

# The Bundaberg District Canegrower

Volume 18, Issue 1  
February 2023



## Chair's Update

January has passed by with some handy rainfall totals across most growing areas with the prolonged rainy overcast days stifling crop growth to some degree. The crop has been green and lush looking but, without the solar radiation, growth has been held back. The storms in the middle of February have caused some damage to property due to high winds. These winds have also knocked over cane which is not ideal and there have been some reports plant cane may have snapped off.

The crop estimate is looking to be a mixed bag with some blocks looking spectacular whilst the block beside them is very much behind. This is a direct result of a later than optimal finish. Estimates will be due in April and it is important to be as accurate as possible to allow adequate planning and rostering arrangements. If you require assistance with your estimate, please contact your GSO.

We are currently in negotiations with Bundaberg Sugar to try and come up with some solutions for getting this next crop off in a timely manner and we remain focused on achieving an outcome that is fair for all growers. Sugar prices look strong for the next couple of seasons and we are getting closer to being able to access QSL Direct. In the coming weeks Bundaberg CANEGROWERS will be in close contact with QSL to arrange staff on the ground in the district to assist with implementation of QSL Direct and completion of the associated paperwork.

A curve ball from Sugar Terminals Ltd (STL) has left Queensland Sugar Ltd (QSL) and most industry representatives questioning why these announcements have been made. Queensland CANEGROWERS along

with other CANEGROWERS regional offices are calling on STL to explain the reasoning behind its decision to abandon a long and successful commercial partnership with QSL for the operation of the state's bulk sugar terminals.

We recently met with the STL Board to discuss terminal arrangements and will work toward achieving the best outcome for our members.

Recently we welcomed a group of young growers from the Mossman and Cairns regions and provided a tour of our region to show the vast differences in our landscape and cropping compared with their home towns. Local growers were provided with the opportunity to attend a young growers networking event and meet with other growers and form new connections.

We remain members of Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association to support growers and the community in the Bundaberg Regional Council area. The current focus of the group is sourcing and training suitable candidates with an interest in agriculture to nominate for the March 2024 Local Elections. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more information on what is involved in being a local Councillor, please contact Tanya Howard on 4151 2555.

## Harvesting Group Arrangements

The Collective Contract stipulates the following arrangements for grouping:

### 8 Grouping

*8.1 Formation.- The Mill Owner shall provide an indication of the likely modes of crush for the coming Season in writing to Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd by the 14 April. Applications by a Grower to join a harvesting group*

*must be received by the Mill Owner by the 21 April of each year and the Mill Owner must advise the grower by the 5 May of that year of the Grower's new Delivery Point to ensure the efficient and economic operation of the Mill transport system.*

*Growers who have been advised of a new Delivery Point shall notify the Mill Owner by the 15 May if they will accept the new Delivery Point. In the absence of any Application to the Mill Owner from a Grower prior to 21 April, and any notification of acceptance of a Delivery Point by a Grower to the Mill Owner prior to 15 May for those growers advised of a new Delivery Point, the Grower's membership of their harvesting group shall be deemed to be the same as the previous season.*

In order to avoid some of the issues that arose last year I suggest you sort out your harvesting needs sooner than the 21 April 2023 deadline.

**Mark Pressler**  
Chairman

## Top Five (5) Issues We Have Been Working On

1. End of season review and final Cane Analysis Audit checks, summaries and reports.
2. Arrangements for transition to new CSPA and QSL Direct to increase sugar marketing opportunities for 2023 Season onwards.
3. Undertaking soil tests, analysis and assisting with N & P Budgets.
4. Preparations for 2022 Season Sugar Industry Dinner and Awards on Friday, 24 March.
5. Assisting Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association



**Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Ltd Newsletter**

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Website: [www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au](http://www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au)

## 2022 Season Indicative Advances Program

Based on QSL reports 27 January 2023

Advance Dates	Uncommitted Pool Advance (AUD/tonne IPS)		Target Price Advance Rates
	Increase / Decrease	To	
Initial		\$391.00	\$391.00
Initial QSL Updated	<b>-\$22.00</b>	\$369.00	\$369.00
21-Oct-22	\$37.00	\$406.00	\$406.00
18-Nov-22	\$29.00	\$435.00	\$435.00
16-Dec-22	\$17.00	\$452.00	\$452.00
20-Jan-23	\$49.00	\$501.00	80.0%
17-Feb-23	\$23.00	\$524.00	82.5%
17-Mar-23	\$32.00	\$556.00	87.5%
21-Apr-23	\$16.00	\$572.00	90.0%
19-May-23	\$16.00	\$588.00	92.5%
16-Jun-23	\$16.00	\$604.00	95.0%
Final	\$32.00	\$636.00	100.0%

### Notes:

1. The program above represents indicative advances payable by QSL to Bundaberg Sugar based on estimated pool returns, the marketing plan and forecast cash flows at the time. These indicative amounts will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated for changes in forecasts. **Advances highlighted in bold in the table above have been approved by the QSL Board.**

2. This program is indicative only and should not be taken as a commitment by Queensland Sugar (or Bundaberg Sugar) with regard to the estimated pool return, advance rate or date of increase. The program may change during the season depending on movements in a number of factors including the marketing plan, sugar price and currency movements and timing of cash flows.

3. The advance rates are GST exclusive.

4. The net adjustment, for the estimated US Quota and QSL premiums & costs, to be added / (subtracted) to / (from) ICE No.11 and Foreign Exchange pricing results for the Committed Pools (e.g. Target Price Contract) is **\$43.97**.

**Disclaimer:** This report has been prepared for general information only. It does not have regard to the specific circumstances of any individual or group who may read it. It is not intended as an offer to buy or sell commodities, futures or options, nor is the accuracy of the report content guaranteed. However, as market circumstances can change quickly, Queensland Sugar Limited and Bundaberg Sugar Ltd disclaim any responsibility or liability for decisions or actions of any individual relying in whole or in part on information contained herein. Individuals contemplating decisions relating to any material discussed in this publication should take appropriate financial advice.

## Disaster Assistance Grants are Still Available

Without any fanfare or major announcements QRIDA have extended the various disaster assistance programs for the November, January and February to April rainfall events.

Each of these now have different completion dates enabling much of the unfinished earthworks to be completed, especially if the weather begins to dry out.

The Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Central, Southern and Western Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (10 November to 3 December

2021) now has a completion date of **17 March 2023**. This program did not include a large number of Bundaberg growers and has an upper limit of \$50,000 of grant assistance.

The Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – Ex Tropical Cyclone Seth (2 to 10 January 2022) has been extended until **5 May 2023**. This is the main program that Bundaberg growers have claimed against and has an upper limit of \$50,000.

The Extraordinary Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants – South East

Queensland Rainfall and Flooding (22 February to 5 April 2022) has been extended until **10 March 2023**. This program did not include many Bundaberg growers and has an upper limit of \$75,000.

None of the guidelines or criteria for these programs have changed, it is just that they have been extended.

**If a grower has any queries please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035 for assistance. ■**

## Fire Risks Affecting Growers

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS are part of the Bundaberg Area Fire Management Group that meets in March each year to decide on areas of the wider fire district that may require fire mitigation practices during winter to reduce the overall fire risk in spring and summer.

The fire mitigation practices include cool burns, fire breaks and education.

To achieve the most benefit for the community there is a ranking system to indicate where the highest risk is to assist in guiding the group based on past fires and mitigation activities. Also taken into consideration are the concerns of local landowners.

While the fire risk, based on QFES model, on a cane farm is lower compared to a forestry area, a fire at the

wrong time can be extremely damaging to both.

**Please contact Matt Leighton on 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035 before 23 March 2023 if you have large amounts of vegetation on your own or neighbouring farm that creates concern or other areas such as National Park or council road reserves. ■**

## QSL NEWS



by Russell Campbell, QSL Grower Relationship Manager  
17 Feb. 23

### Information Sessions

QSL Direct will now be available to all Bundaberg growers who have an active Cane Supply Agreement for the 2023 season. QSL will arrange several sessions in the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office to provide an overview of the Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) and the 2023 market outlook. More information about this event will come from the local Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office.

We will also be available for one-on-one chats for any questions, please call me on 0408 248 385 to book an appointment.

### Grower Pricing Agreement

In addition to the amended Cane Supply agreement (CSA), you will also need to complete and sign a Grower Pricing Agreement (GPA) with QSL to price and market your sugar. QSL has sent a digital document pack to all Bundaberg Cane Growers. The email from QSL contained the following documents:

- Your GPA with QSL
- An overview of the GPA
- A 'How to Complete The GPA' Guide
- The Terms and Conditions for QSL Direct

The GPA is a contract between QSL and a Grower which details the conditions under which that Grower will allocate Grower's Economic Interest in sugar (GEI Sugar) to QSL in order to access QSL's marketing and pricing services.

#### Returning your GPA

Before completing your GPA, please review the prepopulated information within the document and ensure it is accurate.

Once you have completed the additional fields, there are two options for returning your GPA.

1. Make an appointment with QSL staff who will be temporarily based at the Bundaberg CANEGROWERS office, and they can help get the documents signed and setup for pricing.
2. Print your GPA, scan and return the completed document to [gsldirect@qsl.com.au](mailto:gsldirect@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](http://www.qsl.com.au)) before making any pricing and pool selection decisions. Information provided by QSL about past performance is not an indication of future performance and nothing contained in this document should be relied upon as a representation as to future matters. 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.

## Sugar Industry Dinner 2022 Season Awards

Friday, 24 March 2023

The Sails Function Room at The Waves Sports Club

Commencing with Pre-Dinner Drinks at 6:00pm  
followed at 7:00pm by a 2 Course Dinner & Entertainment

Subscriptions \$50 per person  
(incl. 2 Complimentary Glasses of Beer, Wine or Soft-drink)

RSVP: Friday, 10 March 2023

Tickets available from Reception at Bundaberg CANEGROWERS  
& must be purchased prior to the Night

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW !!!**

## Addressing Methamphetamine in the Workplace

Crystal methamphetamine or 'ice' in the workplace is becoming an increasing concern, with the number of Queensland farmers reporting drug use among workers on the rise.

According to research by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), there is growing evidence of ice being used by younger males aged 18 to 30 years who are employed as tradespersons or technicians.

NCETA research has identified that, compared to other employees, those using methamphetamine are more likely to:

- report high levels of psychological distress;
- be absent from work;
- attend work under the influence of drugs;
- drive or operate hazardous machinery while affected; or
- verbally or physically abuse someone while affected.

Ice can take a toll on a person's ability to function mentally and physically, and can result in illness, injury or early death.

Signs a worker may be using include

extreme tiredness, unexplained irritability, agitation or mood swings, hallucinations, poor work performance, and health problems such as poor appetite, palpitations, infected injection sites or lesions.

Longer-term problems with anxiety and depression may also develop including paranoia with some users becoming prone to aggression and violence.

Workplace strategies to address methamphetamine risks to safety and wellbeing include:

- **Supervisor/manager training:** It is important that supervisors and managers are aware that symptoms such as negative mood states, cognitive dysfunction, and fatigue can be associated with methamphetamine use.
- **Employee awareness:** Workplace education and training programs need to highlight the potential link between methamphetamine use and poor physical and mental health as well as the overall harms associated with drug use such as needle stick injury and infection control.
- **Health promotion:** Workplace health promotion programs can serve as a

'trigger' for discussions with employees about the ways in which drug use can impact their health and work performance.

- **Employer Assistance Programs (EAPs):** Counselling services and EAPs are important to minimise risky behaviours such as polydrug use and alcohol use which are more prevalent among employed methamphetamine users than other workers.
- **Related workplace policies:** NCETA research has identified an association between methamphetamine use and verbal and physical abuse in the workplace. This indicates that workplace bullying policies may also be required.

If you are concerned about drug use in your workplace, call the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) on 1800 177 833.

ADIS provides a free, 24 hour/7 day, counselling, information and referral service for anyone with concerns about their own or someone else's use of alcohol or other drugs. It is an anonymous and confidential service. ■

## Fuel Tax Credit Rates for Business

If you claim fuel tax credits, multiple rates may apply to your business activity statement (BAS) depending on when you acquired the fuel.

Fuel tax credit rates change regularly so it's important to check and apply the correct rate. They are indexed twice a year – in February and August – based on the upward movement of the consumer price index (CPI).

The CPI indexation factor for rates from 1 February 2023 is 1.037.

Fuel tax credit rates may also change for fuel used in a heavy vehicle for travelling on a public road due to changes in the road user charge. The charge is reviewed annually and the change, if made, generally occurs in July.

In July 2023, rates will change for biodiesel (B100) due to an annual increase in excise duty rates.

From 29 September 2022, the rates changed due to the end of the temporary

reduction of fuel excise duty.

The reduction was in place from 30 March to 28 September 2022 and applied to excise and excise equivalent customs duty rates for petrol, diesel and all other fuel and petroleum-based products (except aviation fuels). This affected the fuel tax credit rates during this period.

Your registered tax or BAS agent can help correctly calculate your fuel tax credit and lodge your BAS. ■

## National Mentoring Program

The National Farmers' Federation and Australian Rural Leadership Foundation are ready to connect more farmers, industry professionals and rural community members as mentees and mentors for the National Mentoring Program.

The program is a great opportunity to develop lifelong leadership skills for

people 18 years and older in rural, regional and remote Australia. In addition to one-on-one mentoring sessions, you'll also gain insights from industry leaders, and receive virtual learning sessions focusing on communication, leadership and self-awareness to develop drought preparedness, resilience and stronger networks.

The program is fully funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. Applications are open until 3 April 2023.

For more information or to apply visit <https://tinyurl.com/mc2mjruk>. ■



## New Psychosocial Risk Regulations

Queensland has published the *Work Health & Safety (Psychological Risks) Amendment Regulations 2022* which will commence on 1 April 2023.

These Regulations adopt the Model WHS Regulations for the management of Psychosocial hazards and risks.

### What is a psychosocial hazard?

A psychosocial hazard is a hazard that:

- (a) arises from, or relates to:
  - (i) the design or management of work; or
  - (ii) a work environment; or
  - (iii) plant at a workplace; or
  - (iv) workplace interactions or behaviour; and
- (b) may cause psychological harm (whether or not it may also cause physical harm).

A psychosocial risk is a risk to the health or safety of a worker or other person arising from a psychosocial hazard.

A person conducting a business or undertaking must manage psychosocial risks.

### Control Measures

The Queensland Regulations adopt the Model WHS Regulations, but importantly have not excluded the operation of the 'hierarchy of controls' for managing risks.

As such, in QLD there will be a requirement to ensure higher order controls to address psychological risks are implemented in the first instance, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so.

In determining the control measures to implement, you must have regard to:

- (a) the duration, frequency and severity of the exposure of workers and other persons to the psychosocial hazards; and
- (b) how the psychosocial hazards may interact or combine; and
- (c) the design of work, including job demands and tasks; and
- (d) the systems of work, including how work is managed, organised and supported; and
- (e) the design and layout, and environmental conditions, of the workplace; and

- (f) the design and layout, and environmental conditions, of workers' accommodation; and
- (g) the plant, substances and structures at the workplace; and
- (h) workplace interactions or behaviours; and
- (i) the information, training, instruction and supervision provided to workers.

The *Managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work Code of Practice 2022* was published on 9 November 2022 and is available to download via the WorkSafe website [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice).

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS will continue to monitor the roll-out of the Regulations and provide assistance where possible. ■

## New Pay Secrecy and Job Ad Laws

New workplace laws about pay secrecy and what can be included in job advertisements (ads) now apply.

These changes are part of the Australian Government's new Secure Jobs, Better Pay legislation that passed in December 2022.

The new laws include:

- giving employees the right to share (or not share) information about their pay;
- banning pay secrecy terms in employment contracts and other workplace instruments;
- prohibiting job ads with pay rates lower than the legal minimum entitlements that apply to the job.

These changes apply now, with some transitional arrangements.

For further information refer to the Fair Work Ombudsman website at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).

### Reminder - Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave from 1 February 2023

From 1 February 2023, employees of non-small business employers (employers with fifteen (15) or more employees) can access ten (10) days of paid family and domestic violence leave every twelve (12) months.

Employees of small business employers (employers with less than fifteen (15) employees) can access this leave from 1 August 2023.

**For further information or assistance with your payroll, contact Kate Odgaard on 4151 2555. ■**

### DON'T MISS OUR ADVANCED WORKSHOP ON KNOCKDOWN HERBICIDES

You're invited to learn how to optimise your spray application at our 4-hour advanced workshop.

SRA's Weed Scientist Emilie Fillols, and representatives from Nufarm and Croplands, invite you to learn more about effective weed management using knockdown herbicides.

This workshop is designed for growers and advisers who are already familiar with knockdown herbicides and spray applications, but who want to take their knowledge further to upskill their weed management decisions.

Participants will build their confidence in developing a spray program that really works by learning about how knockdown herbicides enter the leaves and reach their target sites, and how to use this knowledge. They will also learn about the role of adjuvants, the drift issue and how to reduce the risk of drift.

The workshop includes on-site demonstrations from Croplands and Nufarm to illustrate product incompatibility and the effect of nozzle and adjuvant on drift.

**When:** Thursday 16 March 2023  
1.00pm - 5.00pm

**Where:** SRA Bundaberg Station,  
314 Pashleys Road, Welcome Creek

**RSVP:** Friday, 10 March through Trybooking:  
[trybooking.com/CGGYG](http://trybooking.com/CGGYG)

For more information contact John Purvis on  
0455 591 831





BUNDABERG REGION

Women in Sugar

Women of  
WORTH

# WISA Conference

## 2023

## 2ND & 3RD MAY

BUNDABERG REGION

Tickets available 1st March 2023  
through Ticketebo  
Follow the link to purchase or  
for more information

[ticketebo.com.au/wisa2023](https://ticketebo.com.au/wisa2023)

Funded by



Dept Justice & Attorney General  
Investing in QLD Women Grant

**Day 1 | Tuesday  
2nd May**

### Bargara Cultural Centre

160 Hughes Rd, Bargara

#### Conference

8.30am - 3.00pm

Guest Speakers &  
Local Attraction Markets

Followed by

#### Formal Dinner

6.00pm to 11.30pm

Guest Speaker Angela Williams  
Presenting 'Walking the Wire' & Live Entertainment



**Day 2 | Wednesday  
3rd May**

### The Lighthouse Hotel

66 Zunker St, Burnett Heads

#### Bus Trip & Lunch

8.30am to 3pm

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks  
One Little Farm  
Bundaberg Rum  
The Lighthouse Hotel



Proudly  
Supported by





CANEGROWERS

## Representation on Your Behalf

The Chairman, Elected Members and Staff of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS represented cane growers on a number of occasions. Executive members also attended many Branch meetings and other engagements in their own time.

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE	FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
05.01.2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
16.01.2023	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
19.01.2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
25.01.2023	EQL Tariff Session	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss
02.02.2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss
03.02.2023	EQL Customer & Community Council Energy Charter	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss
07.02.2023	Heidi Du Clou, SRA	To receive update on NIR	Tanya Howard Dale Holliss Courtney Moar
09.02.2023	Bundaberg District Groundwater Area Advisory Committee Metering Shed Meeting	To represent irrigators	Dale Holliss
13.02.2023	District Managers Meeting	To receive update	Tanya Howard
14 - 16.02.2023	Energy Consumers Australia Conference	To represent members	Dale Holliss
15.02.2023	Young Growers Group	To represent members	Matt Leighton
15.02.2023	Russell Campbell, QSL	To progress with arrangements for QSL Direct	Tanya Howard Mark Pressler
15.02.2023	STL Stakeholders Meeting	To represent members	Mark Pressler Anna Attard
16.02.2023	Bundaberg Regional Ratepayers Association	To represent members	Tanya Howard
17.02.2023	Energy Charter Roundtable	To represent members	Dale Holliss
20 - 21.02.2023	QCGO Environment Committee Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
20.02.2023	Regional Business HQ Board Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
22.02.2023	QCGO Farm Input Research Committee Meeting	To represent members	Tanya Howard
23.02.2023	AiGroup HR Update	To receive update	Tanya Howard Kate Odgaard
23 - 24.02.2023	QSL Grower Rep Meeting	To represent members	Anna Attard

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### WANTED

Cane Harvesting Contractor required for 2023 Harvest Season. Rail bin delivery. Sharon area. Ph: 0400 840 206 or evenings, 4159 9146.

#### FOR SALE

- Approx. 100ML Gooburrum Channel Surface Water. Price Negotiable. Ph 0428 997 568.
- 14ft De Haviland Dinghy. \$500. Ph: 0417 009 236.
- Briggs & Stratton 4.5kVA Inverter Generator Like brand new. \$2700. Ph: 0400 349 407.

### CLASSIFIED & JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

As a free service to financial members, small suitable classified & employment advertisements of up to thirty (30) words only will be printed.

Advertisements will be accepted from non-members, charged at \$11 per seven (7) word line or part thereof.

#### Contact

Bundaberg CANEGROWERS Office on telephone no. 4151 2555 or email [bdb\\_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au](mailto:bdb_office@bdbcanegrowers.com.au)



## Soybean News

As expected, the late cane harvest affected the area and timing of the soybean plant in Bundaberg. The rain in the middle of January was either a hinderance or helpful depending on whether growers had planted or not. The latest issue is waiting for the paddocks to dry out enough to spray weeds and any emerging insect problems.

If growers have not yet planted, the number of suitable varieties is decreasing however may include some varieties that are not normally considered in the region.

- **Hayman**<sup>®</sup> can be planted until mid February, though there may be a yield penalty if the plant does not grow quickly from the beginning.
- **Kuranda**<sup>®</sup> is suitable until the end of February where the yield penalties

begin however it has limited marketing options as it is not suitable for edible markets.

- **Mossman**<sup>®</sup> are northern varieties that can be planted until late February and possibly early March.

What is critical with all of these varieties is access to available seed with high germination rates.

For those that haven't planted, the use of Valor herbicide for the control of broadleaf weeds including some legumes should be considered as a post plant pre-emergent option. With emerged soybeans and weeds there are several options depending on the type of weeds and their size, however the weeds need to be small to be controlled effectively. Basagran controls vines well, Blazer small legume weeds and Spinnaker most non legume weeds.

For grass control Verdict is the product of choice, however must be applied before flowering.

To improve soil health and maximise the nitrogen fixed by the soybeans, trace elements such as molybdenum and zinc are a must with other trace elements such as copper and boron based on soil test results. These trace elements are also available for the cane and can provide nutrients to stop any "hidden hunger" due to a lack of available nutrients for the cane crop.

If anyone is looking for agronomy advice, Bundaberg CANEGROWERS offers a fee for service Soybean Agronomy service for growers. Anyone interested can contact Matt Leighton on either 4151 2555 or 0437 084 035 for further details. ■

## Guava Root Knot Nematode Found in the Wide Bay

Guava Root Knot Nematode has been found in Hervey Bay after a recent incursion around Townsville.

Guava Root Knot nematode is deemed one of the worst root knot nematodes as it is more destructive than the other species of root knot nematodes currently present in Bundaberg. It has a wide host range of crops including sweet potato, chilli, cotton, ginger, guava, papaya, potato, soybean, and watermelon as well as weeds such as nutgrass. Sugar cane is thought to be less affected than some of the other crops but may be a host plant.

Like other forms of root knot nematodes the first part of identification

is the large galls on the roots that give the name to this type of nematode.

The second part of the identification is using a microscope to identify which type of root knot nematode is present. Unfortunately there are not a lot of options for chemical control of root knot nematodes and as such control by exclusion and cultural methods will be the front line control methods.

Exclusion (biosecurity) of this microscopic pest will be the first and main control method for each grower to implement a biosecurity plan. This plan should look at restricting at risk plant material and soil by ensuring that out sourced plant material is

healthy looking and free from diseases. Soil from vehicles, equipment and footwear may be a lower risk but it is still significant.

What makes this pest more significant is that it infects plants that are tolerant of other species of root knot nematodes. If growers are concerned about this pest further information can be found on the Business Qld website. Report suspected guava root-knot nematode to Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23 or contact the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881. ■

Articles appearing in *The Bundaberg District Canegrower* do not necessarily represent the policies and views of Bundaberg CANEGROWERS.



If undeliverable return to:



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BUNDABERG QLD 4670

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Website: www.bdbcanegrowers.com.au  
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