

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
WASHINGTON

March 11, 1932.

SUGAR PLANTS

Mr. J. F. Jaudon, President,  
Royal Palm Sugar Cane and Planting Company,  
Everglades, Florida.

Dear Mr. Jaudon:

Replying to your letter of March 2, I note that Messrs. Stevens and Bourne of the Everglades Experiment Station at Belle Glade, which is under the direction of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, furnished you some varieties of sugar cane and outlined the manner in which they should be planted.

I presume that you are acquainted with the results of the venture undertaken a number of years ago by a sugar company in the area lying a short distance west of Miami, and I may cite the disastrous outcome as an outstanding example of why any serious proposals to establish a sugar factory should be preceded by a thorough investigation of adaptability of an area for the production of sugar cane. Random, small-scale plantings of sugar cane may indicate that cane could be successfully produced, but the results of such plantings do not afford dependable information justifying the assumption that it would be commercially feasible to enter into production on a large scale, even in such instances as soil, water-table, climatic, and other conditions appear favorable. The establishment of a sugar factory and the establishment of cane production on the thousands of acres which would be required to produce sufficient tonnage of cane for operating a factory throughout a campaign of several months necessitates the outlay of a very large amount of capital, and the adaptability of an area should first be determined through carefully controlled experimental plantings carried on over a period of several years and throughout the area in which the culture of cane might be contemplated.

I should be glad to visit your properties at such time as I might be in Southern Florida, but I do not contemplate making a trip to Florida at an earlier date than possibly next winter and, under the circumstances, I do not foresee that there will be any opportunity for me to visit you at any time in the near future.

At such time as you may visit Washington, we shall be very glad if you will visit us, and I am certain that Dr. E. W. Brandes, Principal Pathologist in Charge of this Division, will be glad to discuss with you the subject of the culture of cane in Florida.

Very truly yours,

*S. F. Sherwood*

Senior Biochemist.