SOIL TESTING AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

As a service to members, Sugar Services Proserpine (SSP) are offering soil, plant tissue and water testing, in conjunction with current CCS, RSD and pachymetra testing. All soil tests will be analysed by an accredited laboratory and detailed recommendations and nutrient management plans (NMP) provided, with a strong focus on the identification of areas of constraint and appropriate remediation recommendation, such as the application of lime and gypsum.

The service offered is basic sugarcane soil testing, at a cost to the grower of $125.00 per test including GST and postage.

The collection of the soil test, the recommendation and NMP from the soil analysis results are services SSP provides to members at no additional expense. If a more comprehensive soil test or plant tissue (leaf) and water testing is required, please contact Frank or Stacey for a quote.

This test covers all the Reef Regulation requirements, as per Queensland Reef Water Quality Program, *Prescribed methodology for sugarcane cultivation*:
Soil must be tested and analysed to determine the content of:

- Organic Carbon (OC)
- BSES extractable P
- P buffer index (PBI)
- pH (1:5 water)

Soil must be sampled and tested, at a minimum, within the 12 months prior to fertiliser being applied to the first crop of a crop cycle.

Soil sampling should be conducted preferably shortly after harvest. This provides an accurate capture of what nutritional requirements need to be met for the new crop. Additionally, this allows for adequate time for amelioration of constraints, such as low pH or sodicity.

Q. How are areas of constraint within the block identified?
A. NDVI mapping can identify areas, or zones, that may be a cause of concern. SSP can identify these areas using a program, DataFarming and discuss the results and options directly with the grower before taking any soil tests.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact the SSP team.
Frank – 0419 679 427
Stacey – 0488 777 657

This service is offered to levy paying members of SSP. It is not offered to non-members.

Why you need to apply lime.

- The ideal pH range for growth and nutrient uptake for sugarcane is pH 5.5 – 6.5.
- Lime application corrects low soil pH through a chemical reaction. Fine lime particles achieve the best results in a shorter period.
- Ideal soil pH improves fertiliser use efficiency by maximising nutrient availability.
- It takes three to four months after the application of lime for the soil pH to improve.
- Soil testing as soon as possible after harvest allows for the best possible timing to achieve the benefits of lime application.

For more information, please contact Stacey and Frank at SSP