

Sugarcane Ripening with a Moddus™ Program

The plant growth regulator Moddus was recently labeled for use as a ripener for sugarcane in Louisiana. Limited quantities will be made available for the 2013 sugarcane harvest. Moddus can be applied to all crops in the sugarcane crop cycle. The recommended rate for Moddus for ripening sugarcane in Louisiana is 16 – 19 oz./acre. The label states that Moddus can be applied 28 – 60 days prior to sugarcane harvest; higher theoretical sugar per ton of cane (TRS) response was achieved in the 50 – 60 day range.

Table 1. Moddus ripener rates for sugarcane grown in Louisiana.

Trinexapac-ethyl Formulation	Recommended	Label Rate Range
	----- Ounces per acre -----	
Moddus™	16 – 19	11 – 19

Research Experience

- Moddus did not increase theoretical recoverable sugar as effectively as glyphosate. The average TRS increase was 5 percent above non-treated sugarcane; whereas, the increase for glyphosate was 10 – 20 percent.
- Moddus response among Louisiana varieties was more variable. Varieties such as L 99-226, L 99-233, and HoCP 00-950 exhibited negligible to low TRS increases due to Moddus application; varieties such as HoCP 96-540 and HoCP 04-838 exhibited greater TRS increases.
- Moddus reduces sugarcane growth which can reduce cane yields (tons/acre) when compared to non-treated sugarcane, but reductions in yield were generally less than when compared with glyphosate applications. Reductions in cane yield as a result of ripener application, glyphosate or Moddus, depend on rate of growth at time of application, treatment to harvest interval, and sugarcane variety.