



Sugar Research  
Australia

# eNewsletter

This is an exciting time of year for the SRA team as they get out and about hosting workshops, seminars and regional variety committee meetings. We look forward to sharing the selection of new varieties with you soon and in May hosting you at one of our station field days.



## Murray RT7 grower event in the paddock

Growers in the Murray catchment were treated to a paddock training session covering how to assess legume nodulation, measure biomass and estimate potential nitrogen contribution to the following plant cane crop.

Danielle Skocaj, Principal Agronomist with SRA, and Greg Shannon, Cane Productivity and Development Manager with Tully Sugar Limited, also discussed and answered questions relating

to strategies for legume crop termination and management to optimise nitrogen supply to the plant cane crop. Accounting for the nitrogen from the legume crop can help to reduce fertiliser costs.

This event was funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and supported by Tully Sugar Limited and SRA.

Information on how to assess legume crop nitrogen content and adjust plant cane nitrogen rates following legume cover crops is available via the SIX EASY STEPS Toolbox.

### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT & SIX EASY STEPS**

*Caption: Danielle Skocaj (SRA) pictured far right, talks with Murray Catchment growers Gavin Camilleri, Gerard Dore, Peter Crema, David Marsillo and Alf Nucifora.*



## **Strong attendance at Regional Milling Research Seminars**

Around 100 milling representatives have attended the Regional Milling Research Seminar series, jointly presented by Queensland University of Technology and SRA during March.

Sessions have been conducted at Gordonvale, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg and Rocky Point, with representatives of New South Wales industry joining the Rocky Point event through a virtual video link. The sessions provided an update on milling research undertaken over the past 12 months.

QUT's Geoff Kent said the seminars provided an important opportunity to discuss research outcomes and to hear from the milling sector about emerging issues that could benefit from a research focus.

*Caption: The Townsville seminar drew a strong turnout from the milling sector. Thank you to everyone who supported these sessions.*



## More rain to flooded paddocks

With more extensive rain bringing with it further flooding to south-east Queensland, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has extended time for farmers who have experienced further flood damage to crops and infrastructure to access the Disaster Impact Survey in order to capture the details from this week's event.

[QLD DAF Agriculture Natural Disaster Impact Survey](#)

The NSW Government also provides support.

[Support for farmers and primary producers after floods](#)

Our thoughts are with everyone impacted by the recent floods.

## Disease workshop at Woodford

Identifying sugarcane diseases is on the agenda at workshops being delivered this week by SRA's biosecurity team and pathologists at the SRA Woodford site in south-east Queensland.

Sessions include a mix of field activities, group learning and seminars to teach the fundamentals of sugarcane diseases and pathology. The two-day workshop will also provide information about methods for disease control, clean seed programs, biosecurity and exotic threats, and the latest research developments.

*Caption: Nicole Thompson, Manager Biosecurity and Disease Screening, discusses disease symptoms in cane with workshop participants.*





## Calen grower wins Farm Research and Innovation Award

Calen sugarcane grower John Simpson was the recipient of the Farm Research and Innovation Award at the Mackay Sugar Productivity Awards earlier this month.

Sponsored by Sugar Research Australia (SRA) and Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS) the Award recognises growers, harvester groups and stakeholders who have applied research or innovation, or adopted new technology, to increase yield or improve the efficiency of critical farming processes in the Mackay region.

John was presented with the award in recognition of the voluntary support provided to SRA and MAPS in hosting a final assessment trial of several new varieties, and in providing a site for the MAPS clean seed billet distribution plot on his farm.

CONGRATULATIONS to John and all the nominees and winners at the Awards. Great work achieved by all.

*Caption: Calen grower John Simpson (left) with Brendon Rae, MAPS Productivity Officer.*



## Burdekin growers urged to be vigilant in monitoring for canegrubs

Sugar Research Australia is urging Burdekin farmers to be vigilant in monitoring for canegrubs on their farms.

Burdekin District Manager Terry Granshaw said SRA, Farmacist and Burdekin Productivity Services had recently observed canegrub damage in Burdekin farms where it hasn't been seen before.

He said growers need to be observant in the months leading up to the start of crushing.



"It's important to get your local advisor out to confirm initial suspicions of canegrub damage and to identify the type of grub that is potentially present," Terry said.

### [Resources for managing canegrubs](#)

## Herbicide resistance workshop The Burdekin, 15 March 2022



Emilie Fillols,  
Weed Scientist, SRA

Mark Congreve, ICAN,  
Herbicide resistance expert

## Talking herbicide resistance in the Burdekin

Mark Congreve from ICAN (independent Consultants Australia network) is a herbicide resistance expert and was a guest speaker recently at a workshop in the Burdekin, funded by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

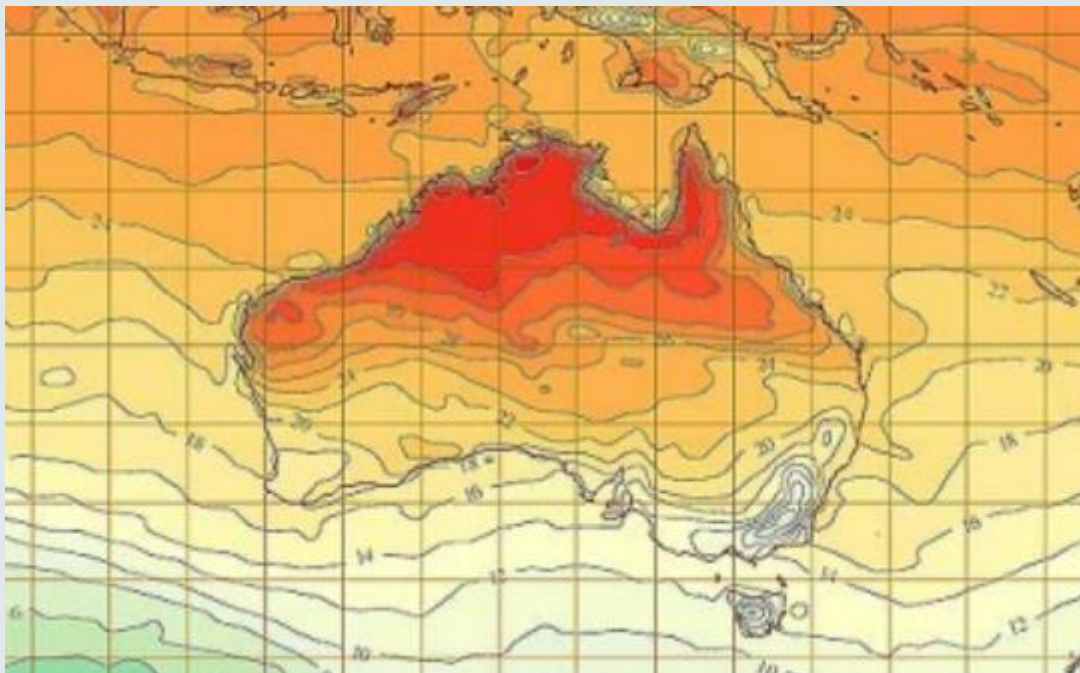
The workshop was in response to cases of crowsfoot plants in rotation crops confirmed resistant to haloxyfop (brand name Verdict®520). After the workshop Emilie Fillois, SRA weed scientist, spoke with Mark to sum up the session.

Key messages:

1. Spray only small weeds with haloxyfop (i.e. Verdict®520)
2. Monitor and control surviving plants
3. Use alternative strategy to control survivors
4. If in doubt, get survivors' seeds tested for resistance.

If you've got questions contact Emilie Fillois, Weed Scientist, SRA, 0438 711 613

[VIDEO \(3 MINS\) Mark discusses herbicide resistance](#)



## Upcoming Webinars: Managing Climate Variability 6 & 8 April

Wouldn't it be helpful to be able to predict when extreme climate events, including extreme high or low rainfall and temperatures, might occur in the weeks and seasons ahead? In our upcoming webinars learn about the science behind the tools and how the agricultural community, including sugarcane farmers, are putting them to use.

6 April - Introducing the new extreme climate tools

8 April - Climate tool users discuss how the tools help them

[Webinars: Managing climate variability](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Herbert region ratoon stunting disease workshops](#)

For planting contractors and growers

12 April - SRA Herbert station, Ingham

[See details of all events](#)

*Follow Us*



Copyright © 2022 Sugar Research Australia

Telephone: 07 3331 3333 | Email: [sra@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:sra@sugarresearch.com.au)

Our address is 50 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068, Australia.