

## Data Entry v6+ - Perennials Help Note

7<sup>th</sup> February 2008



Requests for enhancements to this document may be directed to [mail@agit.com.au](mailto:mail@agit.com.au)

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## INTRODUCTION

This document explains configuring and entering perennial crops into the Fairport Farm Software PAM versions from 6.0 and onward.

Previous versions of the PAM software did not allow for the tracking of perennial crops operations from the plant season through to subsequent season's operations as the initial year of the crop was treated as an annual crop, then the crop added manually to the paddock as a perennial to allow selection of that crop in subsequent years. This system separated the operations (including costs & incomes) from the plant crop and the subsequent years for the life of the crop.

In the PAM software versions 6.0 and onward, we are able to configure crops as perennials. This in turn allows PAM to track operations (including costs & incomes) for a crop from pre plant operations, to plant, then right through to multiple season's operations and harvests as the one crop.

This new functionality benefits those growers producing crops such as (but not limited to):

- ❖ Tree & Vine crops
- ❖ Sugar Cane
- ❖ Perennial fodder crops.
- ❖ Bananas
- ❖ Pineapples

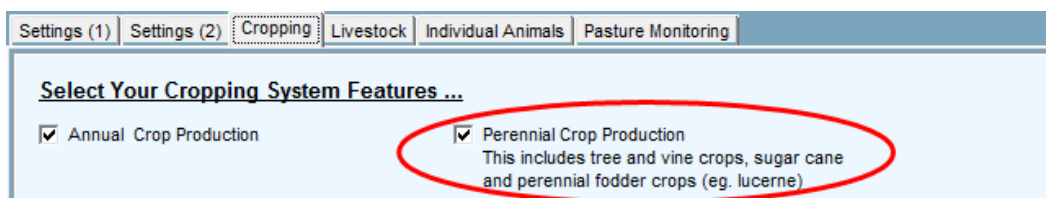
Some basic data entry knowledge is assumed in this help note.

## ACTIVATION

### TURN ON PERENNIAL CROP PRODUCTION FEATURES

Menu: Configuration -> Customise PAM QA Plus Program -> Settings (1) tab...

Check the 'Perennial Crop Production' feature

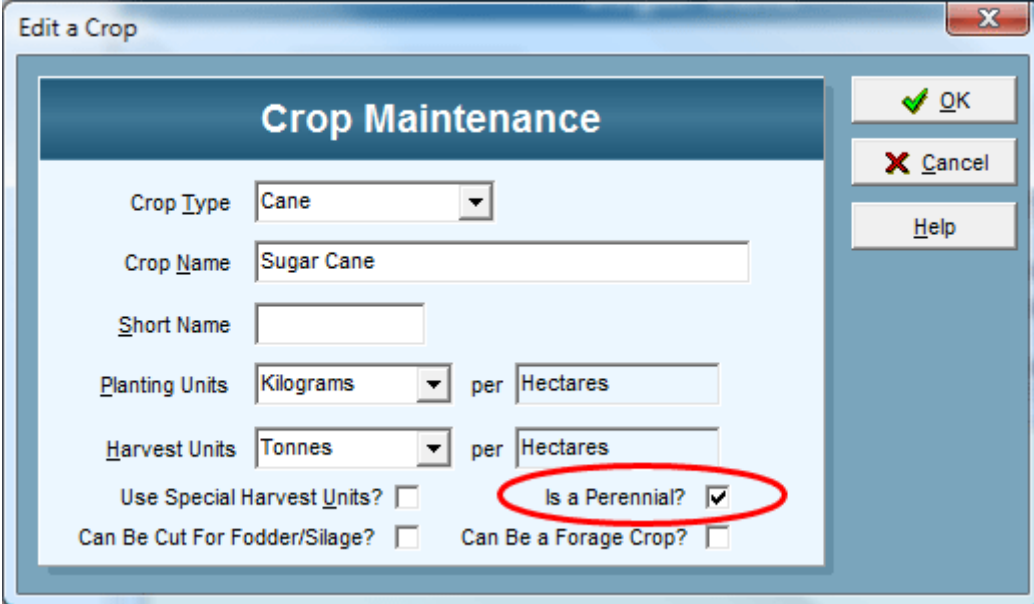


## ACTIVATED FEATURES

### PERENNIAL CROP CONFIGURATION

Menu: Configuration -> Crop Types & Associated Lists & Settings...

The crop maintenance screen now gives the option to nominate the crop as a perennial.



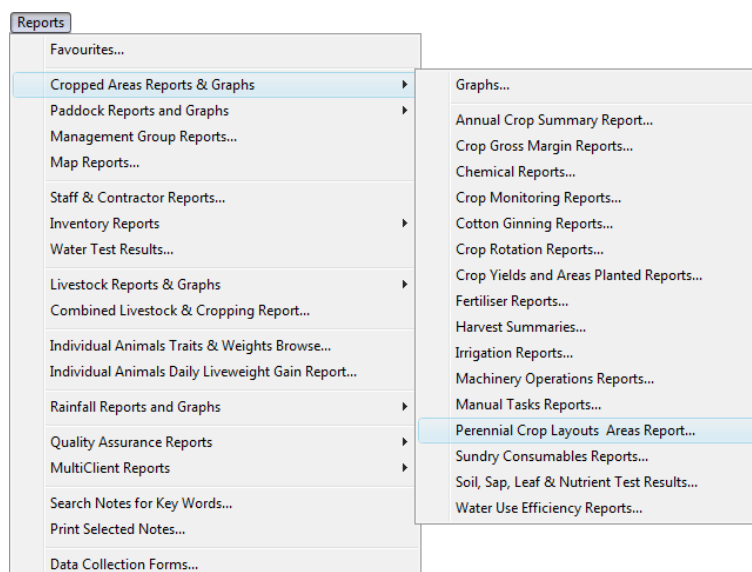
The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Edit a Crop" with a sub-header "Crop Maintenance". The form contains the following fields and options:

- Crop Type: Cane (dropdown)
- Crop Name: Sugar Cane (text input)
- Short Name: (empty text input)
- Planting Units: Kilograms (dropdown) per Hectares (text input)
- Harvest Units: Tonnes (dropdown) per Hectares (text input)
- Use Special Harvest Units?
- Is a Perennial?  (circled in red)
- Can Be Cut For Fodder/Silage?
- Can Be a Forage Crop?

On the right side of the dialog, there are three buttons: "OK" (with a green checkmark icon), "Cancel" (with a red X icon), and "Help".

## REPORTS

The Perennial Crop Layouts Areas Report is added to the list of 'Crop Wise' Reports & Graphs.



## CONFIGURING CROPS AS PERENNIALS

### NEW CROPS

Menu: Configuration -> Crop Types & Associated Lists & Settings...

1. Select the 'New Crop' button

The 'Crop Setup' dialog box is shown for 'Barley'. The left sidebar lists various crops, with 'Barley' selected. The main area displays the following details:

- Crop Type: Cereal
- Planting Units: Kilograms per Ha
- Harvest Units: Tonnes per Ha
- Buttons: Add..., Edit..., Delete, Crop Monitoring Guides, Back Date Costs...

Variety	Seed/Plant Cost	Currently In Use?
▶ Grout		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kaputar		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mackay		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Fill out the details for the crop and ensure that the 'Is a perennial Crop' check box has a tick in it & click 'OK'.

The 'Edit a Crop' dialog box is shown for 'Sugar Cane'. The 'Crop Maintenance' section includes the following fields and checkboxes:

- Crop Type: Cane
- Crop Name: Sugar Cane
- Short Name: (empty)
- Planting Units: Kilograms per Hectares
- Harvest Units: Tonnes per Hectares
- Use Special Harvest Units?
- Is a Perennial?  (circled in red)
- Can Be Cut For Fodder/Silage?
- Can Be a Forage Crop?

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Help

## EXISTING CROPS

Menu: Configuration -> Crop Types & Associated Lists & Settings...

1. Select the crop on the left hand side of the screen
2. Under the 'Tools' menu, select 'Edit Crop'

The screenshot shows the 'Crop Setup' window for 'Barley'. The left sidebar lists various crops, with 'Barley' selected. The main area displays the following details:

- Crop Type: Cereal
- Planting Units: Kilograms per Ha
- Harvest Units: Tonnes per Ha
- Buttons: Add..., Edit..., Delete
- Table with columns: Variety, Seed/Plant Cost, Currently In Use?

Variety	Seed/Plant Cost	Currently In Use?
Grout		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kaputar		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mackay		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Fill out the details for the crop and ensure that the 'Is a perennial Crop' check box has a tick in it & click 'OK'.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit a Crop' window for 'Sugar Cane'. The 'Crop Maintenance' section includes the following fields and checkboxes:

- Crop Type: Cane
- Crop Name: Sugar Cane
- Short Name: (empty)
- Planting Units: Kilograms per Hectares
- Harvest Units: Tonnes per Hectares
- Use Special Harvest Units?
- Is a Perennial?  (circled in red)
- Can Be Cut For Fodder/Silage?
- Can Be a Forage Crop?

Buttons: OK, Cancel, Help

## ENTERING THE PERENNIAL CROP

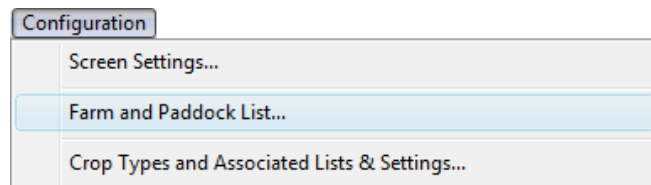
### USING THE PLANTING OPERATION (NEW CROP)

The planting of the perennial crop is as you would add an annual crop through Seeding & Planting in the Add Activity Wizard. By using the Seeding & Planting activity you are able to keep a track of any chemicals &/or fertilizers that were applied during the plant, also any costs such as labor, machinery etc...

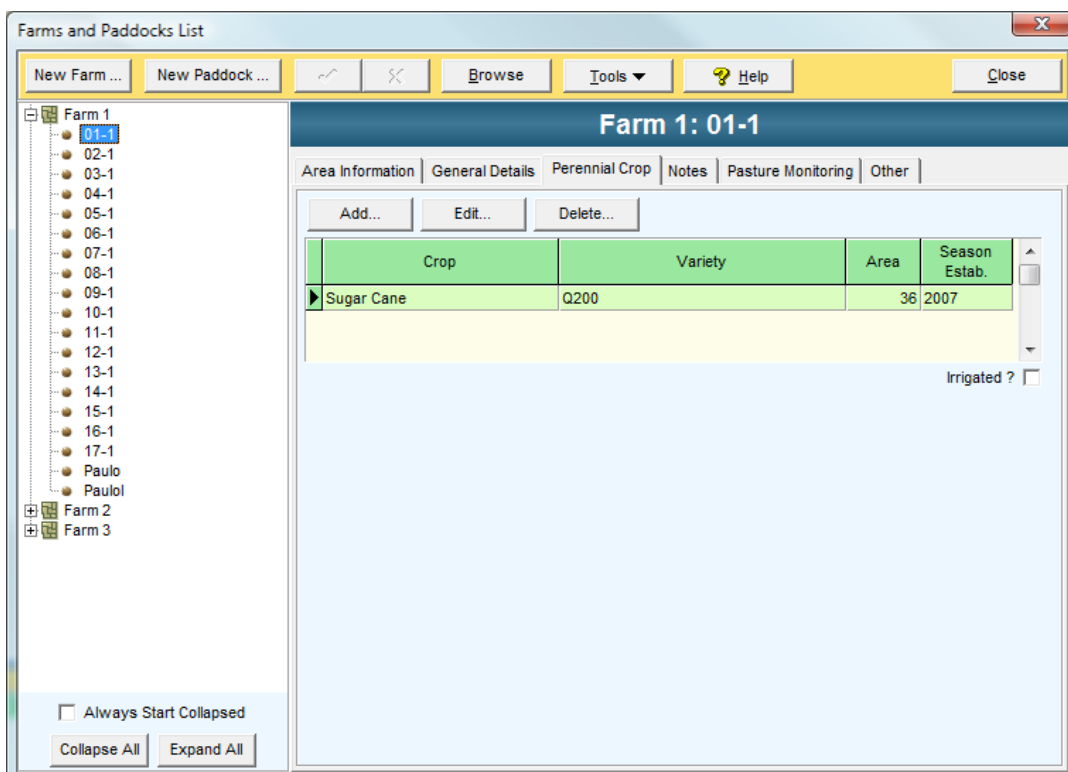
On finishing the Seeding & Planting activity, the software will automatically add the crop to the perennial crop list for the paddock.

You can see what the software has done by having a look at the perennials for the paddock:

Select *Configuration* -> *Farm & Paddock List*



Select the paddock down the left hand side and have a look at the Perennial Crop tab. You will see you newly planted perennial crop, with the season established:



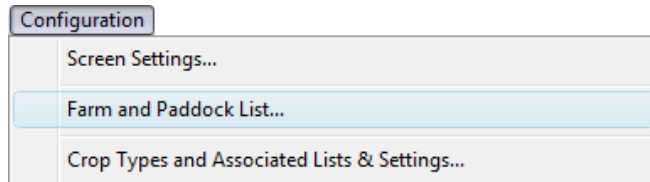
This crop will now be available for selection within the 'Add Activity Wizard' for all seasons to come, or until retired (see later section).

## MANUALLY (EXISTING CROP)

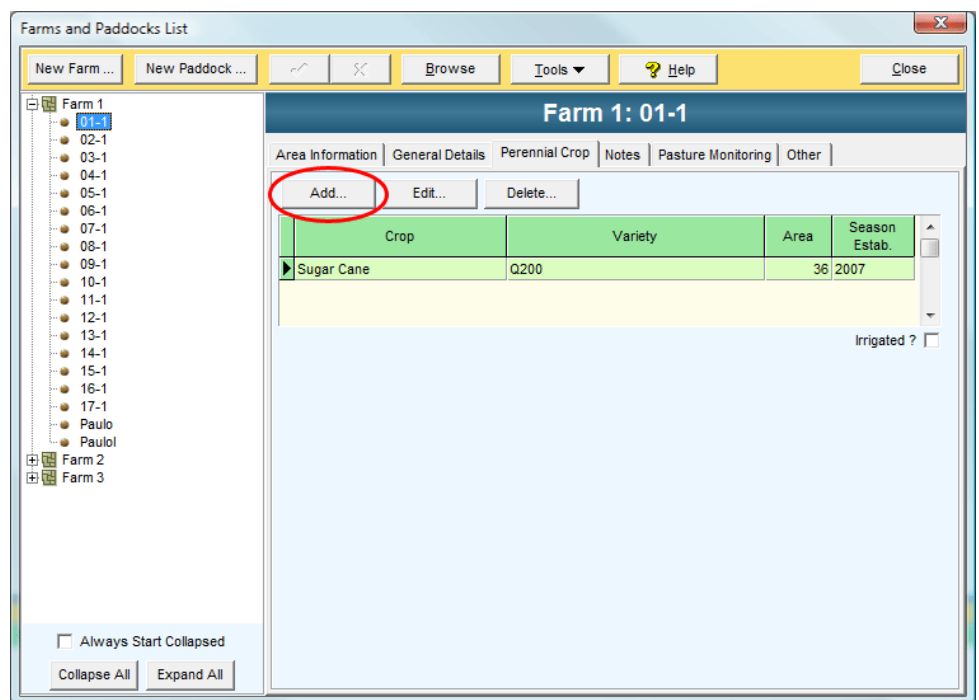
If a crop is already in the paddock and you have no need to record the planting of the perennial crop, you will simply need to add that crop to the perennial crop list for that paddock.

By adding the perennial crop directly to the perennial crops list for the paddock, you do not need to record any details of the planting, such as any chemicals &/or fertilizers that were applied during the plant, or costs.

Select *Configuration* -> *Farm & Paddock List*

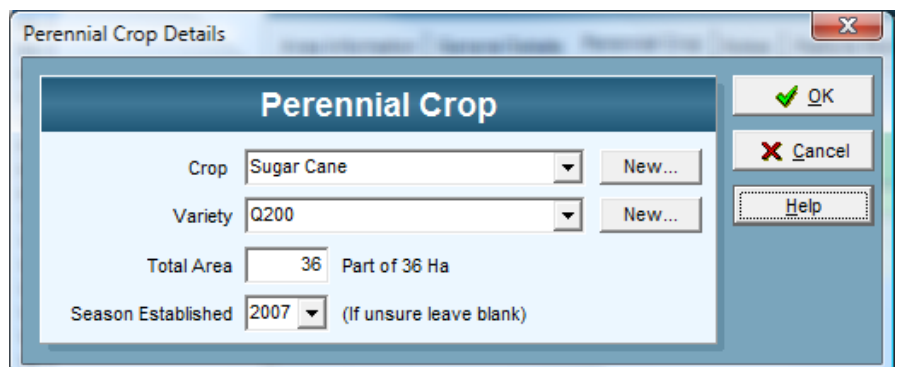


1. Select the paddock down the left hand side
2. Select the Perennial Crop tab.
3. Click Add



4. Select the Crop & Variety, create new ones at this point if you need to.
5. Click OK

This crop will now be available for selection within the 'Add Activity Wizard' for all seasons to come, or until retired (see later section).



## DATA ENTRY

During the Add Activity Wizard, you will be able to distinguish perennials crops from annual crops as the perennials are suffixed with a **[P]**.

**Add Activity Wizard**

### Area Selection

Lists | Map

Crops | Paddock | 2008 Management Groups

- [-] Mung Beans
  - [-] White Gold 05-1 : Farm 1 (A - 32.37Ha)
- [-] Sugar Cane
  - [-] Q200 02-1 : Farm 1 (A - 20Ha) [P]
  - [-] Q200 01-1 : Farm 1 (B - 36Ha) [P]

Display as a list     Display Collapsed    Sort By  Crop/Paddock     Paddock/Crop     Hide Paddock List

Paddock / Farm	Total Ha	Arable Ha	Cropped Ha	Worked Ha

       Total Area Selected : 0.00

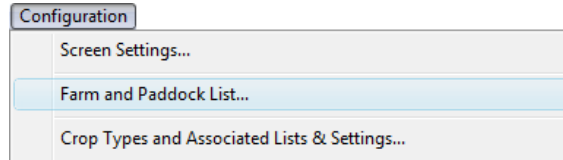
Help (F1)    Job Notes    Back (F5)    Next (F8)    Finish    Cancel

## RETIRE AN EXISTING PERENNIAL CROP

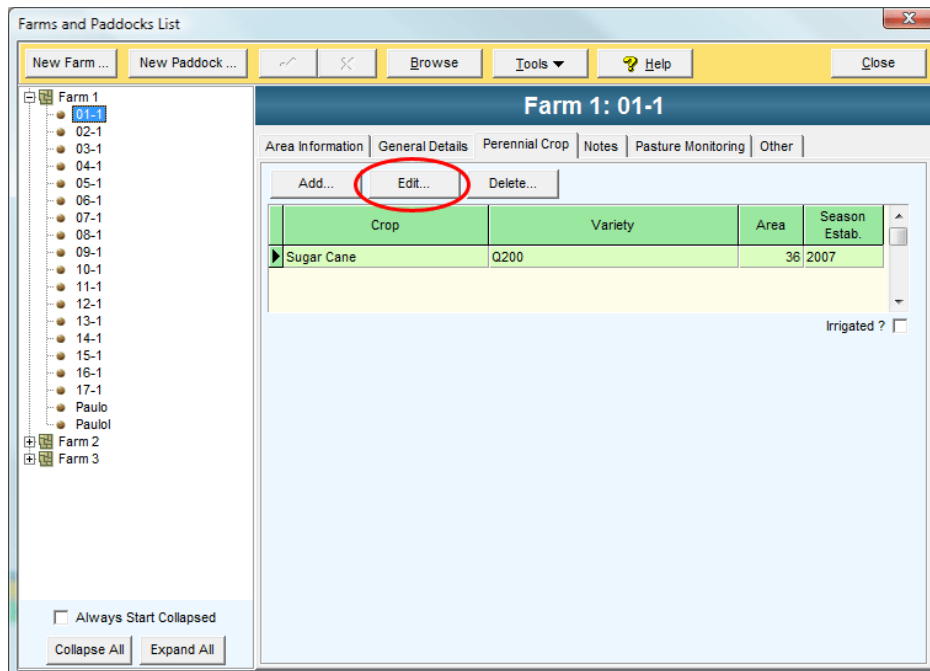
As mentioned earlier in this help note, once perennials are added to the system, they are available for selection for all seasons to come, or until retired.

To retire a perennial crop after its life cycle has finished:

Select *Configuration -> Farm & Paddock List*



1. Select the paddock that currently holds the crop in it from the left hand side of the screen
2. Select the 'Perennial Crop' tab
3. Select the Perennial crop that we are retiring from the paddock
4. Click the 'Edit' button



5. Select the season to retire the perennial crop
6. Click 'OK'

