
SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY RESEARCH DIVISION

VARIETY DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Release of New Varieties

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BJ9702

Parentage BR8709 x PolyCC



Figure 1: BJ9702 with botanical features shown.



Botanical description

BJ9702 is recognized by its medium to thick, waxy yellowish-green stalk and small to medium ovate bud with distinct bud-wings. The stalks are fairly erect to recumbent with young internodes becoming yellowish with age and more obvious when leaves are removed or fall off. The internodes are medium to long in length and conical in shape, joints are slightly zig-zag, and internode cracks are infrequent and when they occur they tend to be shallow.

Buds are small to medium and are within the root band. Bud wings are distinct and bud groove present. Younger buds display a tuft of hair at the tip which falls off as the cane gets older. Leaves are medium to broad in width and length and tends to curve towards the latter third of the leaves. The leaf collar is greenish and merges into a greenish-purple leaf sheath with medium to heavy wax and not too many hairs (prickle). The variety has a distinct auricle that is medium in length. The wax ring is well defined on the internodes and the growth ring is quite distinct varying from cream-yellow to yellowish-green. Root initials are pronounced on some stalks.

Agricultural Features

Germination is usually very rapid and reliable. Tillering is quite rapid and profuse particularly in the rain-fed area of the Central Up-lands (Worthy Park area, Upper St Catherine). The variety is



free-trashing and has good quality with as high as 15.76 percent Sucrose recorded for this variety



Figure 2: BJ9702 shown growing under field conditions at Worthy Park Estate.

in an experimental plot at Worthy Park Estate. Cane yield is consistent, and BJ9702 appears to ratoon fairly well. BJ9702 is resistant to Smut and shows high tolerance to Orange Rust Disease. BJ9702 can achieve yields of over 100 tons cane per hectare.

Recommendations

BJ9702 appears to perform well on clay loam and well drained clay soils. The variety should be planted in the Worthy Park area where it was tested and developed.

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Variety: BJ9736

Parentage: BJ7627 x PolyCC



Figure 3: BJ9736 with botanical features shown.

Botanical Description

BJ9736 is characterized by its erect growth habit and medium to thick reddish-brown stalks. The stalks are erect, medium to thick, and reddish brown becoming reddish purple with age. The internodes are cylindrical, slightly zig-zag and medium to long in length. Blotches and corky patches are present on older joints. There is a thin coat of wax on the internodes, with black deposits from microbial growth being very common on older internodes. Cracks are not common on the internodes. The bud groove is quite prominent. The root band is of medium width and root initials can easily be seen. The wax ring is well defined on the internodes, and the growth ring is quite distinct varying in color from cream-red to purple. The bud is inserted between the leaf scar and growth ring. It is round in shape, creamy brown, becoming slightly purplish on older internodes. The leaves are broad, of medium length, and green in color. The leaf sheath is purplish green, becoming purple when older. Very short hairs (prickles) are present low down on the leaf sheath when young, disappearing with age.

Agricultural Features

Germination is usually very rapid and reliable. Tillering is quite rapid and profuse with early formation of large stools, particularly in the rain-fed areas, giving good ground cover. Growth is usually steady but somewhat slow in the first four to five months but catching up in the latter half of growth (more like the variety BJ7938).



The stalks emerge semi-erect from the ground, giving the stool a very tidy appearance. Generally, it is erect up to 80 tons per hectare, then tends to lodge, mainly in rain-fed areas. This variety is free-trashing and appears to be quite productive, giving good cane yields. The juice quality is good, having achieved Brix values above 23.0 five joints below the last green leaf (cane top). The highest recorded Brix for BJ9736 was 27.0 at Frome Estate in January 2017. Ratooning ability is considered reliable in this variety but it appears not to be tolerant to stress conditions such as salinity, high weed density, and high moisture. It is resistant to Smut. BJ9736 is capable of cane yields above 100 tons per hectare.

Recommendations

BJ9736 appears to be more adapted for the Wet West and Wet East cane-growing areas. It is suitable for early to mid-season planting and reaping on clay loam and well-drained clay soils in the Wet West and Wet East.

Figure 4: BJ9702 shown growing under field conditions at Frome Estate.



Figure 5: Field of BJ9736 at Frome Estate.

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