

New Developments in Billet Planting

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**Billets suffer more from
any problem**

**Combination of multiple environmental stress
factors interacting with stalk rot pathogens**

Red rot is coming for your billets!



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(If given the chance)

Possible solutions??

- Avoidance
- Direct control

How can we avoid rotting?

- Prevent physical damage
- Prevent environmental stress
- Promote good growth

How can we directly
control stalk rot?

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Seed treatment chemicals

Chemical Seed Treatments 2021

Platinum (thiamethoxam)

Topguard Terra (flutriafol)

Quilt Xcel (azoxystrobin+propiconazole)

Trivapro (propiconazole+azoxystrobin+benzovindiflupyr)

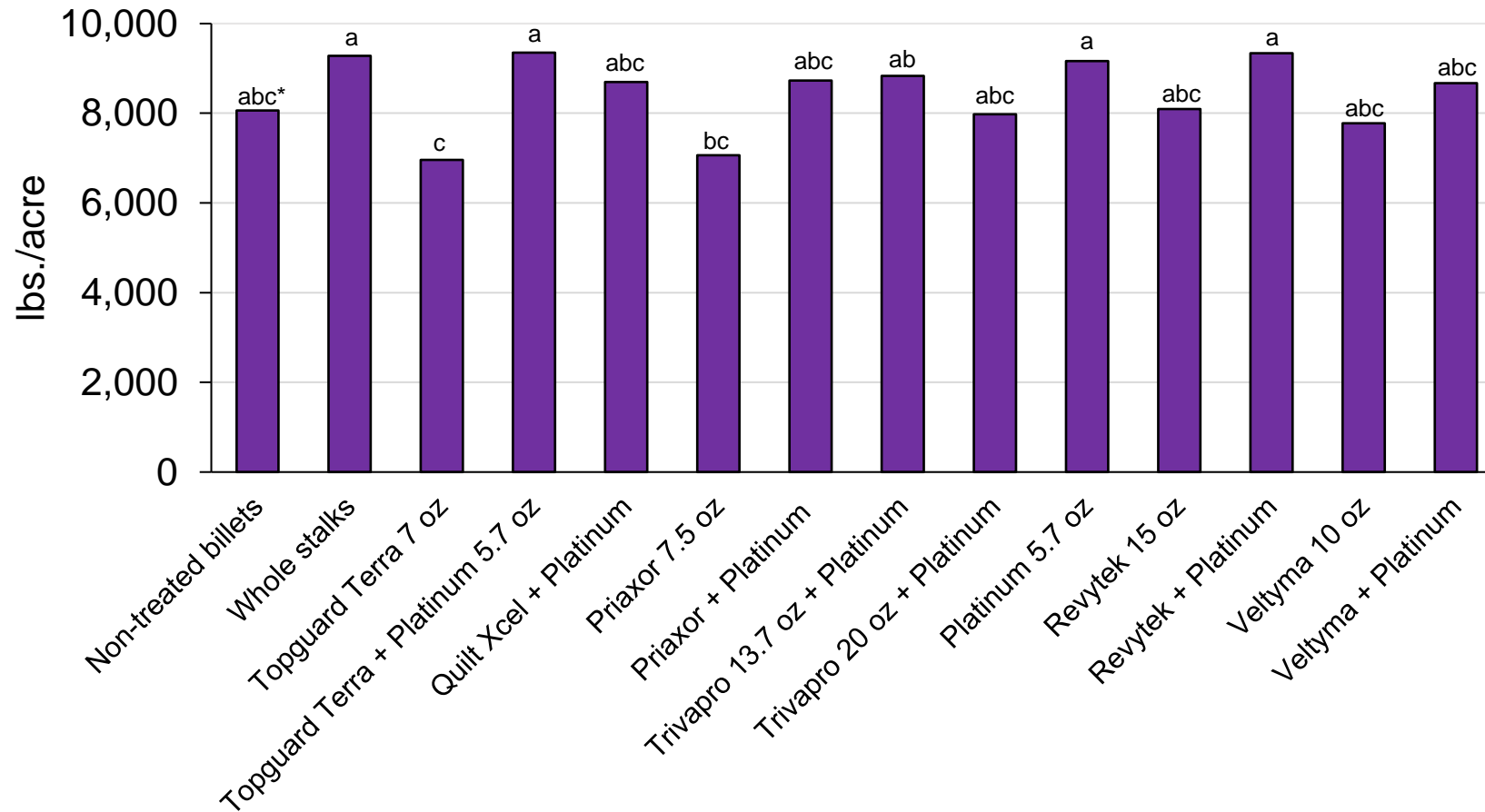
Veltyma (mefentrifluconazole+pyraclostrobin)

Revytek (Veltyma+ fluxapyroxad)

Priaxor (pyraclostrobin+fluxapyroxad)

Chemical Seed Treatment - SRS

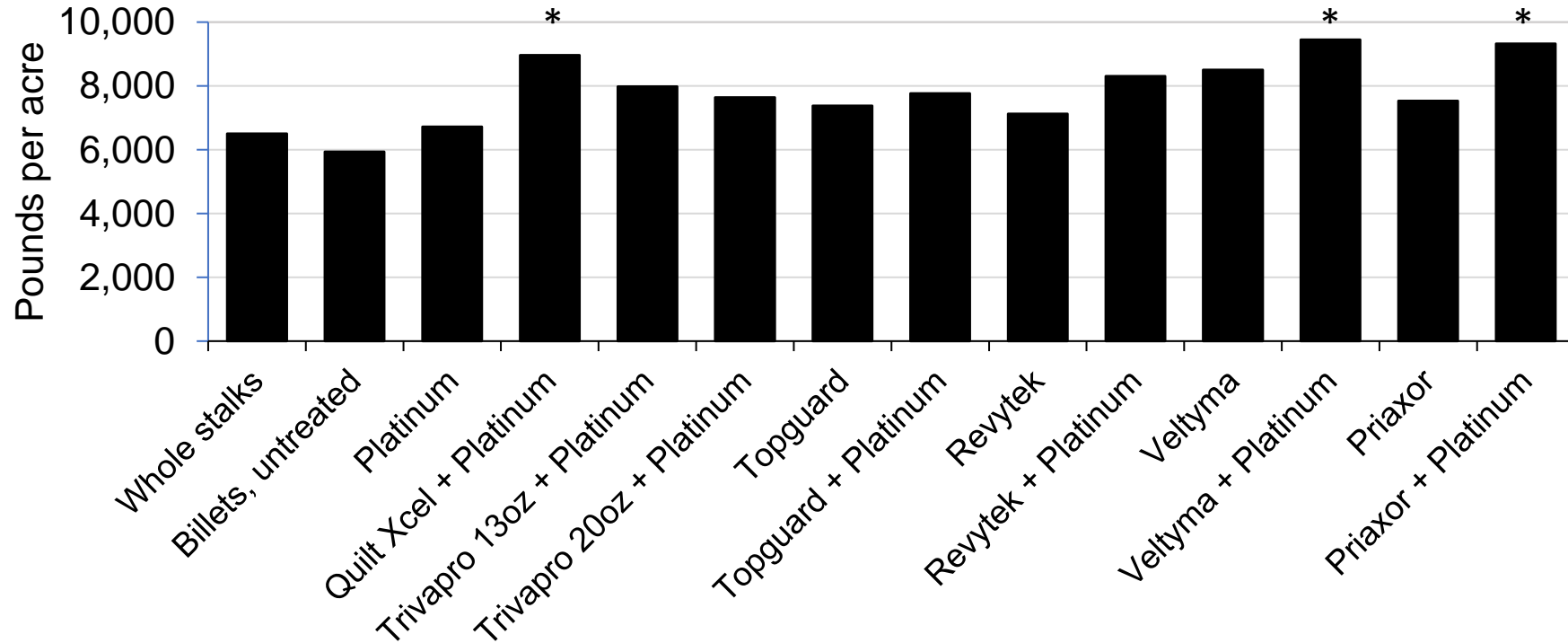
Sucrose



*Bars followed by the same letter were not significantly different ($P>0.05$).

Chemical Seed Treatment - Houma

Sucrose



*Bars with an asterisk are statistically greater than the untreated billet control at the 5% level.

As in past, fungicide + platinum insecticide increased yields compared to untreated billets.

Greenhouse experiment



Plants maintained in greenhouse
for 6 weeks

Greenhouse experiment results



Billet not treated



Billet treated with fungicides



Billet treated with insecticide



Billet treated with combination of fungicides and insecticide

Sterilized soil – inoculated billets

Treatment	Internode rot 1	Internode rot 2	Node rot
Non-treated	5.3 a	1.1 a	1.4 a
Fungicides	3.8 b	0.9 a	0.4 c
Insecticide	5.1 a	1.1 a	0.8 b
Fungicides + insecticide	2.1 c	0.2 b	0.1 c

On-farm test plant cane results from 2021

Treatment	Tons of cane per acre	Pounds of sugar per acre
Non-treated billets	39.4	7,430
Platinum alone	40.3	7,599
Quilt Xcel plus Platinum	43.7	8,220

(Fungicide applied by dip in Traube planter and insecticide applied by spray on covering tool)

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Third consecutive season with yield increase provided by application on-farm

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Fungicide alone can help

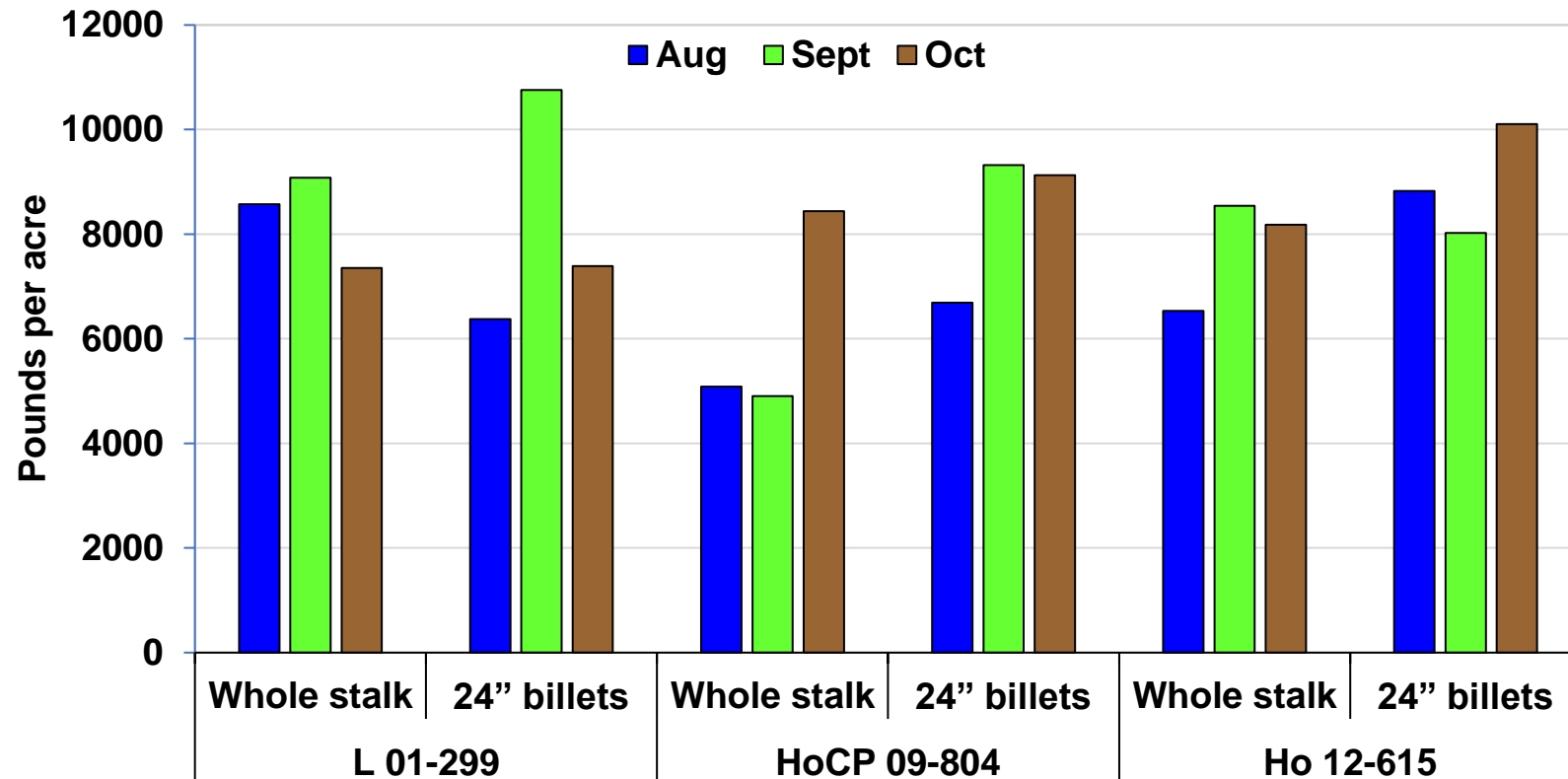
Labeled fungicides

Fungicide	Suggested rate
Quilt Xcel	20 oz
Priaxor	9 oz
Revytek	12 oz

Need complete, thorough coverage (30-40 gal water per acre)

Date of planting x cultivar billet study

Sucrose



No significant differences detected at the 5% level of significance.

Checklist for success

- ✓ Healthy seedcane
- ✓ Plant mid to late season
- ✓ Plant 3-4 eye billets with minimal damage
- ✓ Plant into good moisture
- ✓ Enough seed evenly planted
- ✓ Apply fungicide
- ✓ Cover well
- ✓ Provide good weed control and drainage

Every year is different

- Have seen how billets do in widely varying conditions
- More stress means greater chance of adverse effects on stand and yield
- This season will be yet another different story line
- Late planting (during harvest) with shorter billets
- Very curious to see what the outcome is this spring

Has the future arrived??



Billets here we come!