







mulching, provide compelling evidence of more efficient K use where a surface cover was present.

In addition, the consistently higher (although not significant) leaf K values of the Mulched compared to the Burnt surface management is a clear indication that the application of CMS on top of a mulched layer is not a barrier to stop K from reaching the soil and to be taken up by the crop. Soil and leaf data shown here tend to support K taken up in larger quantities from the Mulched protected surface than the less protected Burnt surface. Also, the large yield response to the applied CMS treatments on the Glenrosa soil, where a response to applied K was expected in terms of the deficient soil K levels, is further confirmation that the K content of CMS has been effective in meeting the K requirement of the crop in a burnt or green cane harvesting system. No consistent differences between K applied as CMS or KCl were noticed and it is therefore concluded that K applied with CMS is as effective as the KCl source.

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