

Fusarium wilt of strawberry

Tom Gordon

Department of Plant Pathology



Collaborators:

Oleg Daugovish

Steve Koike

Steve Knapp

Glenn Cole



Fusarium wilt

Verticillium wilt

Macrophomina crown rot

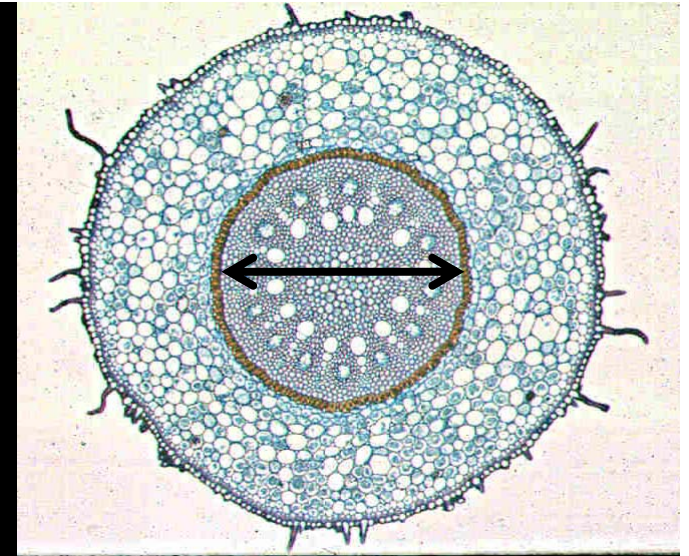




Fusarium wilt



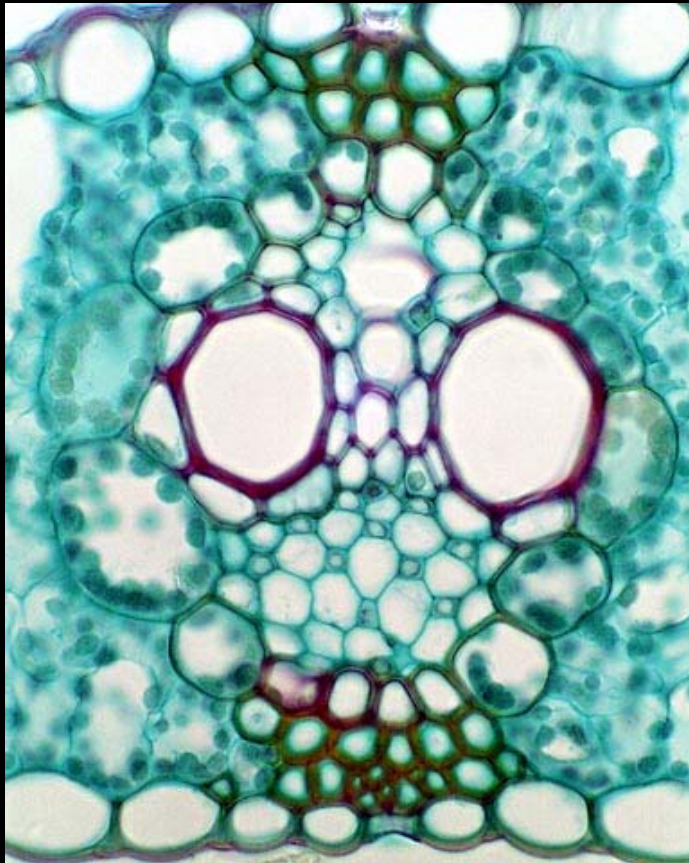
Caused by *Fusarium oxysporum*
which survives in soil



Damage results
when the fungus
enters the core
of the root

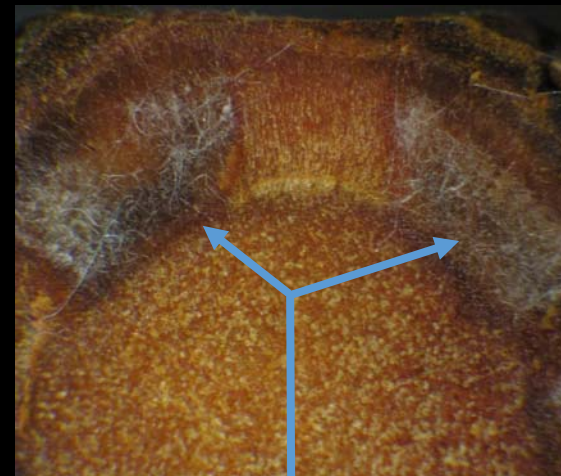
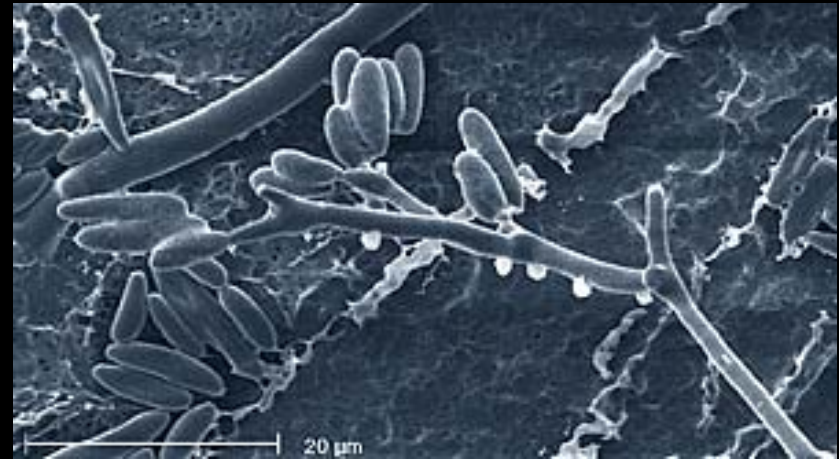


Infects plant roots



**Within the root core
the fungus invades
xylem vessels, which
transport water to the
crown and leaves**

**Microconidia carried
upward in xylem vessels**



**Section of crown from
infected plant showing
fungal growth from
colonized vascular tissue**



Reduced flow of water from roots results in collapse of the plant



Fusarium also rots the crown producing symptoms similar to those caused by Macrophomina

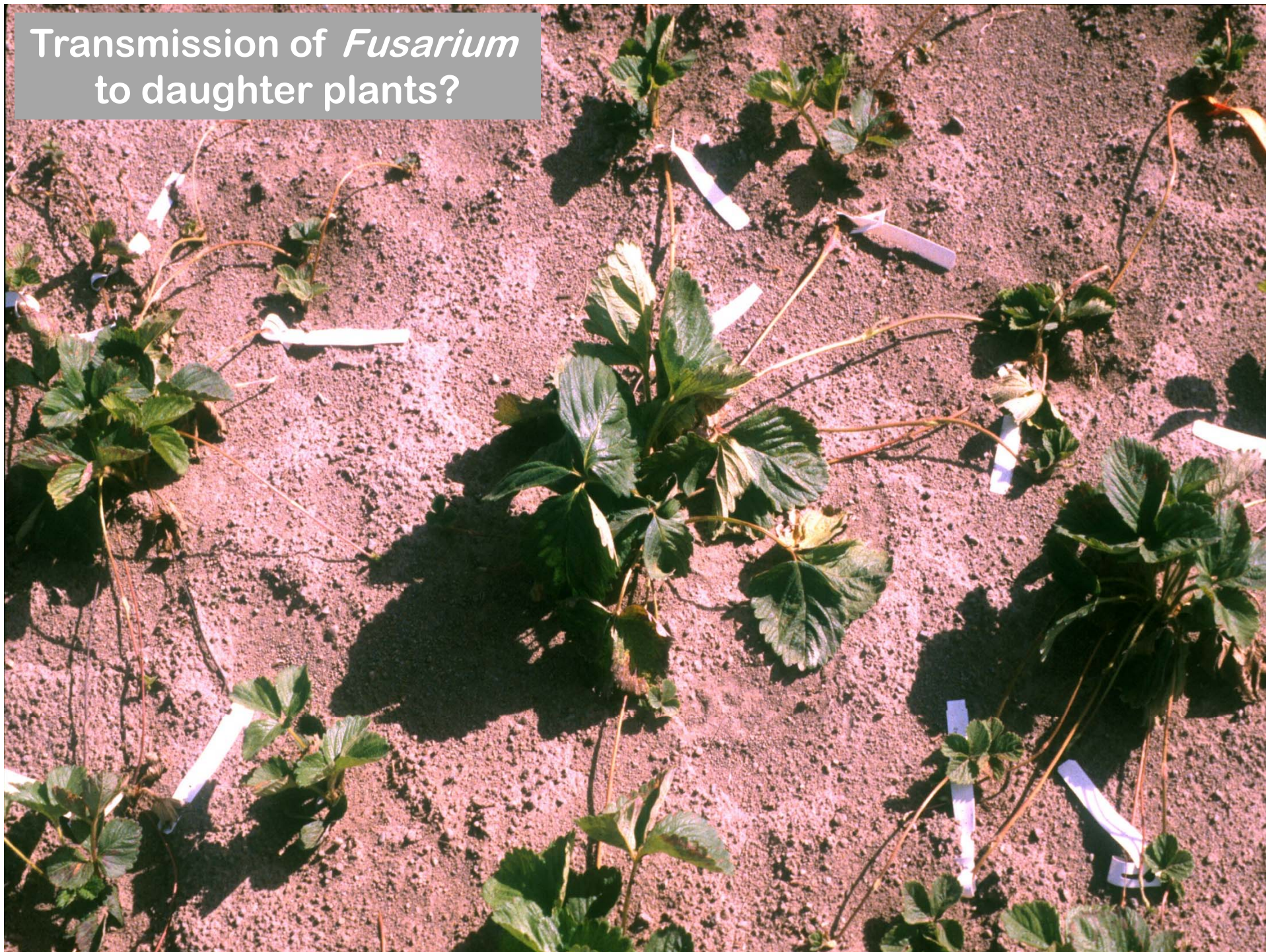
Management

Avoid introduction

Pathogen can be moved
with soil on equipment

Infected transplants

Transmission of *Fusarium*
to daughter plants?



Experiments were conducted to test for transmission of *Fusarium* from infected mothers to daughter plants



Inoculation

Plants were infected

But vigorous enough
to produce runners
and daughter plants

Transmission of *Fusarium* to daughter plants



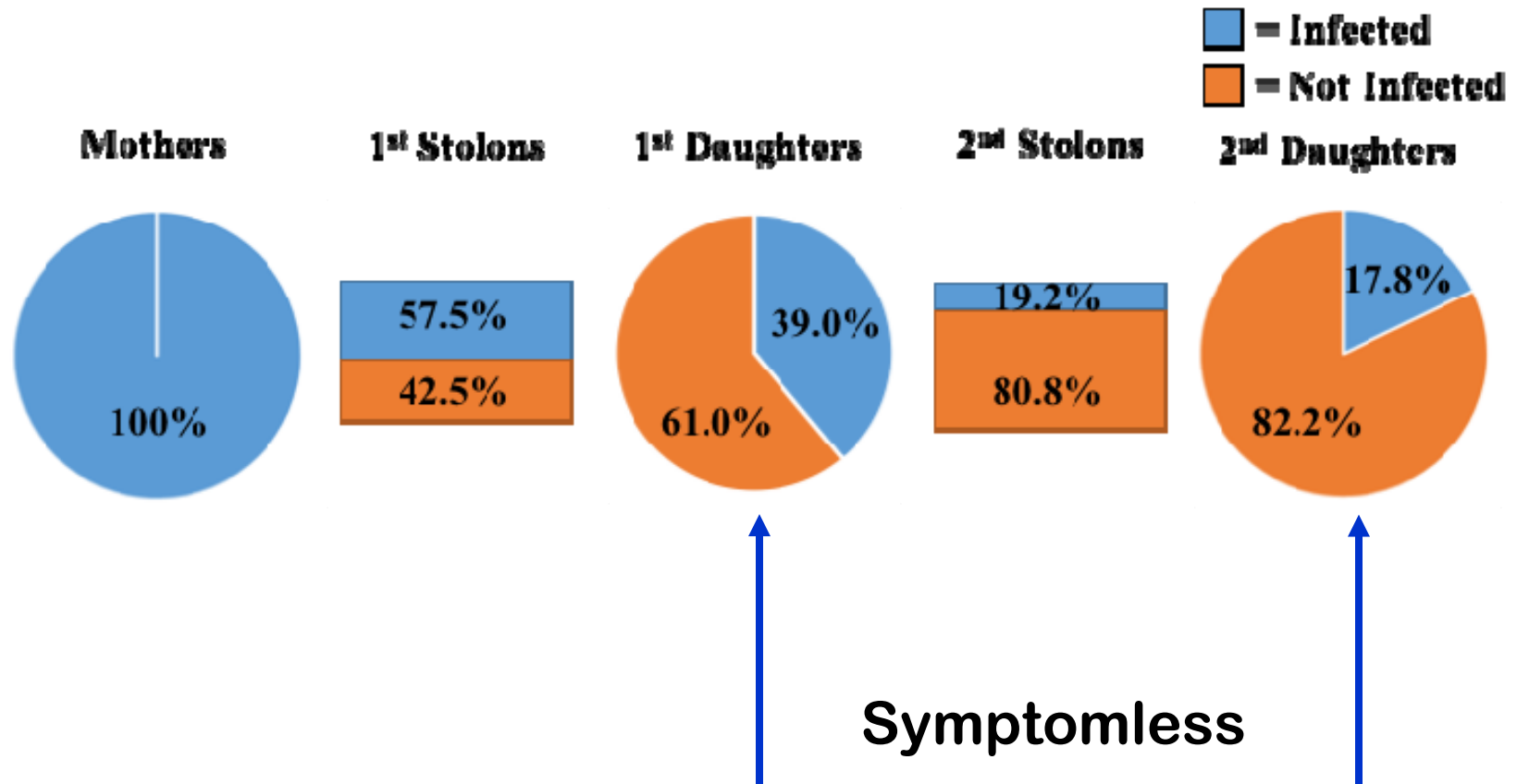
Tag stolons and
daughter plants

Transmission of *Fusarium* to daughter plants

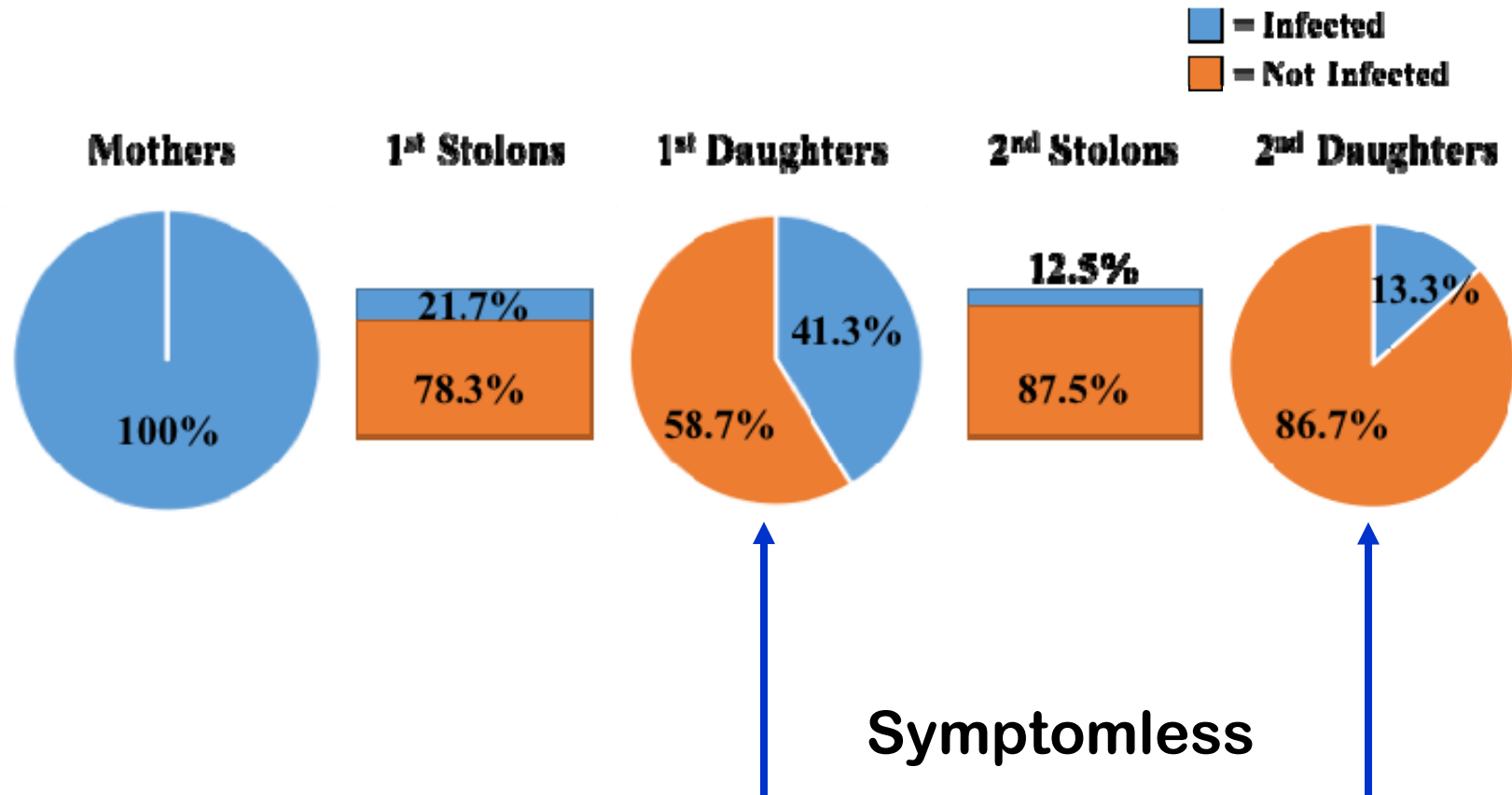


**Test for infection
by the pathogen**

Albion



Monterey



No transmission in resistant cultivars

Cultivar	Crown	Petiole	Runner	Daughter
Albion	+	+	+	+
San Andreas	+	-	-	-
Fronteras	+	-	-	-
Petaluma	+	+	+	+

Transmission of
Verticillium dahliae
through stolons



Verticillium wilt in high elevation nurseries



Mother plants may show
show symptoms only
late in the season

Overgrown by
daughter plants

Plants infected by *Verticillium dahliae*
may not be detectable by visual inspection



Infected daughter plants



Show no symptoms

Disease may develop
in fruit production field



Management

Avoid introduction

→ Reduce inoculum levels in soil

Pre-plant fumigation

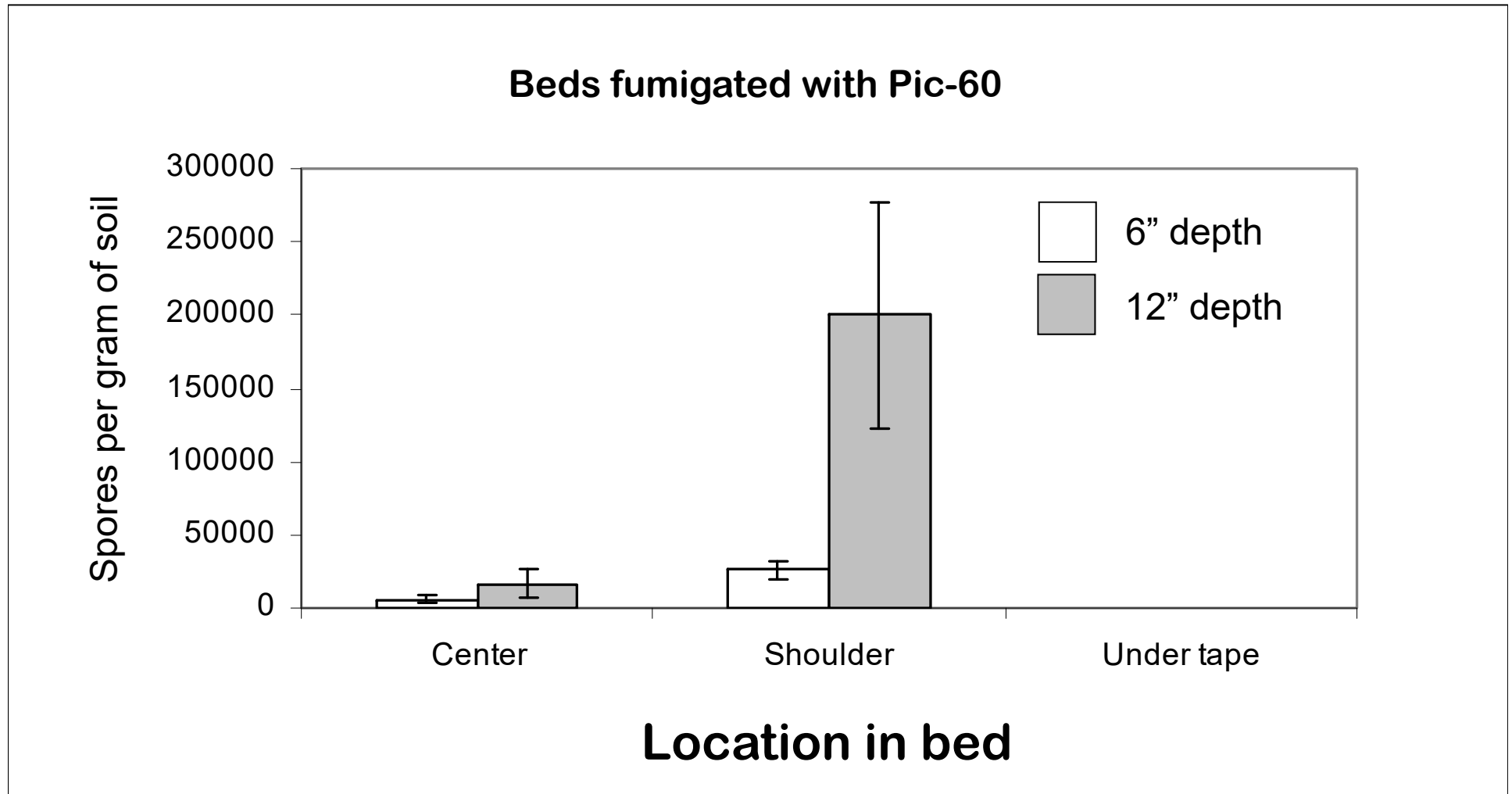
Flat fumigation to treat the entire field



**Mortality is not evenly
distributed across beds**

Incomplete treatment

Fumigation is fully effective only directly under drip tapes



Anaerobic soil disinfestation

Effect on survival of *Fusarium oxysporum*

Rice hulls at 9 tons per acre

cool conditions
Day/night = 77/64°F

+ 310%



Increase in
pathogen population

warm conditions
Day/night = 82/68°F

+0.01%



No change

Anaerobic soil disinfestation

Effect on survival of *Fusarium oxysporum*

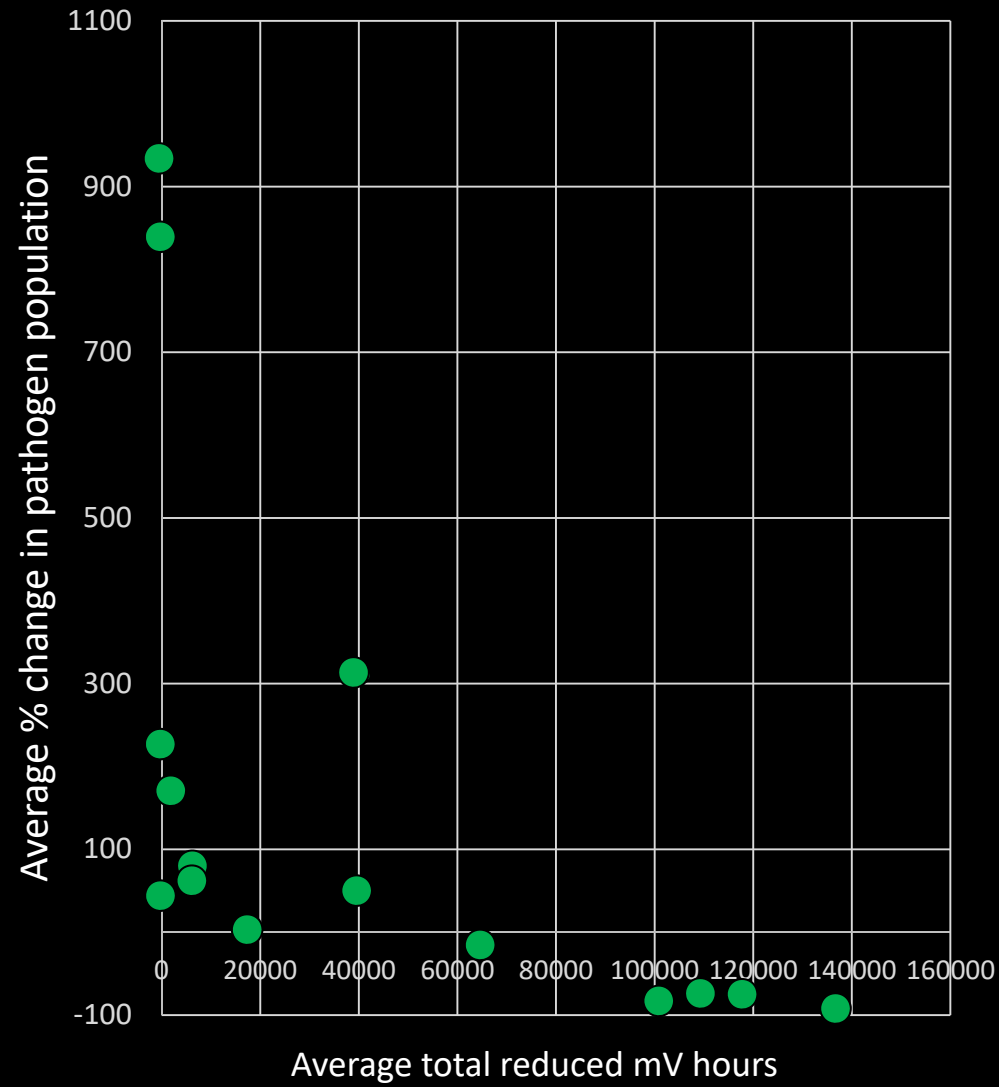
Rice hulls at 9 tons per acre

Cool conditions
Day/night = 77/64°F

Mustard seed meal

None	3 tons/acre
+ 310%	- 74%

Duration of anaerobic conditions



Crop rotation

Inoculum levels decline when other crops are grown

Rotation crops do not support pathogen development

Colonization of rotation crops



Colonization of rotation crops

Broccoli

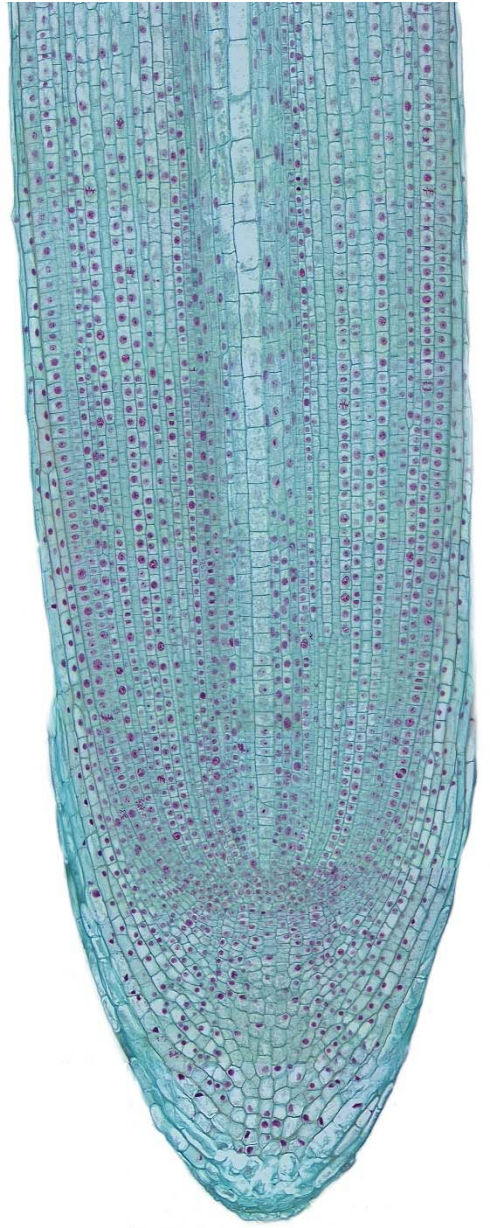
Lettuce

Spinach

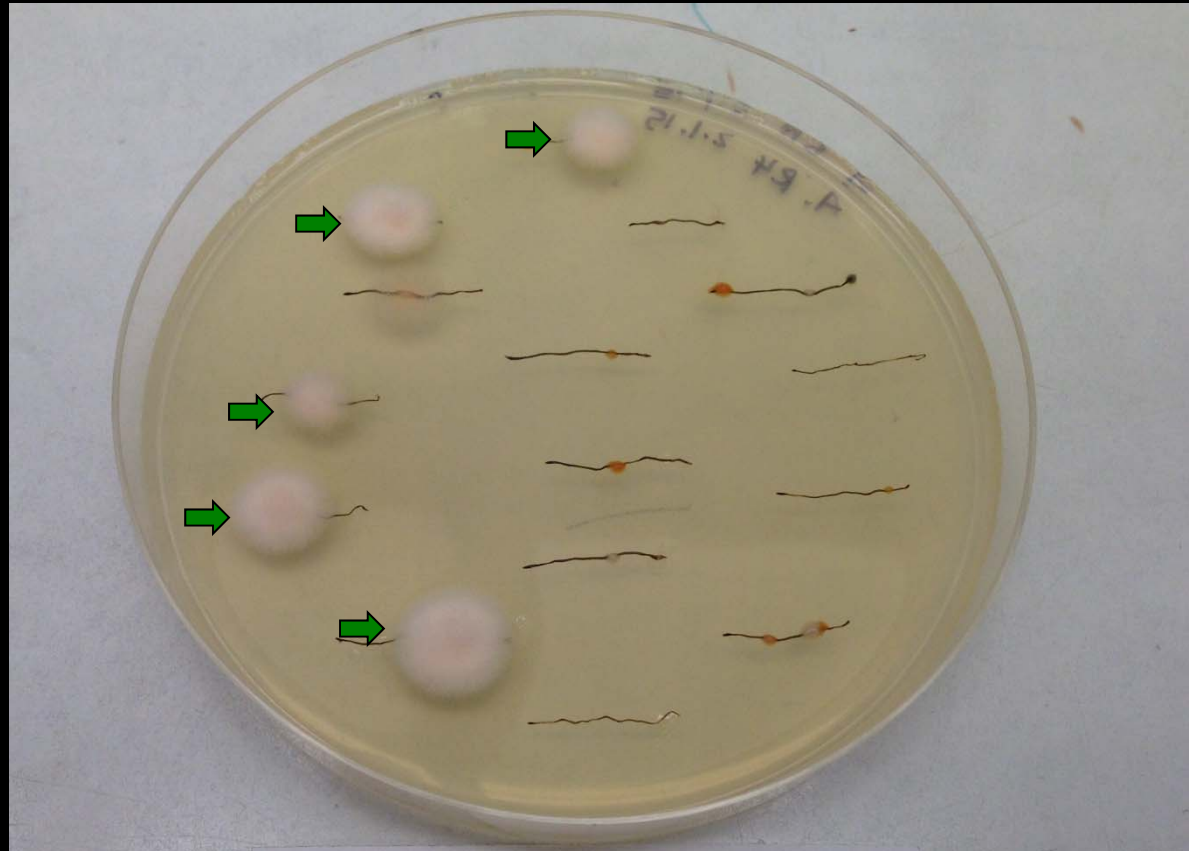
Cilantro

Wheat

Raspberry

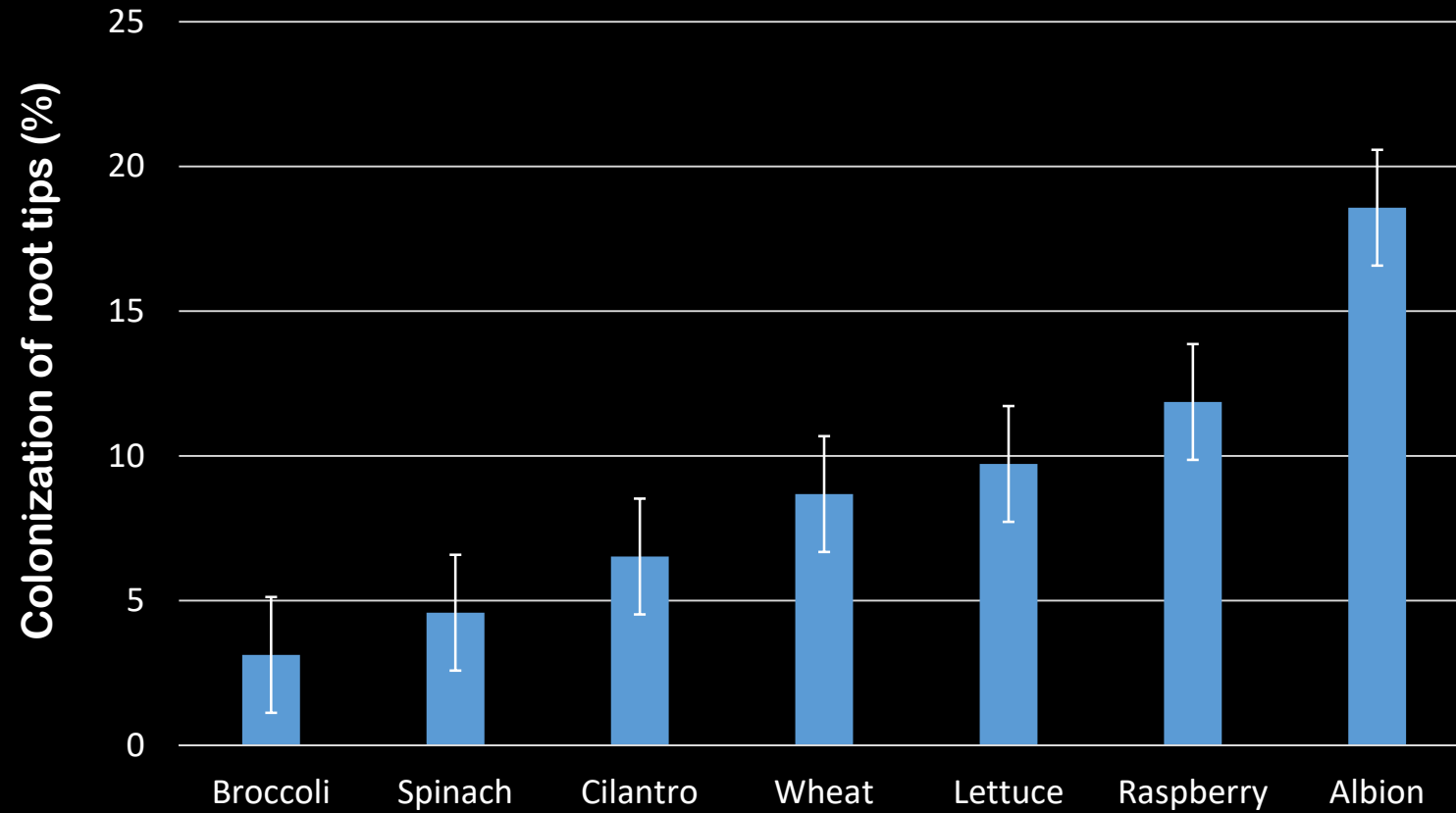


Root tip



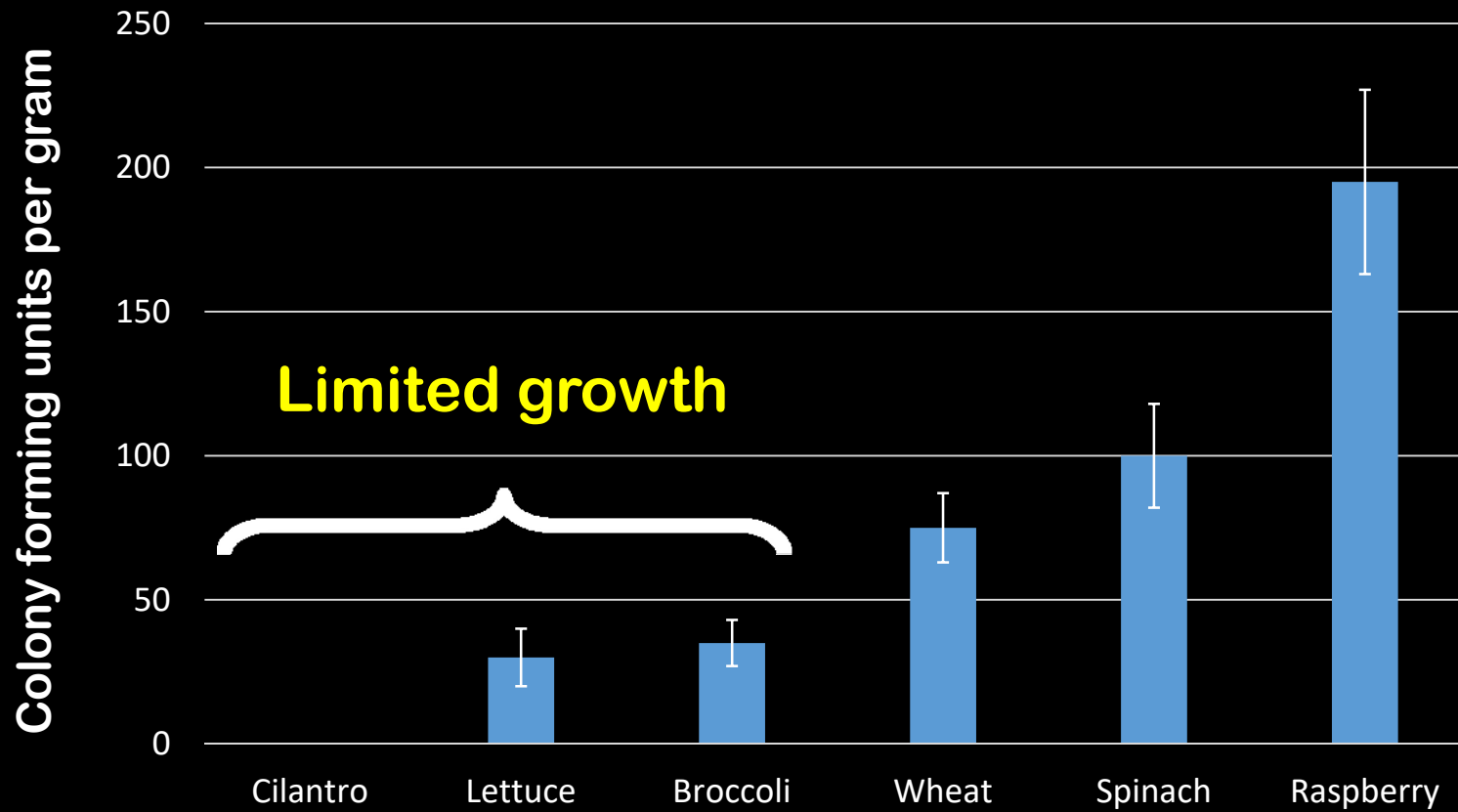
Percentage of root tips infected

Percentage of root tips infected



Extent of colonization?

Pathogen biomass in root cortex





Blackberry

Fusarium wilt

Fusarium oxysporum

**Effect of blackberry
pathogen on strawberry**

**Albion
Monterey
San Andreas
Portola
Petaluma**

Susceptibility of strawberry to blackberry pathogen

Inoculated plants were rated on a 1 – 5 scale

Susceptibility of strawberry to blackberry pathogen

Plants were rated on a 1 – 5 scale



Healthy plant = 1

Dead plant = 5



Stunting and yellowing of leaves = 3

Susceptibility of strawberry to blackberry pathogen

1 – 5 scale

Cultivar	<i>F. o. mori</i>	<i>F. o. fragariae</i>
Albion	3.0	5.0
Monterey	2.1	5.0

F. o. mori = blackberry pathogen

**Some plants were killed
by the blackberry pathogen**



Susceptibility of strawberry to blackberry pathogen

1 – 5 scale

Cultivar	<i>F. o. mori</i>	<i>F. o. fragariae</i>
Albion	3.0	5.0
Monterey	2.1	5.0
San Andreas	1.0	1.0
Portola	1.0	1.0
Petaluma	1.0	5.0

Management

Disease resistance

The Population of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae*, Cause of Fusarium Wilt of Strawberry, in California

P. M. Henry, **S. C. Kirkpatrick**, **C. M. Islas**, **A. M. Pastrana**, and **J. A. Yoshisato**, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis 95616; **S. T. Koike**, University of California Cooperative Extension, Salinas 93901; **O. Daugovish**, University of California Cooperative Extension, Ventura 93003; and **T. R. Gordon**, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Davis

Abstract

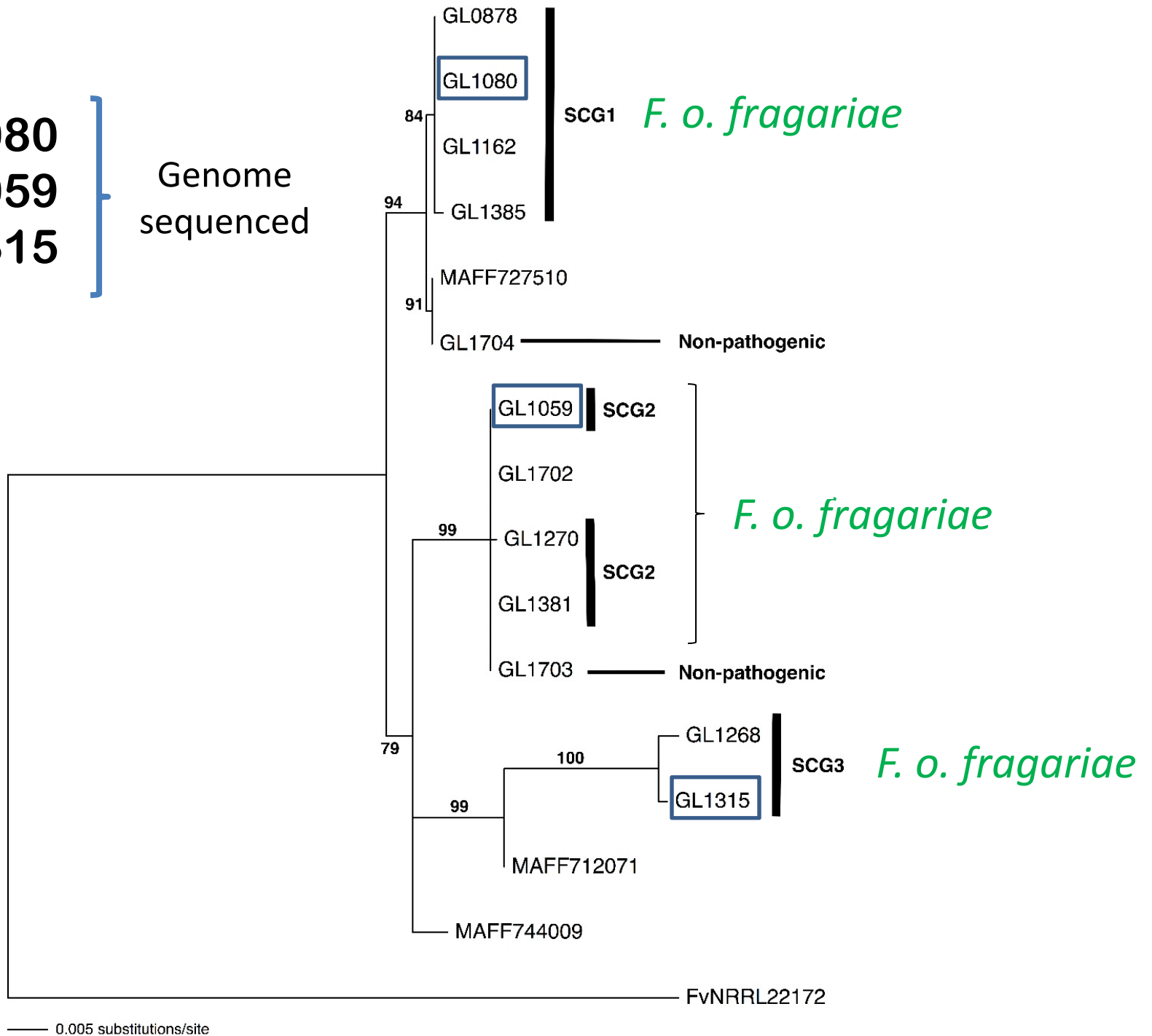
The objectives of this study were to investigate the structure of the population of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* in California and to evaluate methods for its detection. Fifty-nine isolates of *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* were obtained from diseased strawberry plants and their identity was confirmed by pathogenicity testing. The full nuclear ribosomal intergenic spacer (IGS) and elongation factor 1- α gene (EF-1 α) were amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and sequenced to elucidate phylogenetic relationships among isolates. IGS and EF-1 α sequences revealed three main lineages, which corresponded to three somatic compatibility groups. Primers designed to detect *F. oxysporum* f. sp.

fragariae in Japan amplified a 239-bp product from 55 of 59 California isolates of *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* and from no nonpathogenic isolates of *F. oxysporum*. The sequence of this PCR product was identical to the sequence obtained from *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* isolates in Japan. Intensive sampling at two locations in California showed results of tests based on PCR and somatic compatibility to be in agreement for 97% (257 of 264) of isolates tested. Our findings revealed considerable diversity in the California population of *F. oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae*, and indications that horizontal gene transfer may have occurred.

Three strains of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *fragariae* in California

GL 1080
GL 1059
GL 1315

Genome
sequenced



**Likely there have been multiple introductions
of the strawberry Fusarium to California**



Most likely on infected plants

Source of introduction to California?



**Discovered in
California in
2008**

Do *F. o. fragariae* strains differ in virulence?

Genotype * strain test

Albion

Benicia

GL 1315

Fronteras

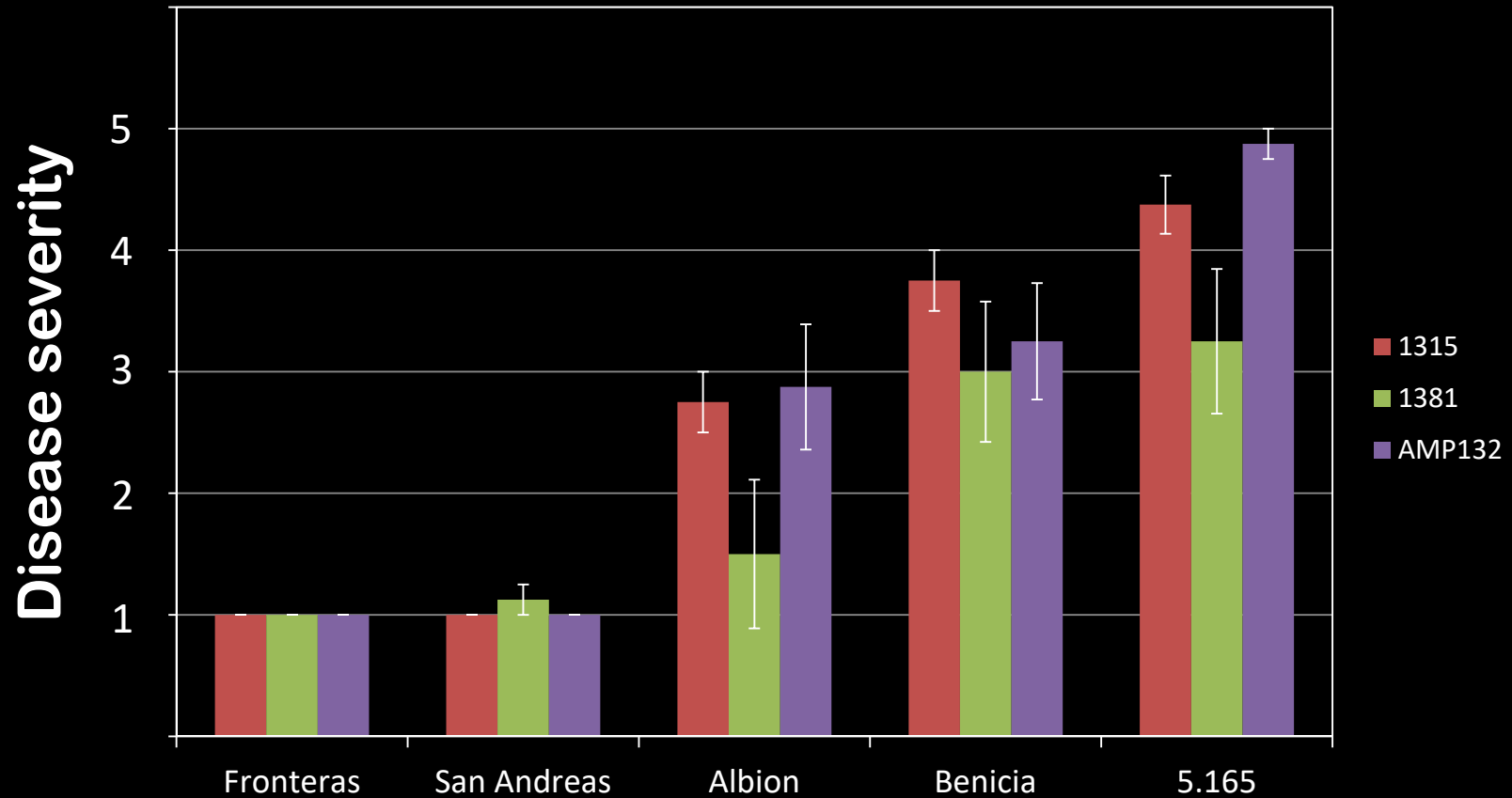
GL 1381

San Andreas

AMP 132

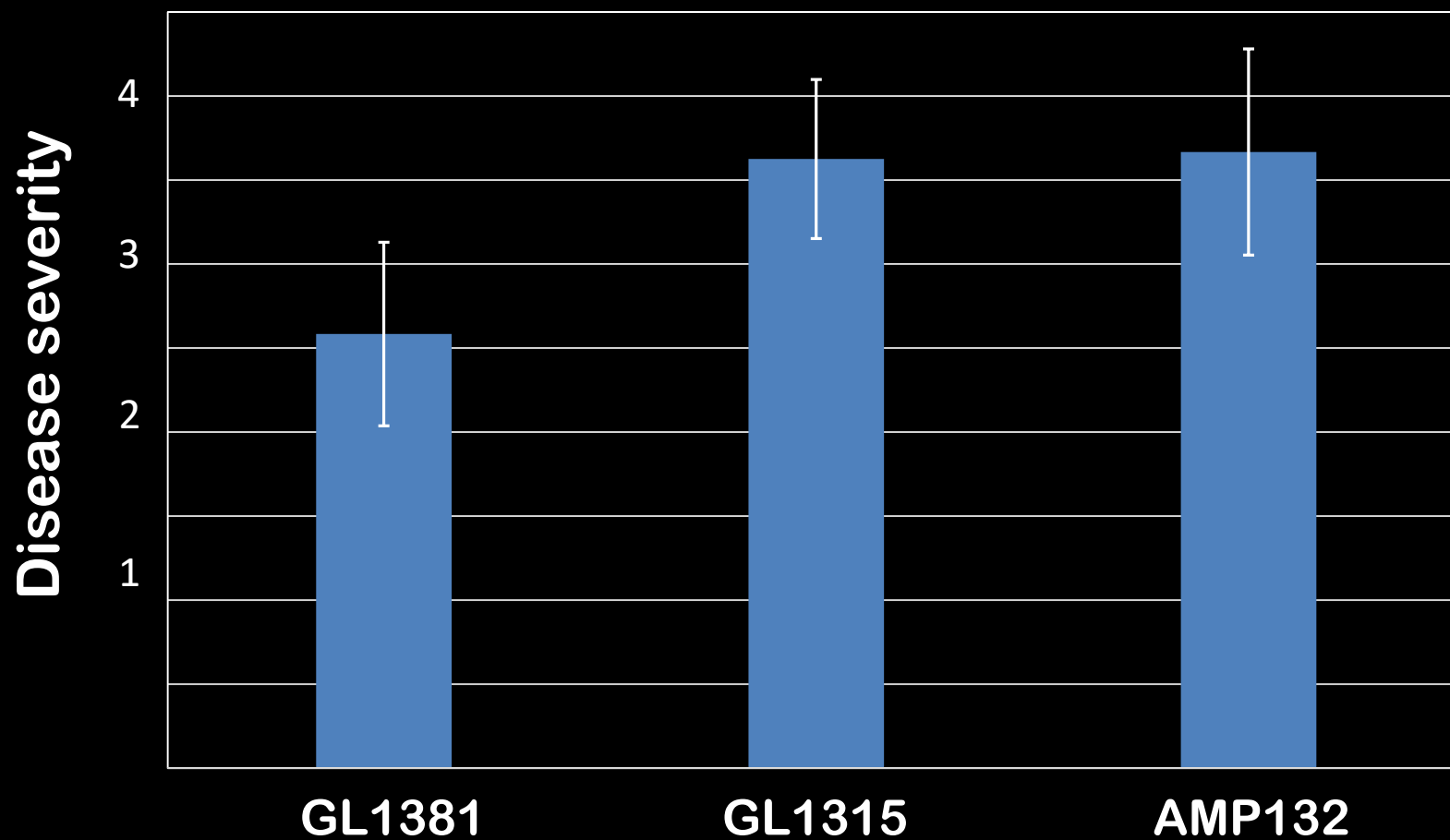
5.165

Genotype * strain test

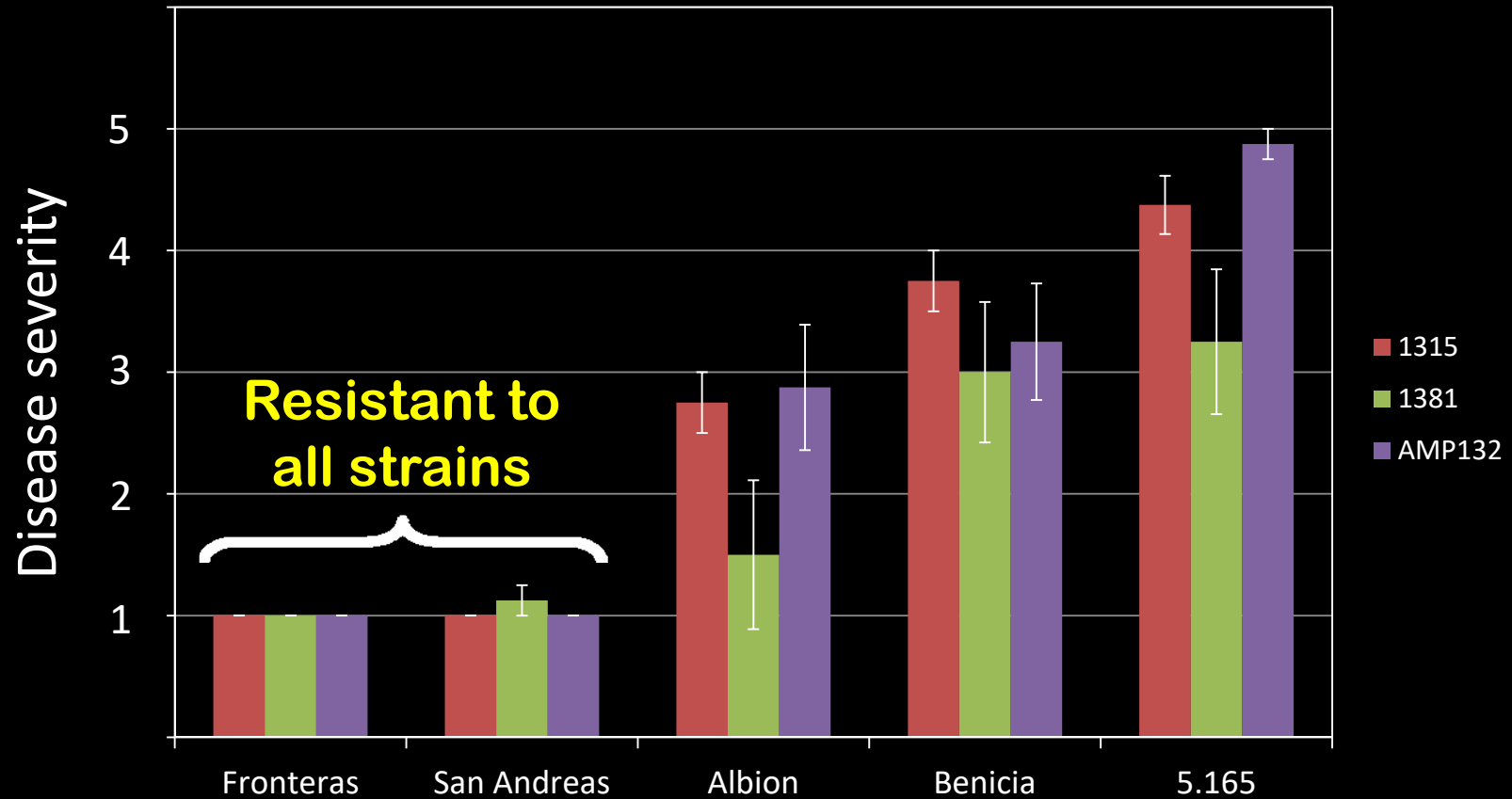


Strains differ in virulence

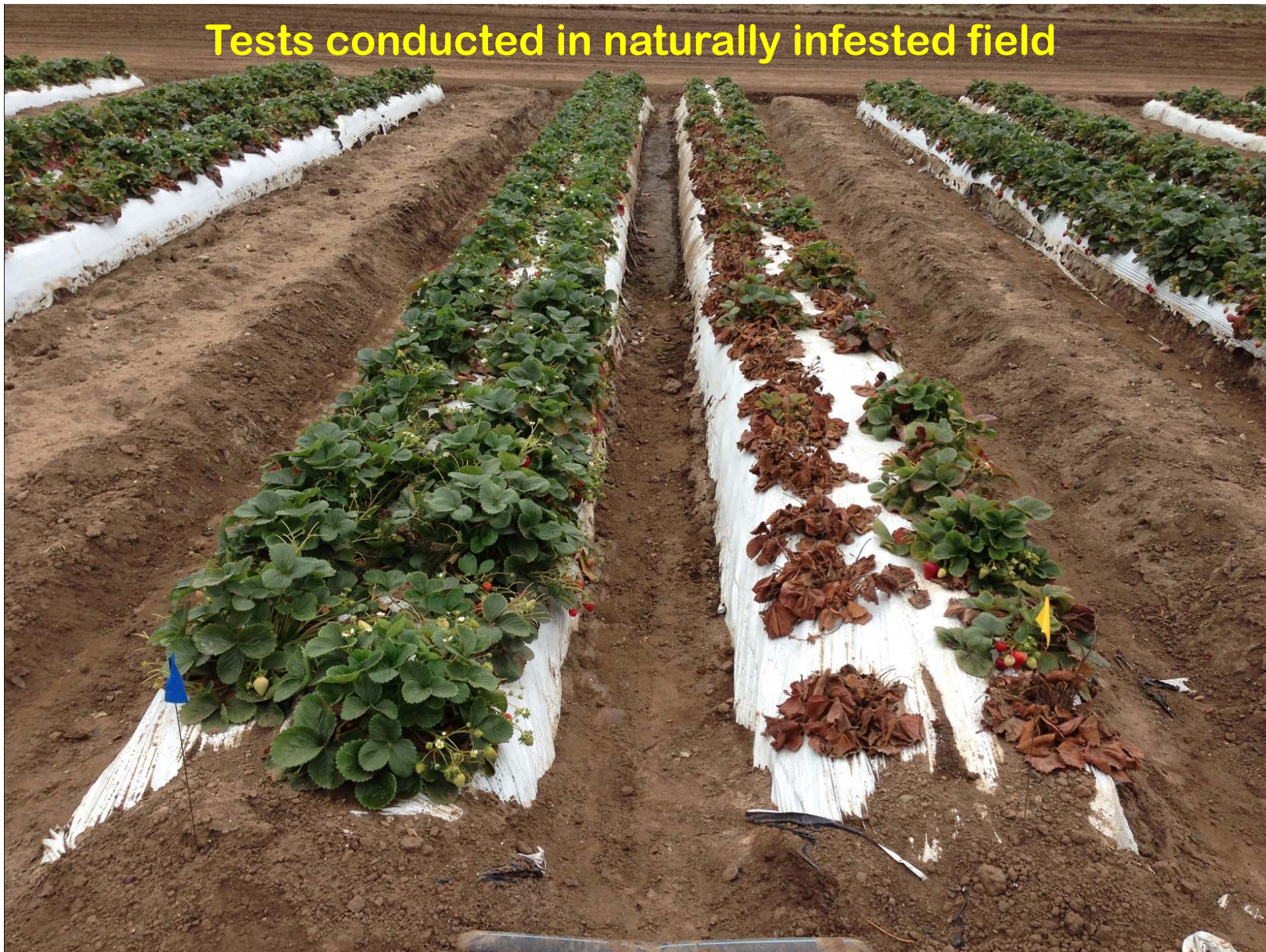
Virulence averaged across all susceptible cultivars



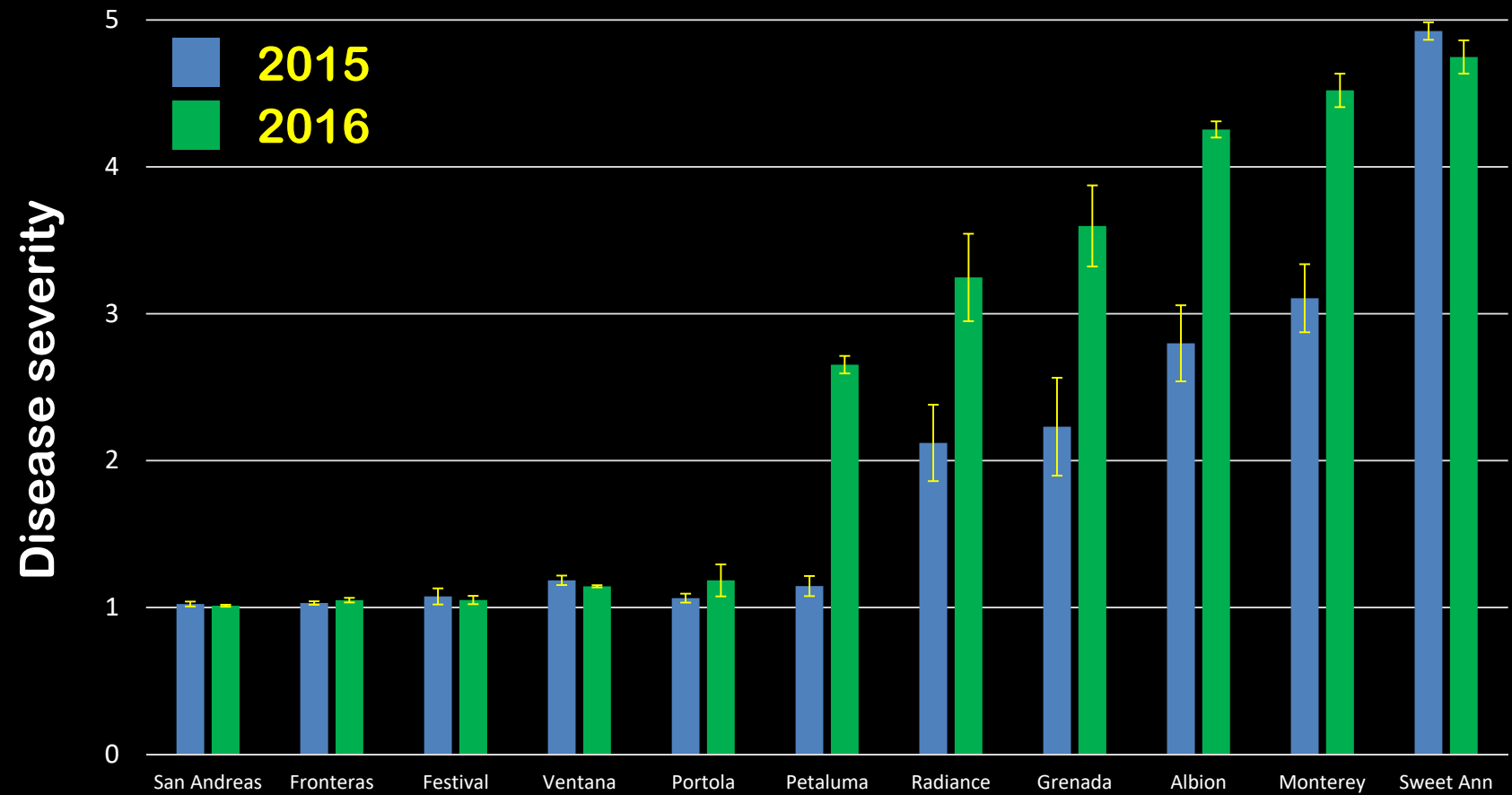
Resistance is effective against all strains



Tests conducted in naturally infested field



Susceptibility to Fusarium wilt



Susceptibility to Fusarium wilt

San Andreas
Portola
Fronteras



Highly resistant

Ventana



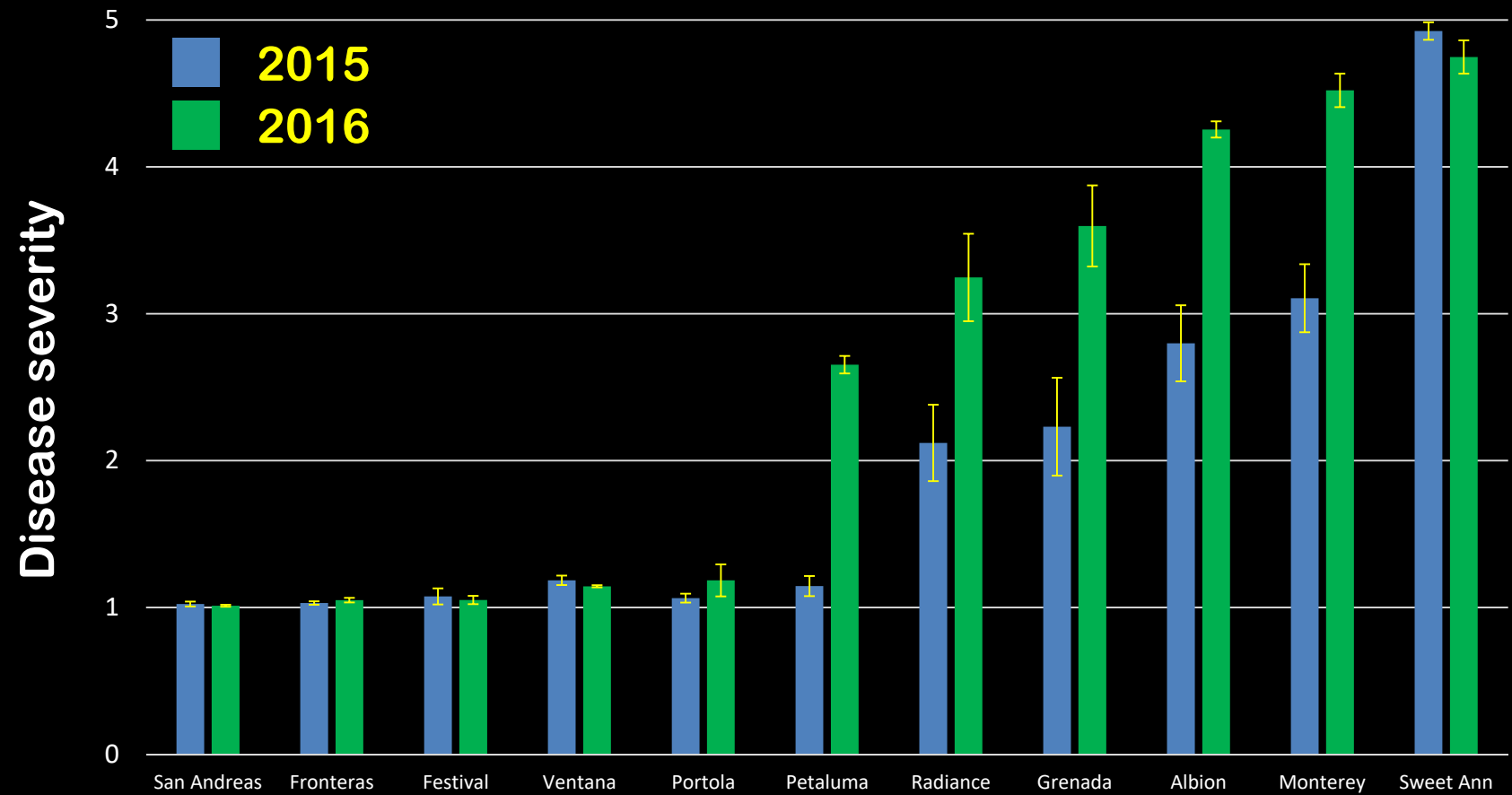
Resistant

Monterey
Albion

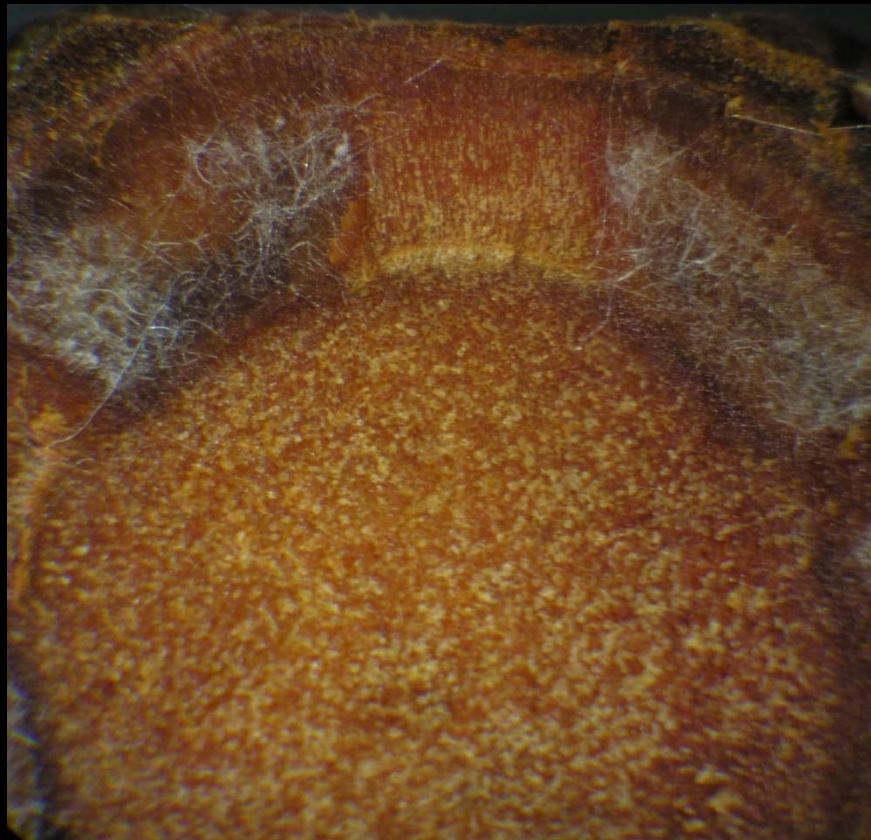


Susceptible

Susceptibility to Fusarium wilt

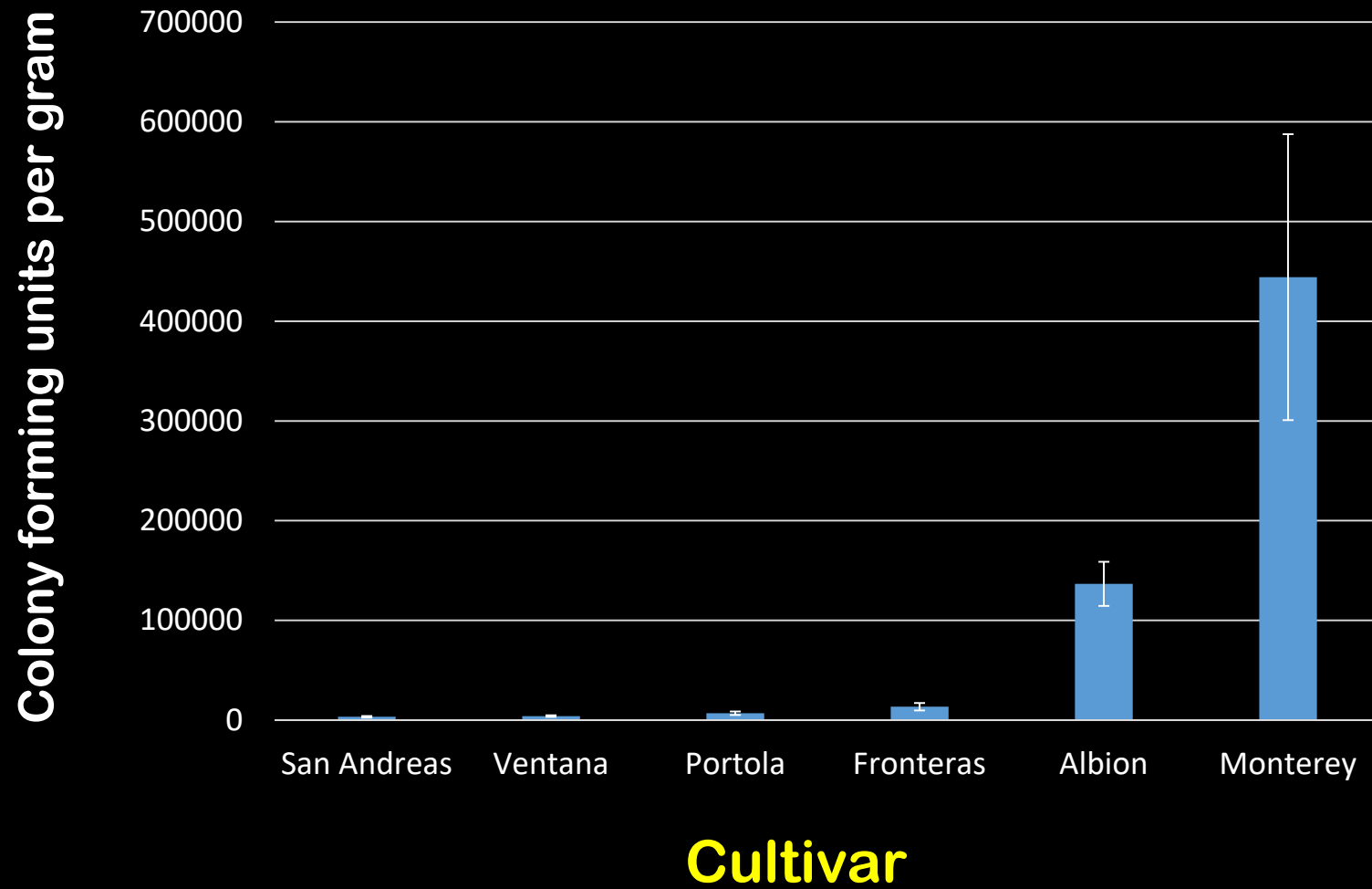


Pathogen can colonize resistant crops

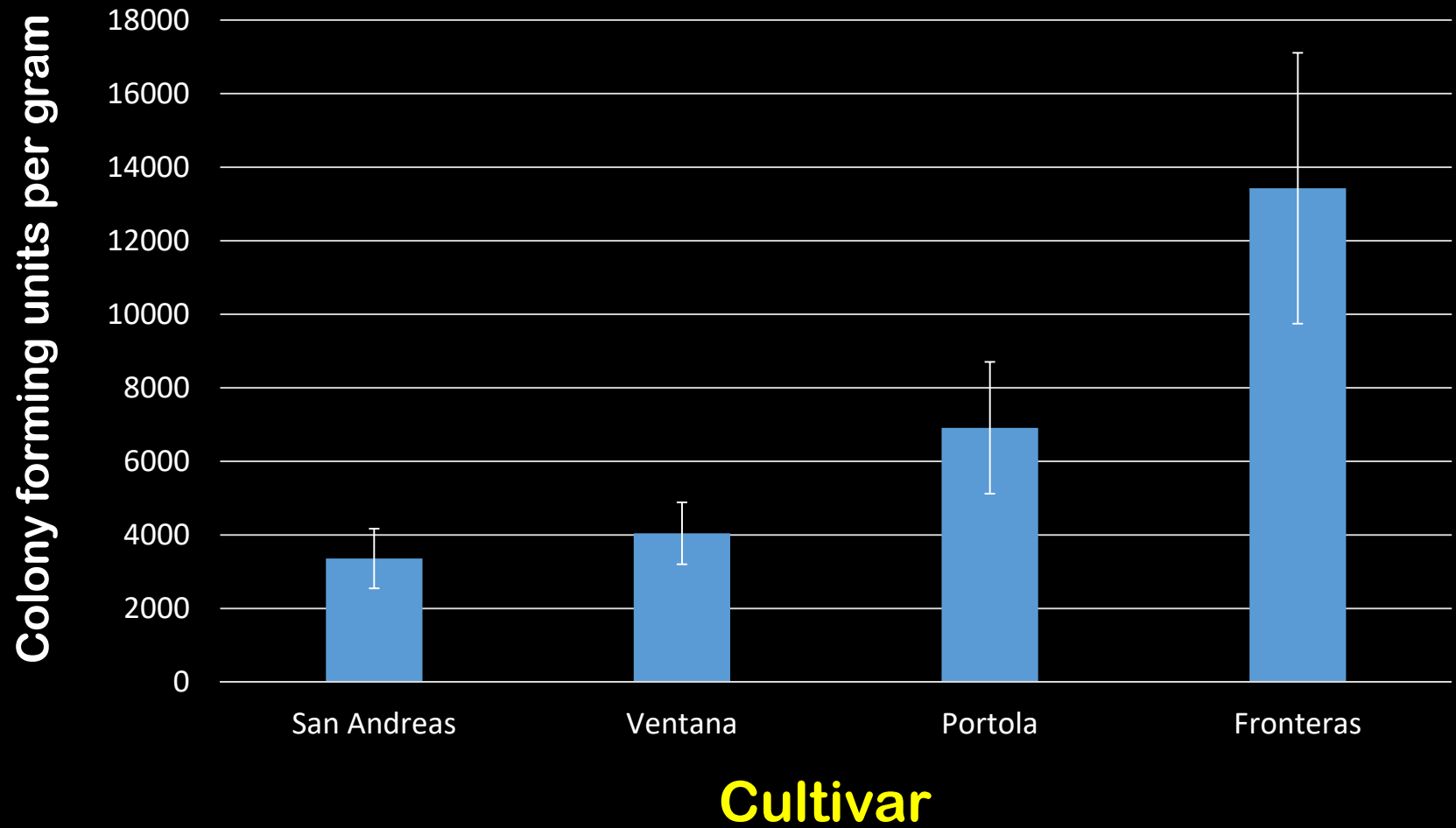


May allow inoculum build-up in soil

Colonization of roots



Colonization of roots

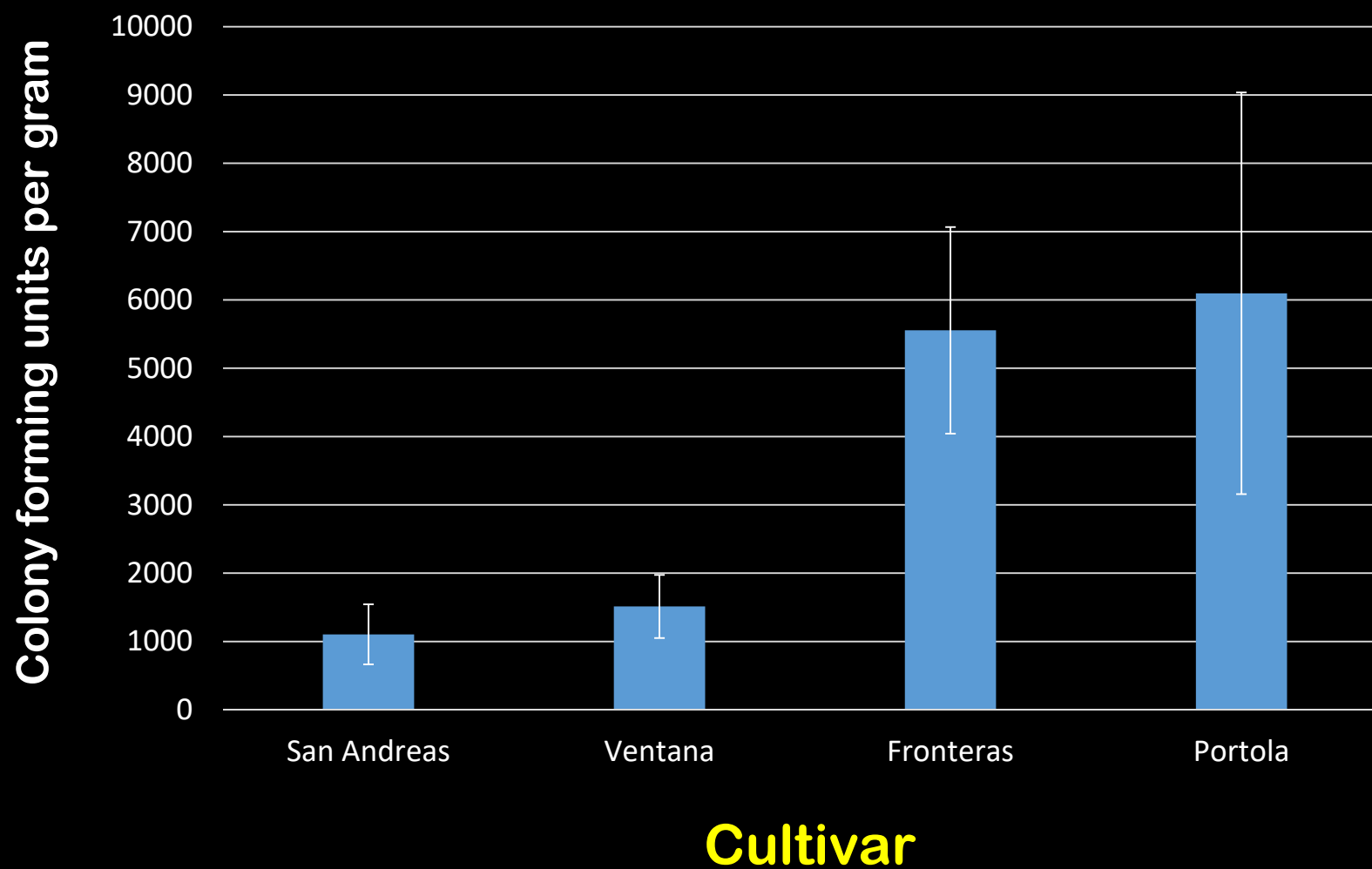


Colonization of crowns



Cultivar

Colonization of crowns



Resistance may be overcome

**Risk is proportional to pathogen
growth and reproduction**

Every cell is a reproductive unit

**Suppression of pathogen
populations still important**

Management of soilborne pathogens

Reduce inoculum levels

Avoid introductions

Disease resistance

Planting buffer zones will increase pathogen inoculum levels



Thanks

california
STRAWBERRY COMMISSION



Sierra-Cascade Nursery
"Quality Strawberry Plants"

