.
- Illingworth JF & Dodd AP. 1921. Australian sugar-cane beetles and their allies. *Bulletin of Queensland Bureau of Sugar Experiment Station, Division of Entomology* 16, 1-104.
- Jarvis E. 1926. Notes on Queensland cane insects and their control. *Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Division of Entomology Bulletin* 19, 1-72.
- Sallam, N. 2011. Review of current knowledge on the population dynamics of *Dermolepida albohirtum* (Waterhouse) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *Australian Journal of Entomology*, 50: 300-308.
- Ward, AL. 2003. Does soil texture influence the distribution of the greyback cane grub, *Dermolepida albohirtum* (Waterhouse) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), in the Burdekin River sugarcane growing area? *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research* 54, 861-868

PROSERPINE QSL UPDATE



Annual & Quarterly Summaries

Looking for a handy summary of your QSL transactions for the last financial year or previous quarter? QSL growers can now find these in their accounts under the Financial Reports tab for the 2021 Season.

Key Dates 2022

- 20 September: Any unpriced tonnage in the 2022 Target Price Contract will roll after this date and an adjustment will be applied.
- 20 September: Last day to roll unpriced Oct22 Contract tonnage in the Individual Futures Contract and Self-Managed Harvest Contract. Any unpriced tonnage remaining after this date will be priced by QSL at the next market opportunity.

Third-party Payments

Growers are reminded that any Third-Party Payments (liens) in place for the 2021 Season will automatically roll into the 2022 Season. If you do not wish your Third-Party Payment/s to continue into the 2022 Season, please contact QSL as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding Third-Party Payments, please contact Karen on 0429 804 876 or call the QSL Direct helpline on 1800 870 756.

Selling your STL shares

As a not-for-profit organisation owned by the Queensland cane growers and sugar millers we serve, QSL is uniquely positioned to buy your shares in Sugar Terminals Limited (STL). For more information speak to Karen on 0429 804 876.

New QSL Grower Rep Members

Alf Nucifora and Owen Menkens have been appointed as QSL Grower Representative Members. Mr Nucifora will represent the Tully milling region and replaces Tom Harney, who recently retired from cane farming. Mr Menkens will represent the Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (QCGO), following the retirement of former QCGO Chair Paul Schembri.

QSL Grower Representative Members are the voice of cane growers from across the state, with 19 'elected holders' representing the growers located in their local mill area, with an additional two appointees representing the Australian Cane Farmers Association and QCGO.

As well as being called upon to vote on key matters of importance at QSL general meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, QSL's Grower Representative Members are a vital communication link between QSL and growers throughout Queensland. Not only are they provide direct feedback to QSL on behalf of the growers in their region, they also play a pivotal role in QSL's regional engagement activities and the dissemination of QSL information and updates.

Elected holders serve 3-year terms. However, should an elected representative need to stand down before completing their full term, QSL can appoint a replacement member in consultation with industry. The next QSL Grower Representative Member elections will be held in 2023.

Advance rate increase

The initial 2022-Season Advance payment rate has been set at 65%, with this currently scheduled to increase to 70% in October 2022.

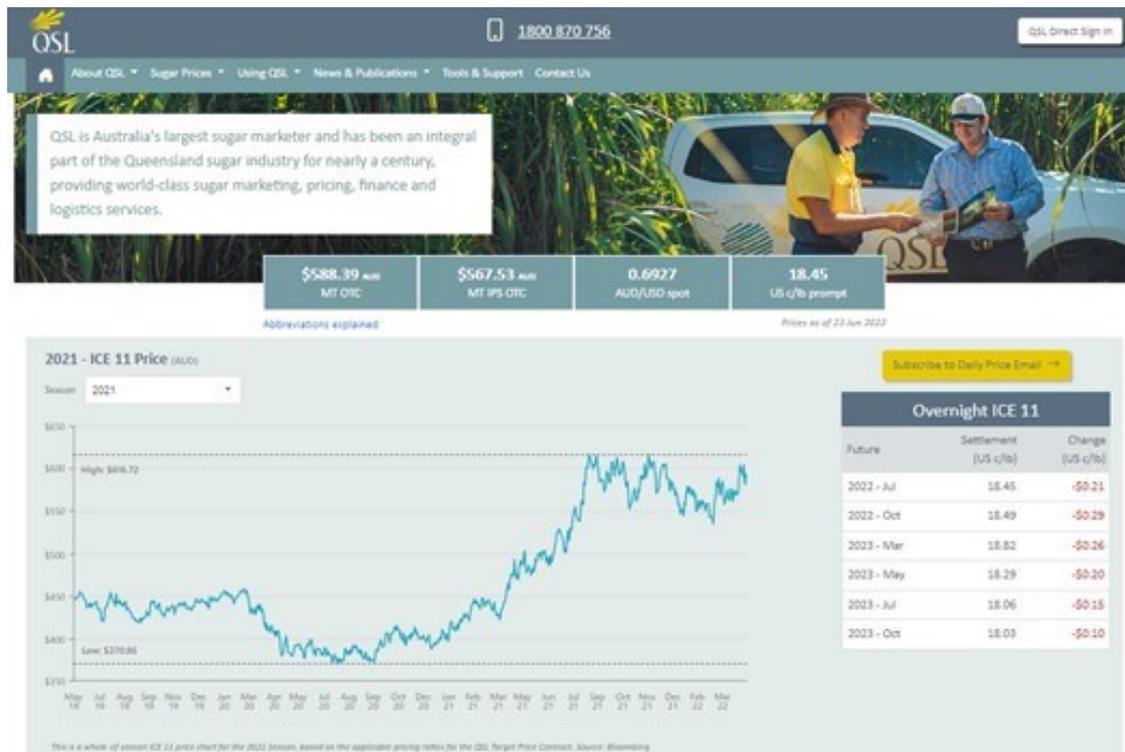
New 'Balancing Order' feature

Growers using the Self-Managed Harvest Contract can now price the remainder of their unpriced tonnage against individual contracts by using our new 'Balancing Order' feature. This allows you to place an order for all the remaining unpriced tonnage against that contract – down to the last tonne – rather than limiting the order size to a multiple of 10 tonnes.

To access this feature in the QSL Direct portal, just click on the Balancing Order button now featured on the order screen for this product. When using the QSL App, type the full balance figure into the 'tonnes' field when placing an order and it will be accepted.

New-look QSL website

QSL is updating its website to introduce a fresh look and a more user-friendly layout. You will find it shortly at www.qsl.com.au



For more information, please contact your local QSL representative:

YOUR QSL GROWER SERVICES TEAM

QSL Direct Helpline P 1800 870 756

Proserpine Region



Grower Relationship Manager
Russell Campbell
0408 248 385
russell.campbell@qsl.com.au



Grower Relationship Officer
Karen Vloedmans
0429 804 876
karen.vloedmans@qsl.com.au

Disclaimer: The information in this document does not constitute financial advice. Growers should seek their own financial advice and read the QSL Pricing Pool Terms in full (available at www.qsl.com.au) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. QSL does not accept any responsibility to any person for the decisions and actions taken by that person with respect to any of the information contained in this document.

Closing date for classified advertisements is the close of business of the first week of each month. Classifieds are free to CANEGROWERS members. CANEGROWERS Proserpine does not necessarily endorse products or services advertised in, or associated with the newsletter. Articles appearing in 'Cane News' do not necessarily represent the policies or views of CANEGROWERS .