

VATU

LF51-124

PARENTAGE: TROJAN x VESTA

HABITAT & GENERAL APPEARANCE

Recumbent when young and slightly recumbent at later stages. Trash is lightly clinging. Flowers sparsely.

LEAF

- **Blade** Erect and of medium width. Light green in colour.
- **Sheath** Mild hairs present with light wax coating. Purplish tinge at the base with orange patches on the inside.
- **Auricle** Distinct; usually well developed on one side. Arises below the base of the collar.
- **Ligule** The shape of the ligule is horizontal.

STALK

- **Internode** Medium thick internodes. Hard rind compared to other commercial varieties. Shape of the internode is cylindrical. Colour of the stalk is purplish at first but becomes reddish on exposure. Wax coating usually distinct.
- **Growth ring** Even, yellowish in colour when unexposed. On exposure remains yellowish but becomes swollen.
- **Root band** Yellowish in colour when exposed and unexposed. Swollen in nature. Even width all around except it is wider near the bud. Root primordia are present in rows and are prominent. Swollen in nature with brown centres.
- **Bud** Round; arises from the base of the sheath scar and touches the growth ring. The gerpore is near the middle and is prominent.

SUMMARY

Two distinct features of Vatu are its growth cracks and corky markings. Vatu is a mid to late season maturing variety recommended for planting on medium and poor fertile soils. The best harvesting time for Vatu would be from August onwards. Vatu is also called as a hard cane because of its heavy rind hardness.