

SUGARCANE VARIETY FOCUS



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Varieties, Varieties, Varieties

Variety selection is a decision that will affect you for many years as the goal is to maximize profitability in each year of the crop cycle. Long gone are the days when LCP 85-384 was the answer to just about every problem. There are many sugarcane variety choices for planting in 2014 with six that should occupy the majority of planted acreages (HoCP 96-540, L 99-226, HoCP 00-950, L 01-283, L 01-299, and HoCP 04-838). Variety selection should emphasize managing risk over a crop cycle. Yield potential, disease and insect resistance, stubbling ability, and cold tolerance are the primary driving forces for variety selection. A table of multi-year and multi-location Outfield data is presented on page 2.

With brown rust outbreaks, the many other diseases, new insects, and the return of a cold and wet winter, it is important to stress variety diversification. Each recommended variety has an element of risk. With the current choice in varieties, no single variety should occupy more than 50 percent of your 2014 planting.

Ho 07-613 was released in 2014 and seed-cane will be distributed by the American Sugar Cane League. With the release each new sugarcane variety, the Louisiana sugar industry remains poised to handle the many challenges faced each growing season. Good luck with planting in 2014!

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*You cannot manage
varieties unless you max-
imize their potential
through a healthy seed-
cane program!*

Outfield Trials: 2011—2013

Variety	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs./A)	(tons/A)	(lbs./ton)
Plant-cane			
HoCP96-540	9220	33.4	276
L99-226	9459	32.3	293
HoCP00-950	9198	30.9	299
L01-283	8673	30.0	289
L01-299	9333	33.7	277
HoCP04-838	9526	34.1	281
First Stubble			
Variety	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs./A)	(tons/A)	(lbs./ton)
HoCP96-540	8709	30.3	288
L99-226	9033	30.0	302
HoCP00-950	8476	27.5	311
L01-283	9097	30.8	296
L01-299	9724	33.7	290
HoCP04-838	8609	29.8	289
Second Stubble			
Variety	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs./A)	(tons/A)	(lbs./ton)
HoCP96-540	7441	27.0	277
L99-226	7671	26.3	294
HoCP00-950	7404	24.5	303
L01-283	8275	28.8	289
L01-299	9412	33.8	281
HoCP04-838	7572	27.0	281
Third Stubble			
Variety	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs./A)	(tons/A)	(lbs./ton)
HoCP96-540	6598	24.8	266
L99-226	6900	24.4	284
HoCP00-950	7101	23.8	301
L01-283	8050	27.9	290
L01-299	8567	30.9	281
HoCP04-838	6509	23.9	273

Sugarcane Variety Highlights

HoCP 96-540

The state's leading variety since 2008, HoCP 96-540 has provided growers with excellent yield potential along with good response to ripeners. Along with yield potential, this variety has very good cold tolerance and rebounds well from drought conditions. The disease package is good, with the exception being brown rust. HoCP 96-540 is slow to establish after harsh harvesting conditions and cold winters. Its weakness is stubble yields due to weaker stands and grass. Acreage planted to HoCP 96-540 will likely decrease in 2014 because of poor stubbling ability. To manage risk in the variety, it should only occupy 15-25 % of your farm's acreage. Budget for a fungicide application.



L 99-226

The acreage of L 99-226 decreased in last year's variety survey. The variety has high sugar per acre yields along with very good sugar per ton of cane. L 99-226 grows vigorously and competes well with most weedy situations. Because of its resistance to the sugarcane borer, the variety has been used where insecticide use is limited. L 99-226 stubbles well, but in the northern portions of the sugar belt, 226 did not stubble well after the cold and wet winter of 2013-2014. The variety is tough to plant due to lodging and shuckiness. Growers should remember that the variety is susceptible to brown rust, smut, and leaf scald. L 99-226 has been more widely planted along Bayou Teche and should be a minor part of your planting in 2014. I recommend planting no more than 5-15 % of your total planted cane acres with this variety.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

HoCP 00-950

Released in 2007, this variety has met with mixed reactions. HoCP 00-950 has the highest sugar per ton of any variety released by the Louisiana sugarcane breeding program. Its sugar per acre yields in plant-cane are very good, but there can be a steady decrease in stubble cane yields that is not always offset by high sugar per ton. HoCP 00-950's best fit is on well drained sandier land. The variety has been used when growers run out of ripened cane or on rainy days. In fact, many growers have seen sugar per ton levels rise in these situations. This variety has a good disease package and performed well after freezes. The variety can have some top breakage in high winds. Growers should consider planting a small acreage of HoCP 00-950 on some of their better drained land.



L 01-283

When L 01-283 was released in 2008, the new variety held much promise—good sugar per acre, erectness, excellent stubbling ability and cold tolerance. However, off-types began appearing in the variety soon after release. Yield trials determined that high levels of off-types can decrease sugar per acre in L 01-283. Off-types are stress induced and keeping the variety on sandy to mixed land has helped decrease the percentage of off-types. The variety stubbles extremely well and early spring and summer growth are impressive. The variety overwintered very well during 2013-2014. Early harvest sugar and tonnage in the variety make it a good choice for most farming operations. If you plant L 01-283—keep the acreage around 10—15% of your total planting.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

L 01-299

L 01-299 was released in 2009 and has been rapidly increased during recent planting seasons. The obvious appeal is high tonnage in stubble crops, which translates into better profits. L 01-299 possesses resistance to the sugarcane borer and brown rust. The main caution is to be on the watch for smut. Inoculated trials indicate the variety can get high levels of smut, but L 01-299 may possess a level of field resistance. To be most successful, plant high quality seed-cane; consider using first-stubble as seed-cane since smut levels seem to decrease in stubble crops. The variety is slow to emerge after planting and should not be covered too deeply. L 01-299 is a good choice for black land and will be widely planted in 2014. I recommend keeping the acreage at 35-45 % as we monitor its performance with regard to smut.



HoCP 04-838

This variety was released to growers in 2011. HoCP 04-838 has a very good disease package in addition to good harvesting characteristics. HoCP 04-838 has excellent yield potential. HoCP 04-838 is a variety very similar to HoCP 96-540 and could be expanded to replace acreage of 540 where brown rust has increased. HoCP 04-838 is not an exceptional stubbling variety making it better suited for mixed to sandier soil types. The variety possesses resistance to the sugarcane borer. Position the variety for late harvest to take advantage of its excellent cold tolerance. At harvest, clean the variety aggressively to help lower its fiber content. HoCP 04-838 should occupy 25-35 % of your planting.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

Ho 07-613—New Sugarcane Variety

Ho 07-613 was released in 2014. The variety has excellent yield potential and early maturity (see “Notice of Release” in the July issue of the *Sugar Bulletin*). Other strengths include a good disease package and moderate resistance to the sugarcane borer. The weaknesses include brittleness after lodging making for difficulty in harvesting and lower yields in older stubble crops. Ho 07-613 is available in good quantity on League secondary seed increase stations. Growers interested in receiving seed-cane of Ho 07-613 should contact the American Sugar Cane League. Plant new seed-cane on your best land to maximize its increase. New varieties are eagerly anticipated in the Louisiana sugar industry—Ho 07-613 continues to show the value of research to Louisiana growers and processors.



The Sugarcane Variety Identification Guide can be accessed at:

<http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/communications/publications/Publications+Catalog/Crops+and+Livestock/Sugarcane/Louisiana+Sugarcane+Variety+Identification+Guide.htm>

(Press Ctrl key & click arrow over address or icon)

The 2013 Sugarcane Annual Report can be accessed at:

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Sugar/Features/annual_reports/2013-Sugarcane-Annual-Progress-Report.htm

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