

BEQA

LF73-390

PARENTAGE : MANA x YASAWA

HABITAT & GENERAL APPEARANCE

Slightly recumbent when young, becoming erect later. A free trashing variety, flowers profusely.

LEAF

- **Blade** Fan shaped canopy with thin leaves. Leaves green in colour.
- **Sheath** Mild hairs present with heavy wax. Greenish yellow with pinkish base and dark orange patches towards the base on the inside of the sheath.
- **Auricle** Present, well developed on one side of the sheath.
- **Ligule** The shape of the ligule is crescent.

STALK

- **Internode** Medium thickness internodes. Yellowish in colour when unexposed, turns purple on exposure. Cylindrical in shape with a lot of wax.
- **Growth ring** Greenish yellow when unexposed but turns reddish on exposure. Sunken in nature.
- **Root band** Yellowish when unexposed but changes to reddish on exposure. Root primordia are present in rows and are prominent. Root primordia are even with light brown centres.
- **Bud** Obovate, arises from the base of the sheath scar and touches the growth ring. The gerpore is near the middle.

SUMMARY

One distinct feature of Beqa on close observation is the protrusion at the base of the growth ring commonly known as sheath scar. Beqa is an early season maturing variety recommended for planting on rich to medium fertile soils. The best harvesting time for Beqa would be from June.