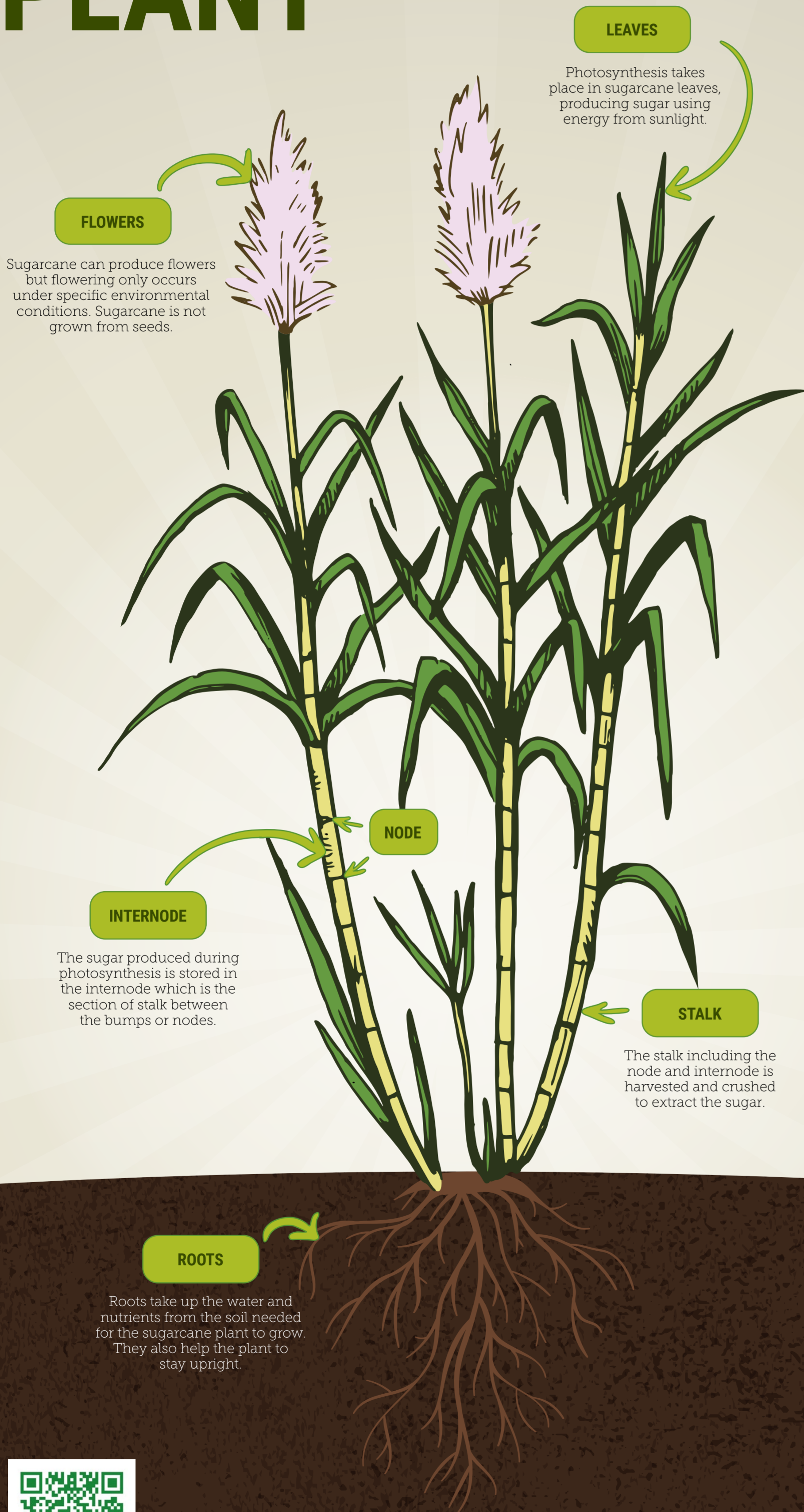


FEATURES OF A SUGARCANE PLANT



FLOWERS

Sugarcane can produce flowers but flowering only occurs under specific environmental conditions. Sugarcane is not grown from seeds.

LEAVES

Photosynthesis takes place in sugarcane leaves, producing sugar using energy from sunlight.

NODE

INTERNODE

The sugar produced during photosynthesis is stored in the internode which is the section of stalk between the bumps or nodes.

STALK

The stalk including the node and internode is harvested and crushed to extract the sugar.

ROOTS

Roots take up the water and nutrients from the soil needed for the sugarcane plant to grow. They also help the plant to stay upright.

Each part of the sugarcane plant plays an important role in the growth and production of sugar.

WHAT

Sugarcane belongs to the grass family, Poaceae, an important plant family that also includes wheat, rice, and sorghum.

Although 'raw' sugar is the main product of Australian sugarcane, there are a host of other uses for the plant including bio-fuels, green electricity, molasses, mulch, plastics and pharmaceuticals.

WHERE

Sugarcane requires a tropical or subtropical climate. It can be found growing between far north Queensland and northern New South Wales.

In warm and sunny Queensland, it takes between 9-16 months to grow a sugarcane crop. Growth is slower in cooler climates like New South Wales, where it can take up to 18-24 months for crops to be ready to harvest.

DID YOU KNOW?

A mature sugarcane plants can grow between two and six metres tall.

2-6m

1.5m



PLANTING SUGARCANE



Sugarcane is not grown from a seed, but by replanting part of a mature sugarcane stalk called a billet. New shoots grow from buds on the planted billet. To grow successfully, sugarcane needs strong sunlight, fertile soil, and sufficient water.



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Australian Curriculum Content: AC9S5U01, AC9S6U01



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