



Sweetest School Competition

GUIDEBOOK



CANEGROWERS
MACKAY

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The Sweetest School competition is a unique event where schools showcase their skills in growing the best sugarcane.

This friendly competition not only highlights the agricultural talents of students and teachers but also fosters a sense of community pride and collaboration. Schools participating in this event have the opportunity to learn about the intricacies of sugarcane cultivation, sustainable farming practices, and the importance of the sugarcane industry to the local economy.

The competition encourages schools to engage in hands-on learning experiences, promoting environmental awareness and a deeper understanding of the farming process. Students get to witness the growth of sugarcane firsthand, from planting to harvesting, and develop a greater appreciation for the hard work and dedication required in agriculture.

Through The Sweetest School competition, schools have the chance to not only compete for recognition but also to cultivate a passion for agriculture and sustainable practices among the younger generation. The competition is expected to start in **August 2025**, concluding in **June 2026**, with the **Mackay Show**.

Participating schools will be given sugar cane to plant and nurture, with industry experts judging the best cane produced.

The winning school will receive a trophy presented at the **Mackay Show Cane Awards** and a monetary prize and bragging rights.

SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT

A small area of land about 1m x 1m in close proximity to a water hose and student representatives to water the billet over the twelve months of the competition.



COMPETITION OVERVIEW

PLANTS GIVEN TO SCHOOLS

CANEGROWERS, Productivity Services and Sugar Research Australia representatives will visit each participating school, providing them billets to plant, an overview of the sugarcane industry and guidance on how to grow sugarcane.

FARMER MENTOR

Each school will be partnered with a farmer that throughout the competition they can contact or the farmer can visit to provide more information to the students.

- This partnership aims to educate students about agriculture and sustainability.
- The farmer can share knowledge about farming practices.
- Encourages a deeper understanding of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.

ON-GOING EDUCATION

CANEGROWERS in collaboration with the Primary Industries Education Foundation have developed a suite of sugarcane curriculum aligned resources free for teachers to access and bring into the classroom. These can be used alongside the competition to enhance and compliment learning.

More information is available at www.canegrowers.com.au/information-hub/educational-resources.

COMPETITION RESULTS

The competition will conclude with the **Mackay Show cane judging** the sweetest cane, with the winner taking the trophy and cash prize.





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