

Field walk Handout – Oct 2012

Time of planting experiment

Why we are doing this

- Growing and harvesting a fallow crop like soybean will delay sugarcane planting from March/April to late May or after winter in August
- This late planting may reduce the yield of the following sugarcane plant crop
- However, the spring planted cane is following an extended fallow period which should be beneficial to cane production
- When spring and autumn planted cane have been compared in the past, the spring planted cane was most commonly from a plough-out replant system and not an extended fallow system
- A time of planting experiment was established to investigate the effect of planting in autumn following an extended fallow period. Productivity and profitability will be assessed
- Biomass development will be assessed every 4 months
- Yield data will be collected at final harvest

Cane planting times

- April, August and October
- Note- intended planting dates in the trial were March, May, August and October, however due to wet weather, March and May plantings were delayed until late April and August respectively.

Fallow treatments

- Ebony cowpea or bare fallow

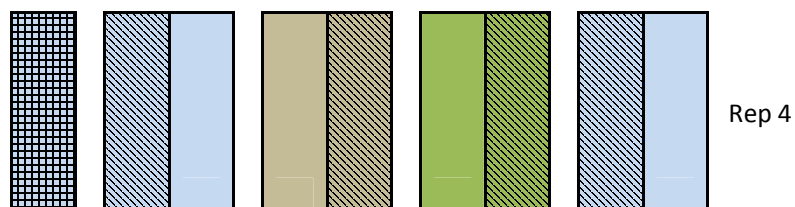
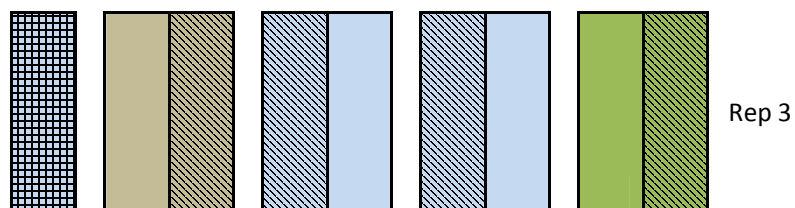
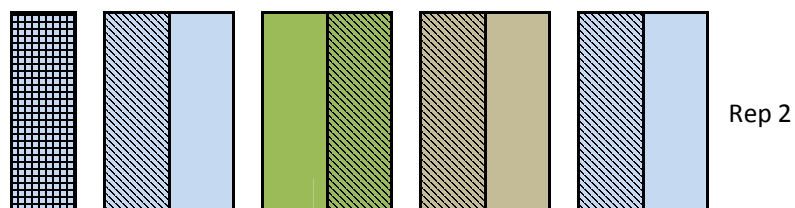
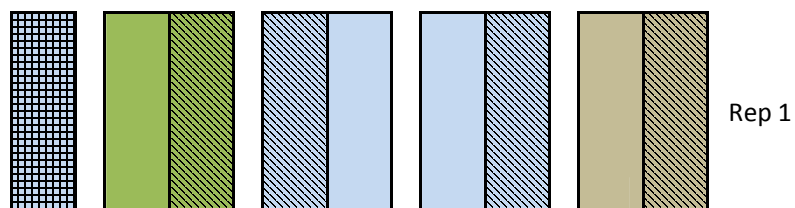
Additional treatments

- August planted plough-out replant (from continuous cane)
- Potentially two harvest times of August planted cane
 1. Harvested at the same time as April planted cane, i.e. crop is less than 12 months of age
 2. Harvested at the same age as April planted cane, i.e. crop is approximately 15 months at harvest

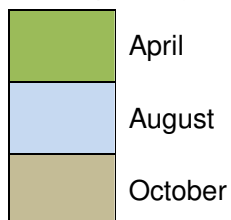
Complementary Cropping in Burdekin Sugarcane Farming Systems

GRDC 00174

Time of planting experiment: trial layout



Cane planting time



House

Fallow treatment

