

SUGARCANE VARIETY FOCUS

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Varieties, Varieties, Varieties

Few decisions are as important as variety selection. 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 2011 with seven that will occupy the majority of planted acreages (HoCP 96-540, L 99-226, L 99-233, HoCP 00-950, L 01-283, L 01-299, and L 03-371).

Yield potential, disease and insect resistance, stubbling ability, and cold tolerance are the primary driving forces in variety selection. A table of multi-year and multi-location data is presented on page 2. The rank of each variety is displayed next to each yield value.

With the lessons of LCP 85-384 and rust outbreaks still fresh on the mind, it is important to stress variety diversification. Although brown rust levels have been negligible in 2010 and 2011 due to cold winter weather, the disease is lurking and can rapidly increase if we experience a mild winter.

With the release of 10 new sugarcane varieties since 2003, the Louisiana sugar industry remains poised to handle the many challenges faced each growing season. Good luck with planting!

Inside this issue:

Outfield Data: 2007—2010	2
HoCP 96-540 & L 99-226	3
L 99-233 & HoCP 00-950	4
L 01-283 & L 01-299	5
L 03-371	6
Variety Identification Guide—Coming Soon	6

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

Outfield Trials: 2007—2010

Variety	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs/A)	(tons/A)	(lbs/ton)
Plant-cane means from 2007-2010			
HoCP96-540	9290 (6)	33.9 (3)	274 (6)
L99-226	9683 (4)	33.3 (5)	291 (2)
L99-233	9769 (3)	36.3 (1)	269 (7)
HoCP00-950	9829 (2)	33.0 (6)	298 (1)
L01-283	9517 (5)	33.6 (4)	284 (4)
L01-299	9104 (7)	32.9 (7)	276 (5)
L03-371	9957 (1)	34.3 (2)	291 (3)

First-stubble means from 2008-2010.

	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs/A)	(tons/A)	(lbs/ton)
HoCP96-540	8159 (7)	30.1 (6)	271 (6)
L99-226	9022 (2)	30.7 (4)	294 (2)
L99-233	8324 (6)	30.9 (3)	270 (7)
HoCP00-950	8422 (5)	27.9 (7)	302 (1)
L01-283	8937 (3)	31.0 (2)	289 (3)
L01-299	9636 (1)	35.9 (1)	272 (5)
L03-371	8721 (4)	30.6 (5)	285 (4)

Second-stubble means from 2009-2010

	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs/A)	(tons/A)	(lbs/ton)
HoCP96-540	6108 (5)	25.7 (6)	242 (7)
L99-226	7240 (4)	27.0 (5)	270 (2)
L99-233	6798 (6)	28.1 (4)	246 (6)
HoCP00-950	6801 (7)	24.5 (7)	282 (1)
L01-283	7940 (2)	30.2 (2)	268 (3)
L01-299	7954 (1)	31.5 (1)	258 (5)
L03-371	7414 (3)	28.4 (3)	264 (4)

Third-stubble means from 2010

	Sugar per Acre	Cane Yield	Sugar per Ton
	(lbs/A)	(tons/A)	(lbs/ton)
HoCP96-540	3842 (7)	16.8 (7)	229 (6)
L99-226	6061 (3)	24.4 (3)	250 (3)
L99-233	4992 (6)	22.1 (5)	226 (7)
HoCP00-950	5934 (4)	21.2 (6)	280 (1)
L01-283	6648 (1)	25.2 (2)	264 (2)
L01-299	6377 (2)	26.0 (1)	247 (4)
L03-371	5921 (5)	24.0 (4)	246 (5)

Numbers in parentheses represent the rank for each trait

Sugarcane Variety Highlights

HoCP 96-540

The state's leading variety since 2008, HoCP 96-540 has carried the state with excellent yield potential along with good response to ripeners. In addition to its stable yields, the variety has a very good disease package. However as is common with many other varieties, increasing levels of brown rust have been observed in the last few years. 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. Although it will still be widely planted, it is likely that growers will decrease its planted acreage in favor of new varieties with better stubbling ability.



L 99-226

The acreage of L 99-226 has increased slowly since its release in 2006 and was the second most widely grown variety in 2010. 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. Many growers were impressed with the variety's ability to withstand harsh harvesting conditions and its ability to produce decent third stubble crops, although not quite as good as L 01-283 and L 01-299. The variety is tough to plant from the standpoint of lodging and shuckiness. Growers should remember that the variety is moderately susceptible to brown rust and smut. L 99-226 should be widely planted in 2011, but I would recommend keeping the acreage right at 25% of your total planted acres.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

L 99-233

L 99-233 occupied 10% of the Louisiana sugarcane acreage in 2010, with most of the acres being planted in heavy land in the more southern growing areas. The variety grows vigorously, but at harvest, its yields have been erratic. L 99-233 does not respond to ripeners as well as other varieties. Since its release in 2006, smut levels have been on the rise. Although the acres planted in L 99-233 will decrease in 2011, it will have to be planted on some of the heavy soils of the southern cane belt because seed-cane of L 01-299 will not be widely available on most farms. Be sure your seed-cane fields have less than 2 percent smut levels. Check with your consultant.



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 appears to be a steady decrease in stubble cane yields that cannot always be offset by high sugar per ton. HoCP 00-950 performs best 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 the freeze during the 2010 harvest. Growers should consider planting a small acreage of HoCP 00-950 on some of their better land.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

L 01-283

When L 01-283 was released in 2008, the new variety held much promise—good sugar per acre, erect, stubbling ability and cold tolerance. However, off-types began appearing in the variety soon after release. Yield trials have determined that the high levels of off-types can decrease sugar per acre in L 01-283. The off-types seem to be stress induced. Other causes of off-types in L 01-283 are being followed up on, such as virus infection. The variety stubbles extremely well and stands and growth were excellent in 2011 until off-types began to show up in mid-summer. In 2010, many fields recovered by harvest and yields were good. If you do decide to plant L 01-283—keep it under 10%.



L 01-299

L 01-299 was released in 2009 and has been rapidly increased with the limited amount of seed-cane available. The obvious appeal with this variety is high tonnage in stubble crops, especially in third stubble. The ability to make good stubble yields through third stubble translates into better profits. This industry has longed for varieties such as LCP 85-384 that can stubble well. The main caution with L 01-299 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 and avoid planting the variety near other smut susceptible varieties such as L 97-128 and L 99-233. L 01-299 should be widely planted in 2011, but I recommend keeping the acreage at 15-20% as we monitor its performance.



Sugarcane Variety Highlights

L 03-371

This variety was released to growers in 2010. Each grower's small acreage should be increased to its maximum extent. When the variety was distributed upon release, many harvester operators indicated the variety to be somewhat brittle after lodging. That should be less of a problem if planted earlier in the season. The variety has a good disease package along with excellent yield potential. When enough seed is available, plant some L 03-371 in black land to challenge the variety to see how it may be a fit on your farm.



Coming Soon!

The Sugarcane Variety Identification Guide is currently being updated.

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