

Management updates for Fusarium wilt and *Fusarium falciforme* vine decline

Cassandra Swett

CE Specialist—Vegetable and Field Crop Pathology
Plant Pathology Dept., UC Davis

clsweett@ucdavis.edu



Managing Fusarium wilt with informed crop rotation: assessing host status of rotation crops

Fusarium wilt: caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp *lycopersici* (Fol) race 3

This strain only causes wilt in tomato

The fungus survives in soil

Crop rotations should reduce Fol R3 inoculum loads

Current recommendations:

Rotate with non-tomato crops—are some crops better?

Recent studies show that some crops are extensively colonized
(eg. melons, cotton, onion, sunflower)

For at least 2-3 years?—is this long enough?



Managing Fusarium wilt with informed crop rotation: Effect of warm season rotation crops on Fusarium wilt

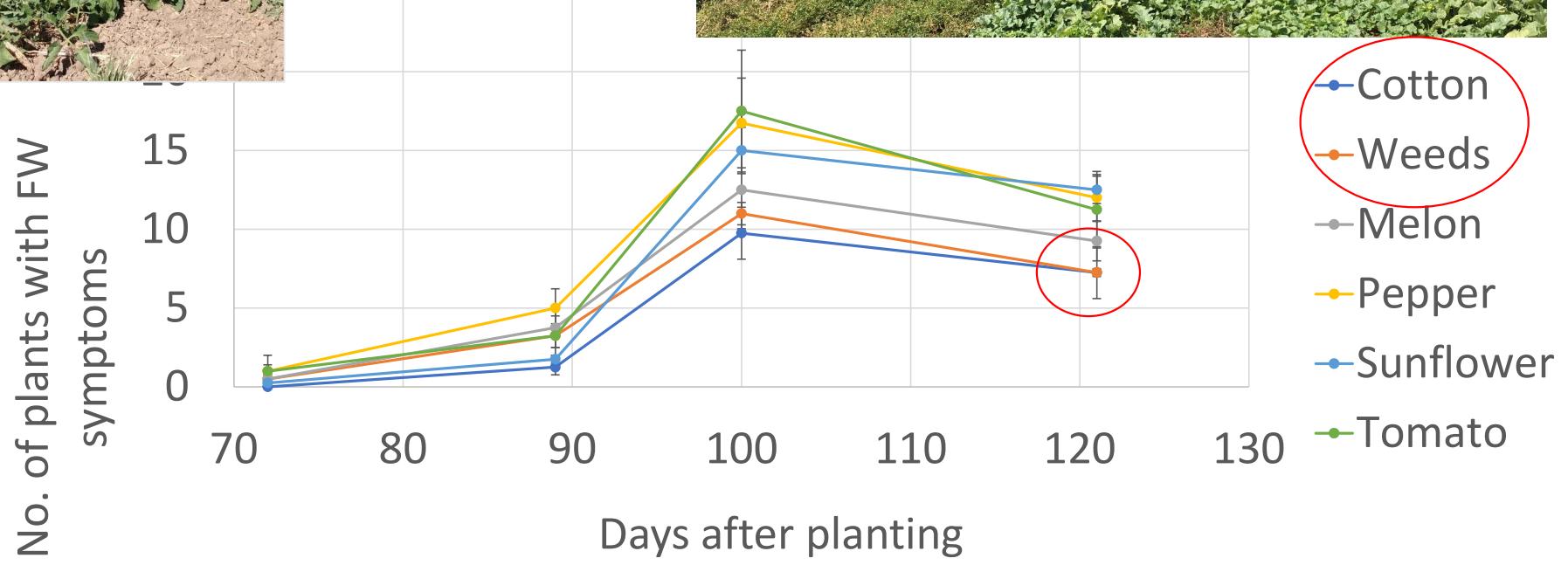


2019



Dr. Kelley Paugh

Managing Fusarium wilt with informed crop rotation: Effect of summer rotation crops on Fusarium wilt

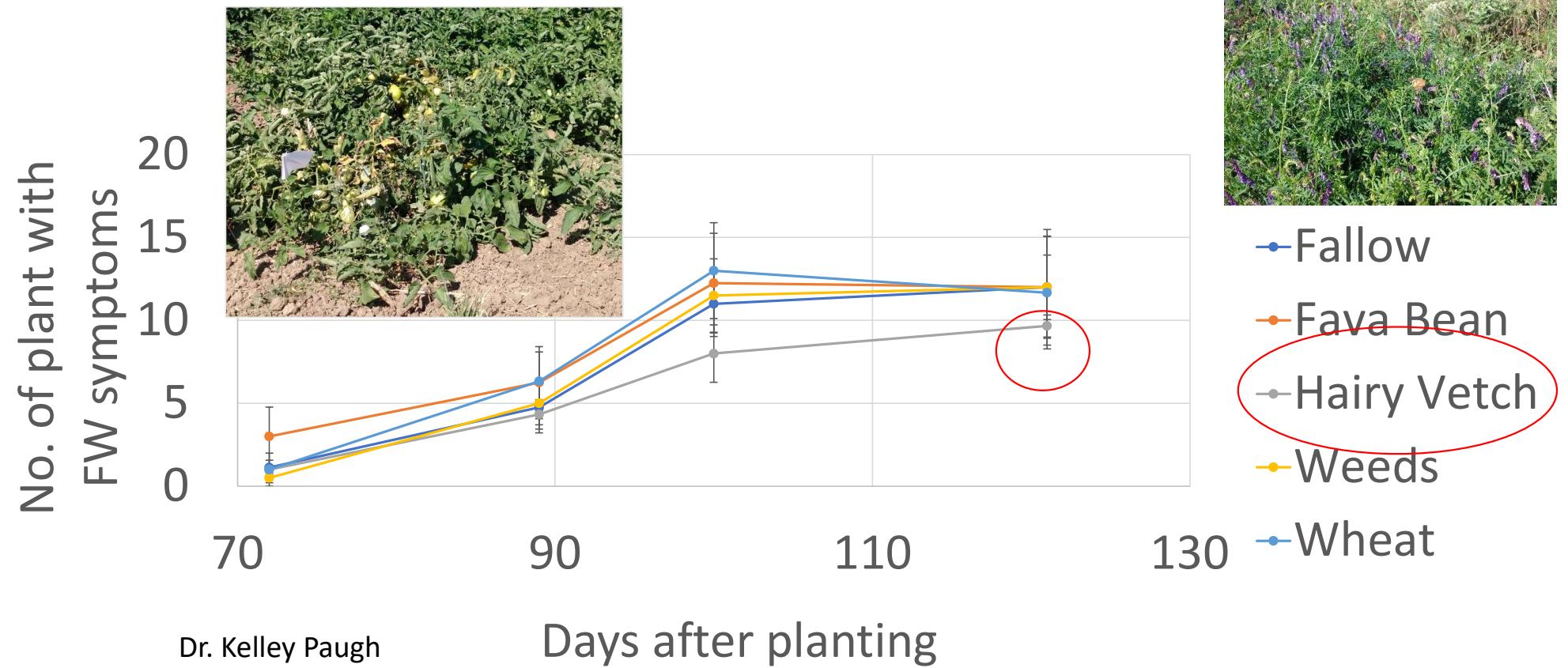


Managing Fusarium wilt with informed crop rotation: Effect of cool season rotation crops on Fusarium wilt



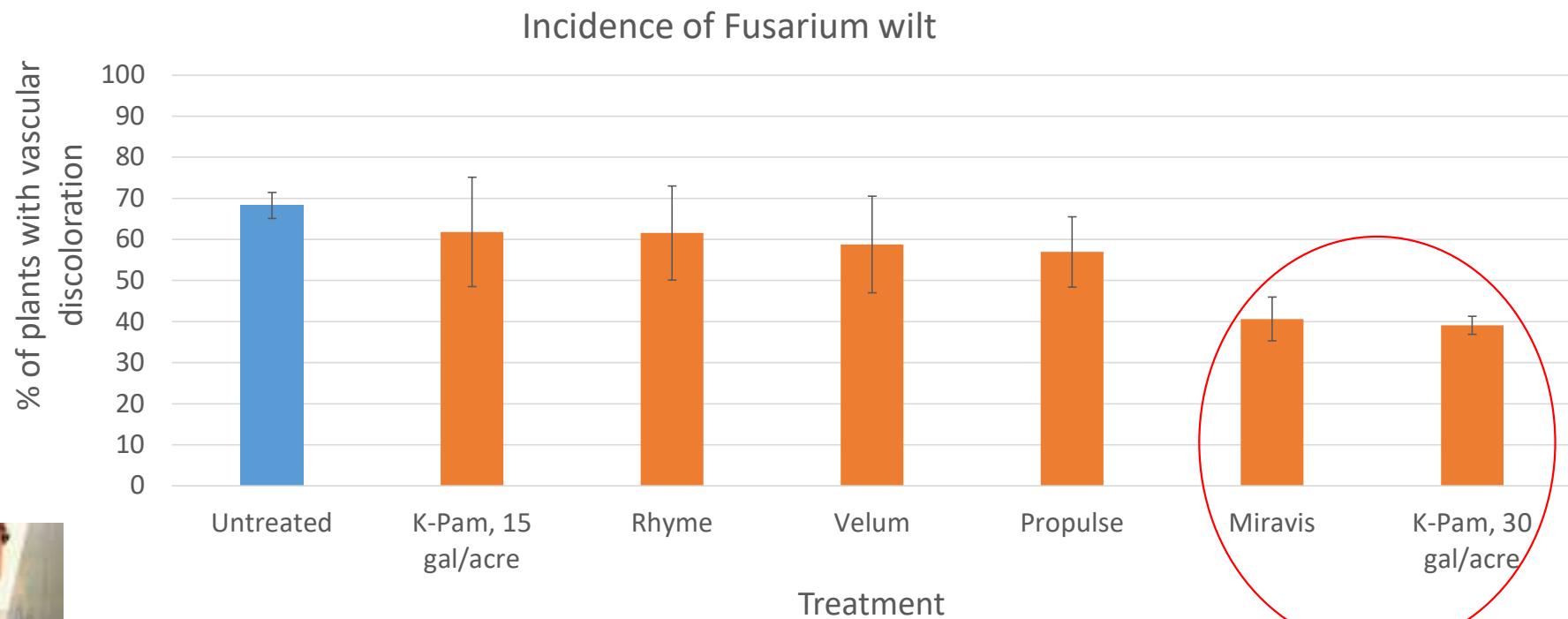
Dr. Kelley Paugh

Managing Fusarium wilt with informed crop rotation: Effect of summer rotation crops on Fusarium wilt



Dr. Kelley Paugh

Managing Fusarium with drip-applied fungicides and fumigation



Dr. Kelley Paugh

Managing Fusarium wilt

- Potentially low risk rotation cash crops:
 - Cotton?—was a good host...
 - Grasses (corn, rice, wheat)?—poor hosts
- Potential suppressive cover crops:
 - Hairy vetch
- Potentially high risk crops:
 - Warm: Pepper, cucurbits (melon, pumpkin), sunflower?
 - Cool: Fava bean and wheat were higher than vetch, but could still be suppressive
 - Beans and grasses were poor hosts
- Miravis and Kpam applied through the drip may work to reduce Fusarium losses

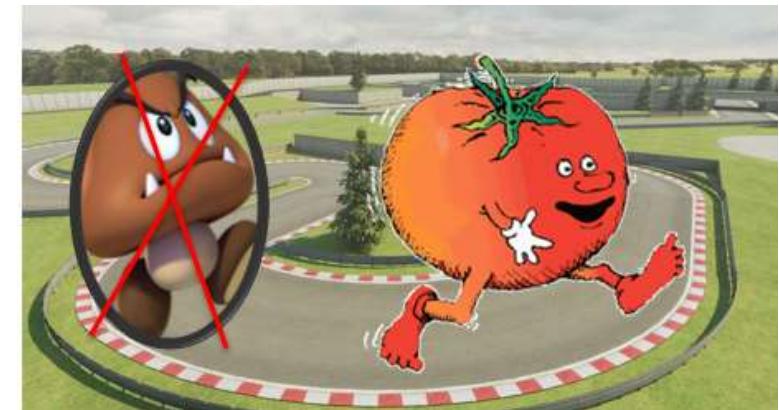


2019/20

- Examine disease in repeat of above plus beans, onion, lettuce, broccoli and separate weed and chemical fallow plots
- Understanding crop effects on soil population
- Further chemical work

An update on Fusarium wilt race 4 monitoring

- **NO RACE 4 DETECTED**
- Race 4 not reported worldwide
- **2018:** Tested nine Fol recovered from F3 plants
→ All were Fol race 3
- **2019:** Recovered Fol from TWO F3 fields; plus three Fol isolates from F2 samples
→ All were Fol race 3

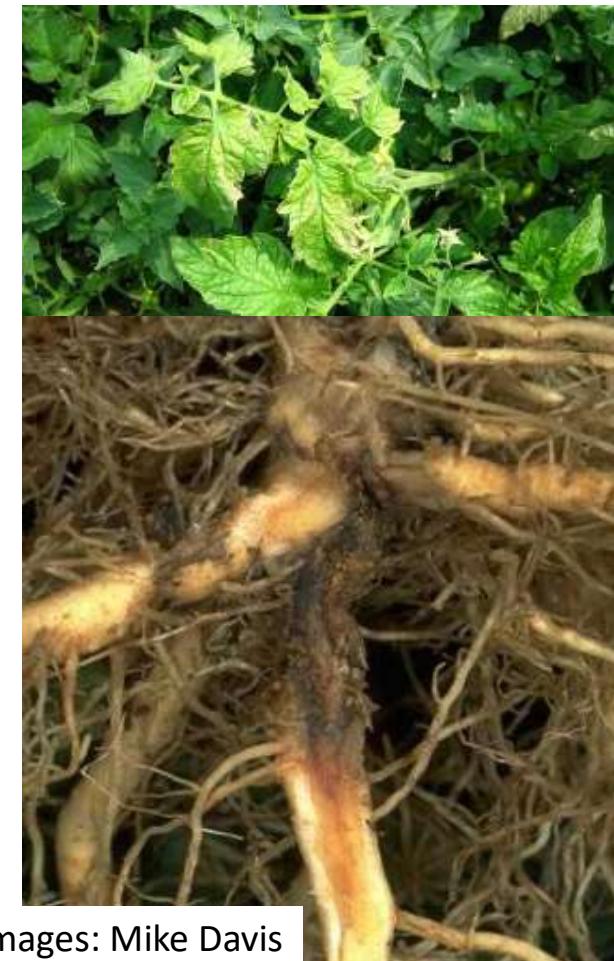


Fusarium solani diseases of tomato: background, current impacts, field diagnosis and management



Disease(s) caused by fungi in the *Fusarium solani* species complex in tomato

- First described in as a pathogen of fresh market tomatoes in Australia in 1975
 - Symptoms: girdled tap root, rotten crown, plants rarely killed, yield reduced
- Disease name: Fusarium foot rot
- Pathogen name:
 - 1975: *Fusarium solani*
 - 2007: *F. solani* f. sp. *eumartii*
 - 2019: *F. noneumartii*
- Observed in California on processing tomato in 1991
- Other hosts: potato, eggplant

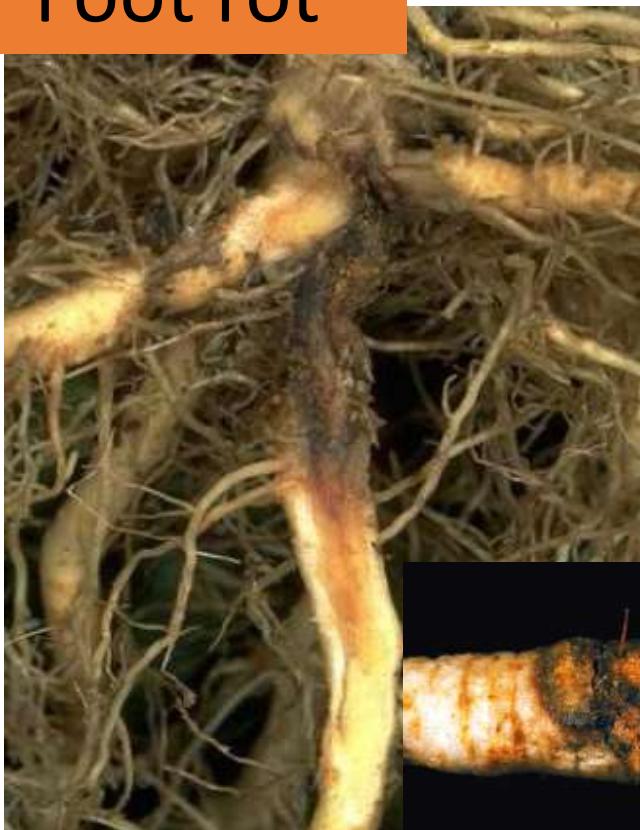


Images: Mike Davis

Reported Fusarium foot rot symptoms

Images: Mike Davis

Foot rot



Root banding



Bleaching of single branches



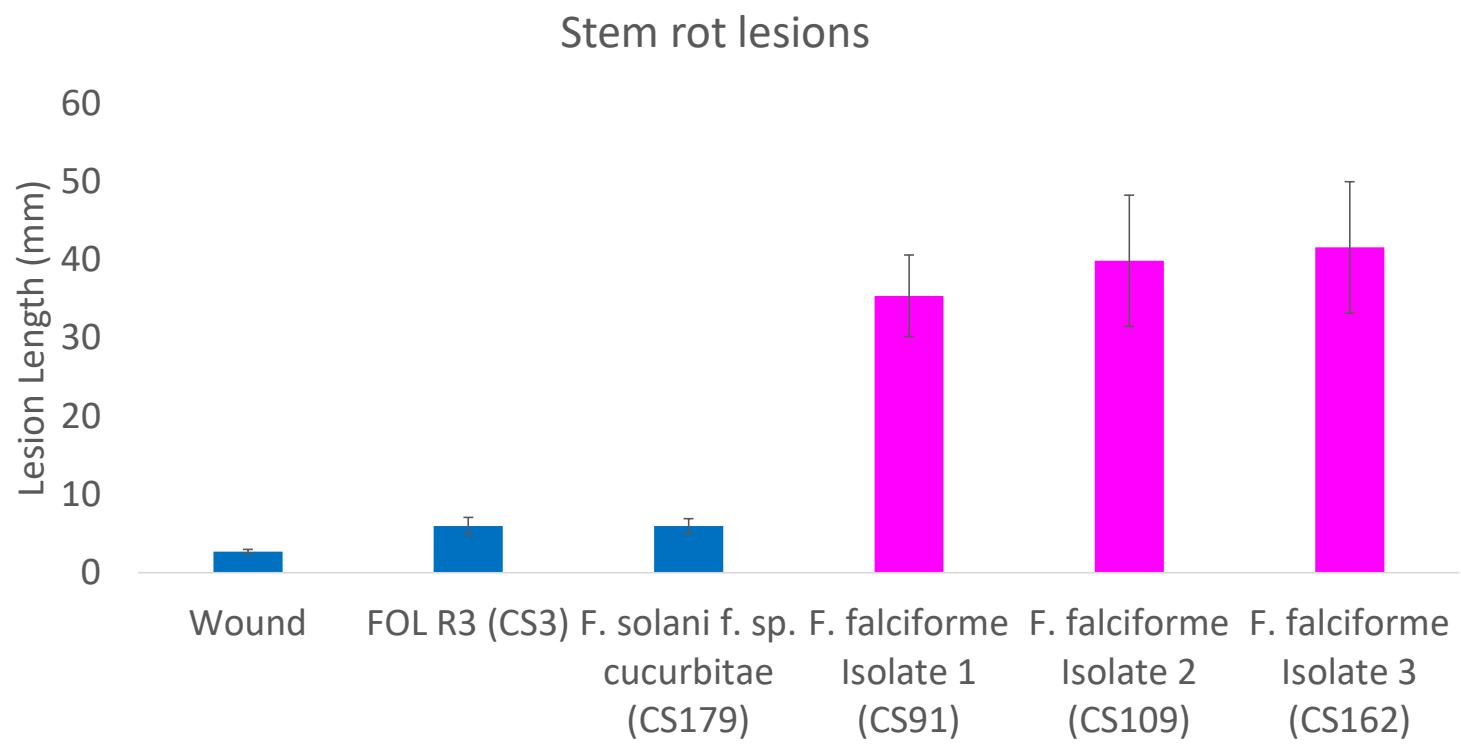
Leaf necrosis of single branches

Fast forward: Severe stem rot samples collected and brought to our lab by Gene Miyao in 2017

The fungus was identified as *Fusarium falciforme*-closely related to *F. noneumartii*

But stem rot is not part of Fusarium foot rot symptomology

Confirmed stem rot abilities of *F. falciforme*



Erin Helpio

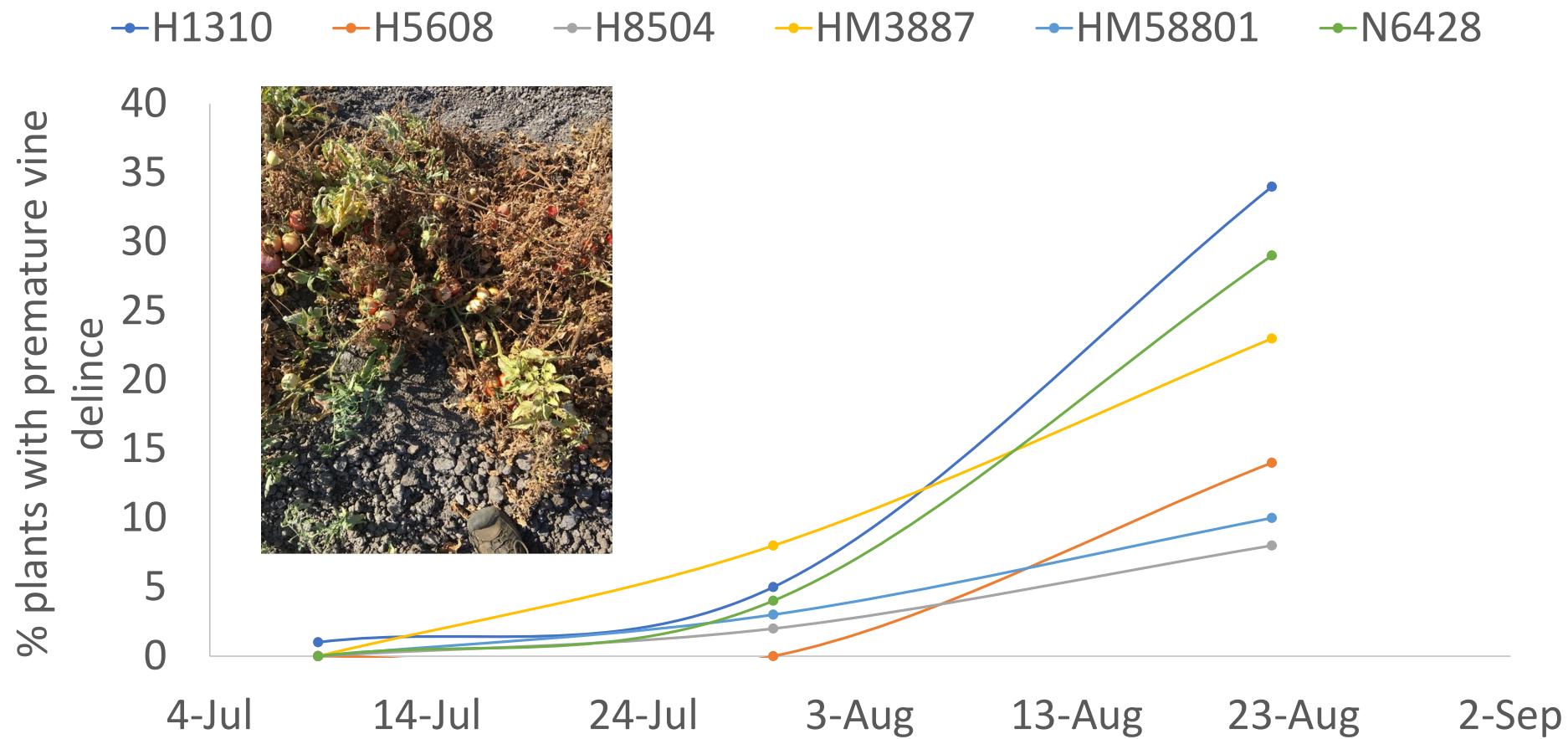
Concern was elevated in 2019 with multiple *F. falciforme* fields exhibiting severe losses

High incidence of plants dying early in the season



Confirmed premature vine decline abilities of *F. falciforme*

Starts ~40-50 days pre-harvest

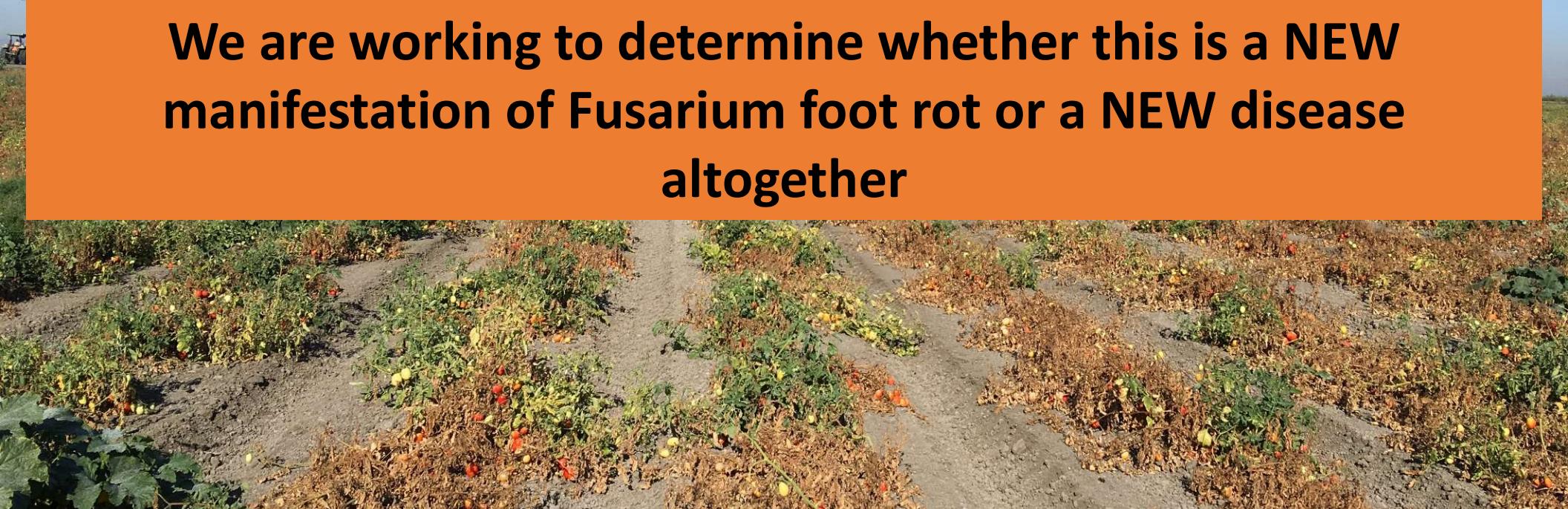


Fusarium foot rot is reported to be a MINOR disease

NOT reported to cause PLANT DEATH or SEVERE yield loss

Confirmed by Mike Davis, Gene, Brenna, Tom and others

**We are working to determine whether this is a NEW
manifestation of Fusarium foot rot or a NEW disease
altogether**



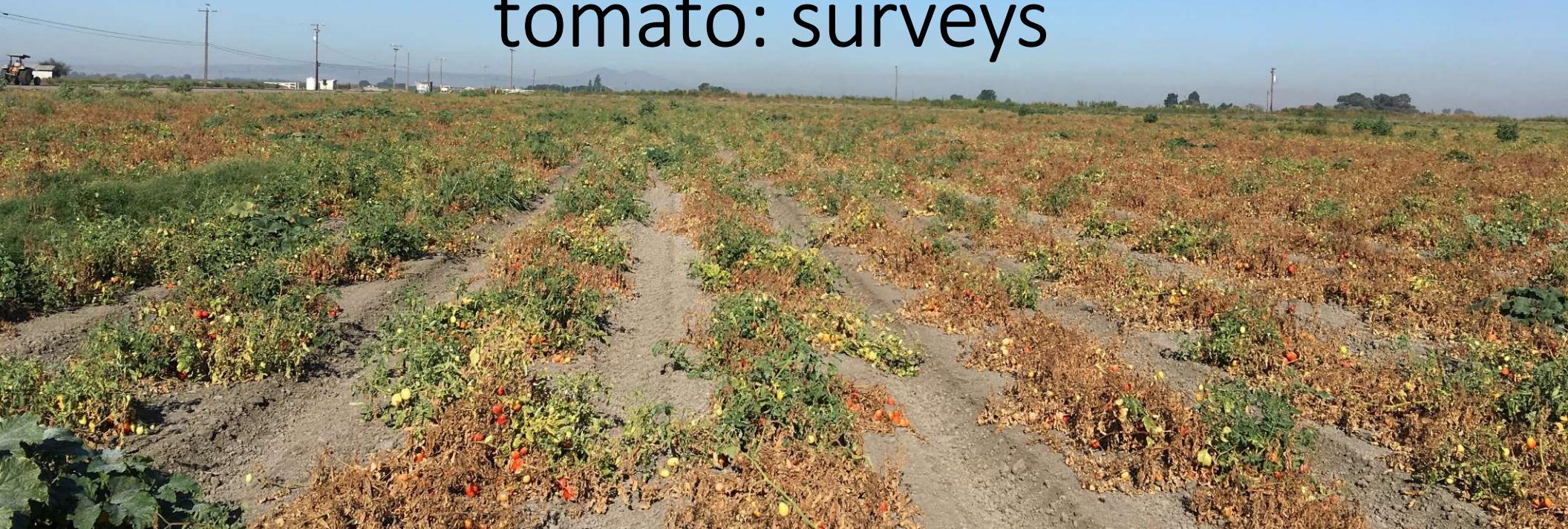
Some are saying it's a new disease...



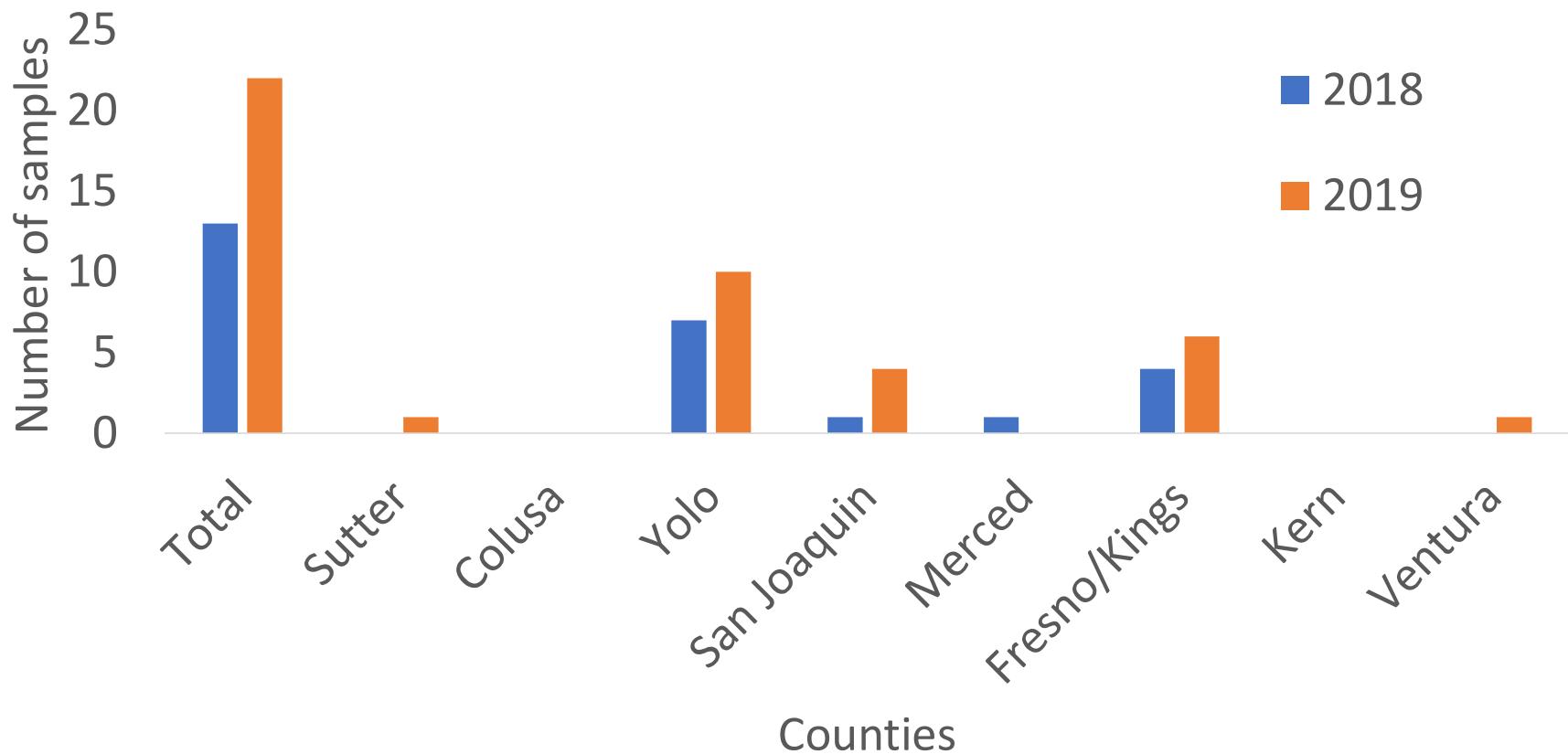
The screenshot shows a website for APS Publications. At the top, there is a logo with a stylized green leaf and the text "APS Publications". To the right are search and shopping cart icons. A green navigation bar contains links for "Plant Disease Home", "About", "Submit", "Journals", "Books", and "Publisher's Home". Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for "Previous" and "Next". A "DISEASE NOTES" section is visible. The main content is an article titled "Foot Rot and Wilt in Tomato Caused by *Fusarium falciforme* (FSSC 3 + 4) in Mexico". The article is authored by T. A. Vega-Gutiérrez, C. A. López-Orona, G. A. López-Urquídez, S. Velarde-Félix, L. A. Amarillas-Bueno, A. R. Martínez-Campos, and R. Allende-Molar. It was published online on 29 Oct 2018. The article is marked as "OPEN" and includes a lock icon. To the right, there is a thumbnail of the journal cover for "Plant Disease" (Volume 103, Number 1, January 2019) and buttons for "Details", "Figures", "Literature Cited", and "Relate".

tomato crops in the state of Sinaloa (Mexico). The symptoms included wilting, leaf yellowing, defoliation, vascular tissue darkening, and drying and death of branches and the entire plant. Plant crowns exhibited necrosis (visible in the interior) that advanced through the main root, along with slight root

Assessing current impacts of *F. falciforme* on California processing tomato: surveys



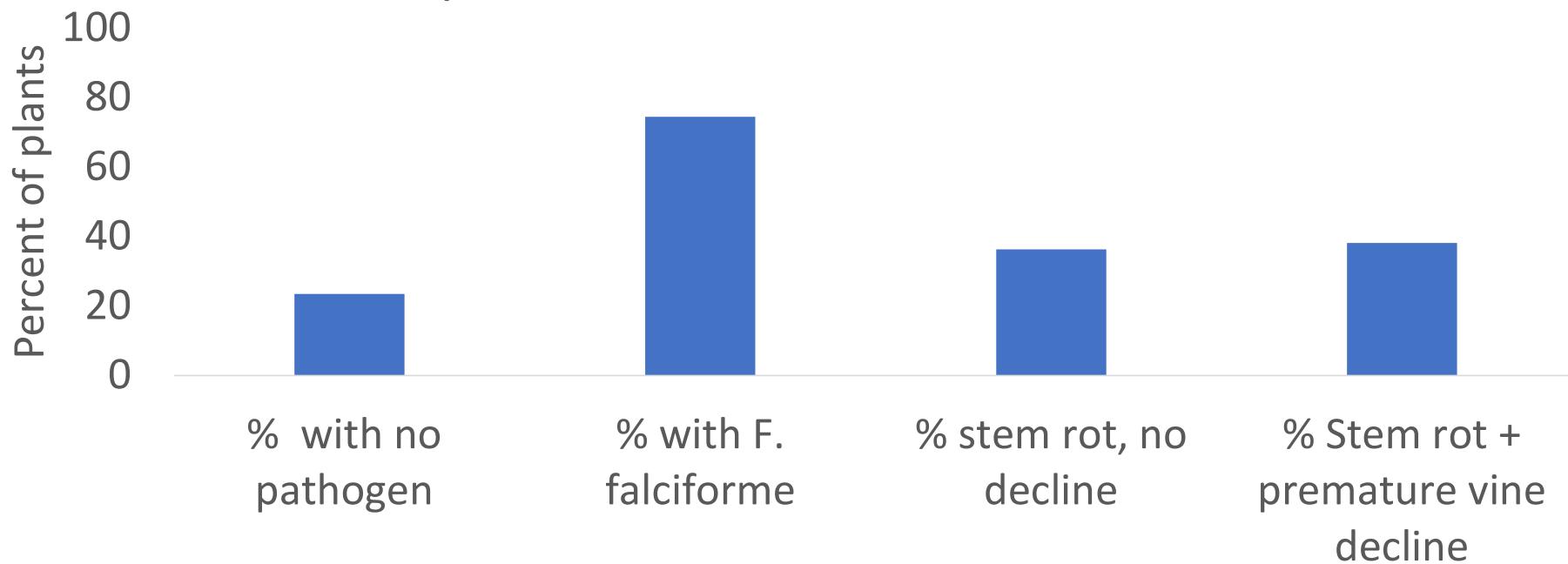
County-level distribution of *F. falciforme* in California
2018 and 2019 (based on submissions from advisors)



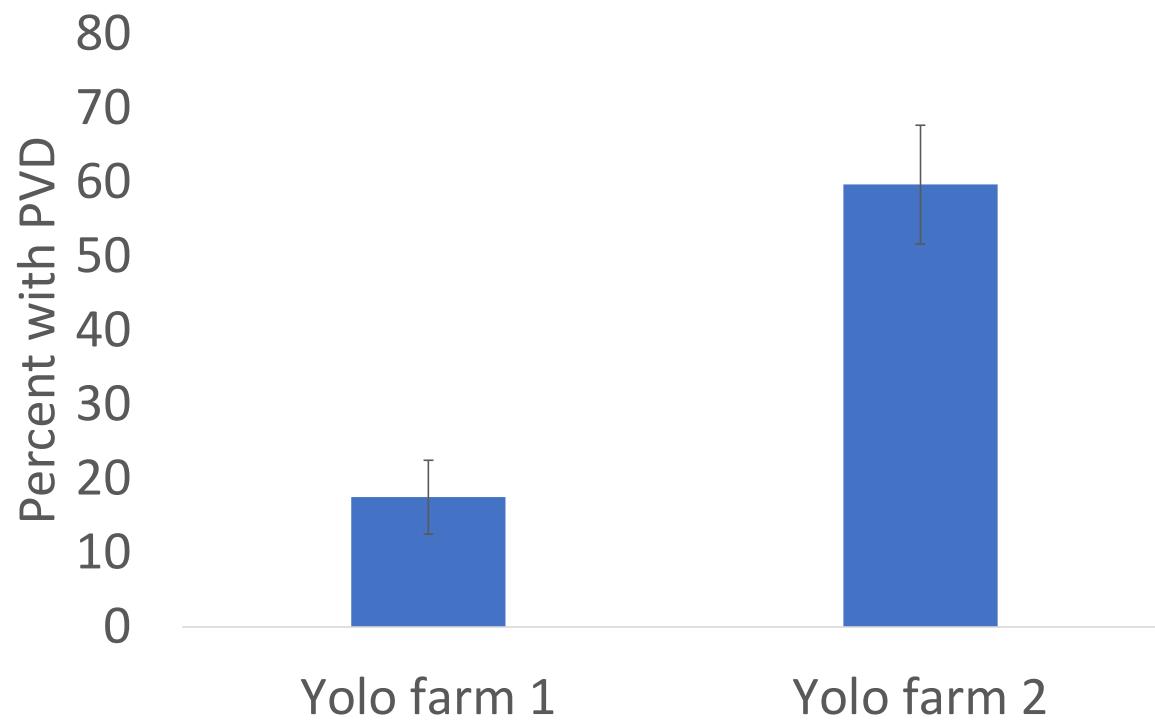
Impacts of *F. falciforme* on production



75% of plants in the field with *F. falciforme* rot



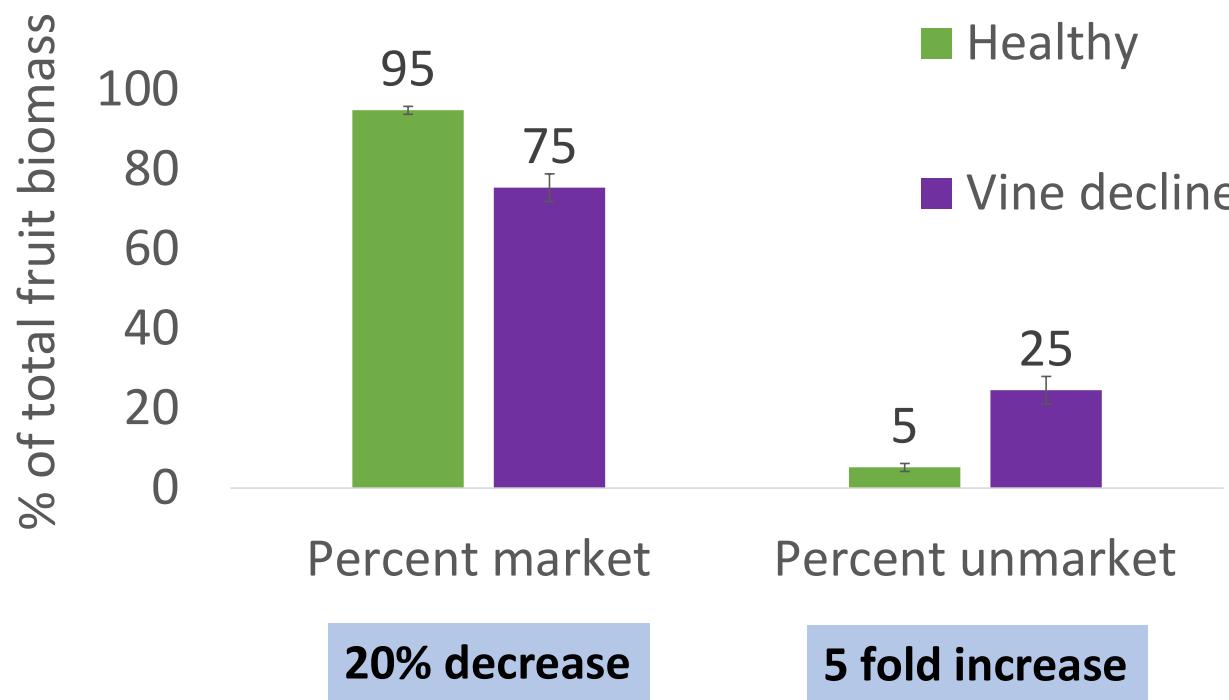
Incidence of FF premature vine decline in commercial processing tomato fields (F3)



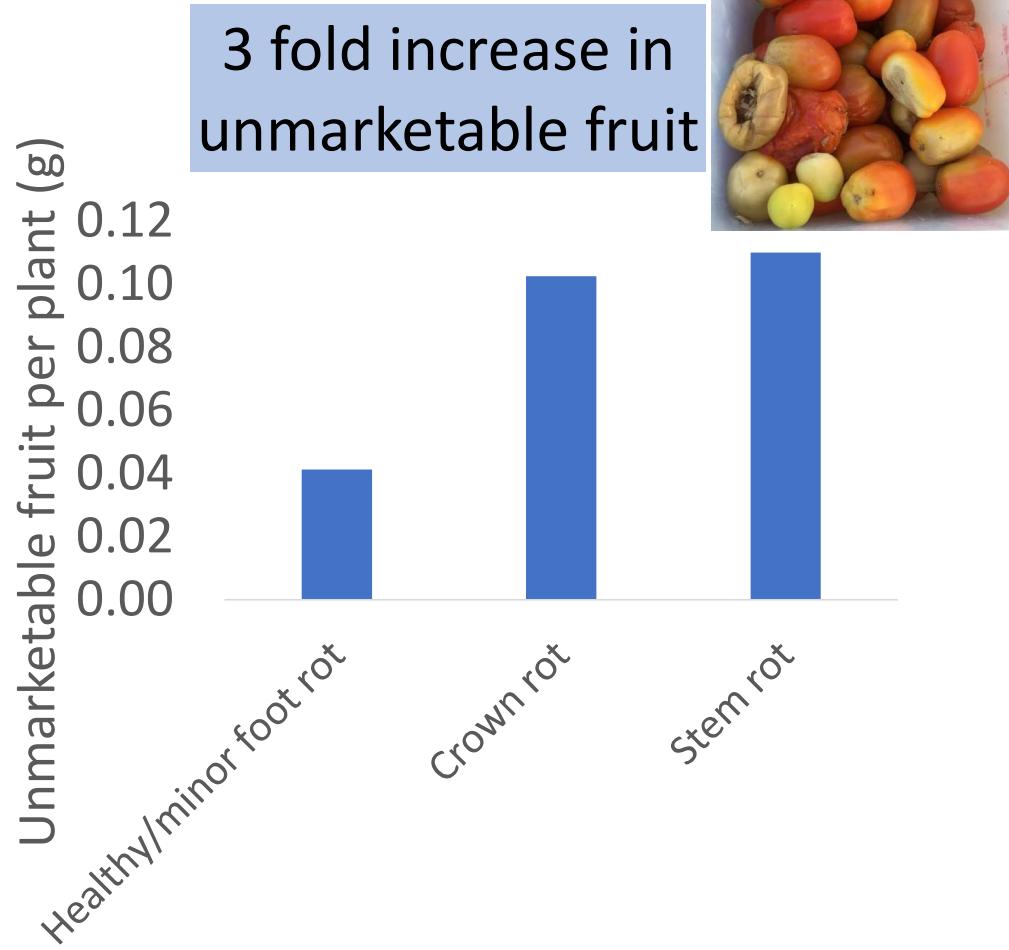
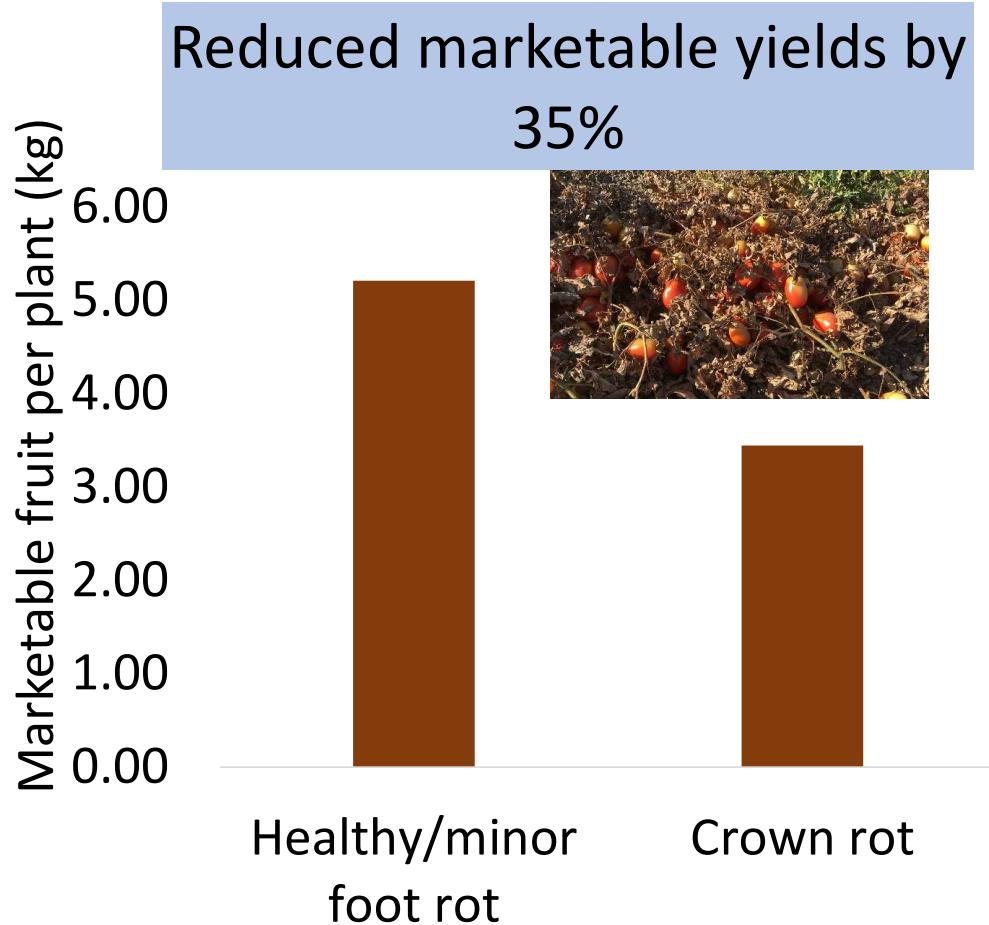
Premature vine decline causes sunburn and fruit rot



Effects of *F. falciforme* on yield-Field 1



Impacts of *F. falciforme* on yield: Field 2



Field diagnosis of *F. falciforme*-look alike problems and tips

FF symptoms share similarities to other disorders, leading to misdiagnosis



Foliar yellowing / bleaching symptoms

Branch chlorosis

Whole plant chlorosis

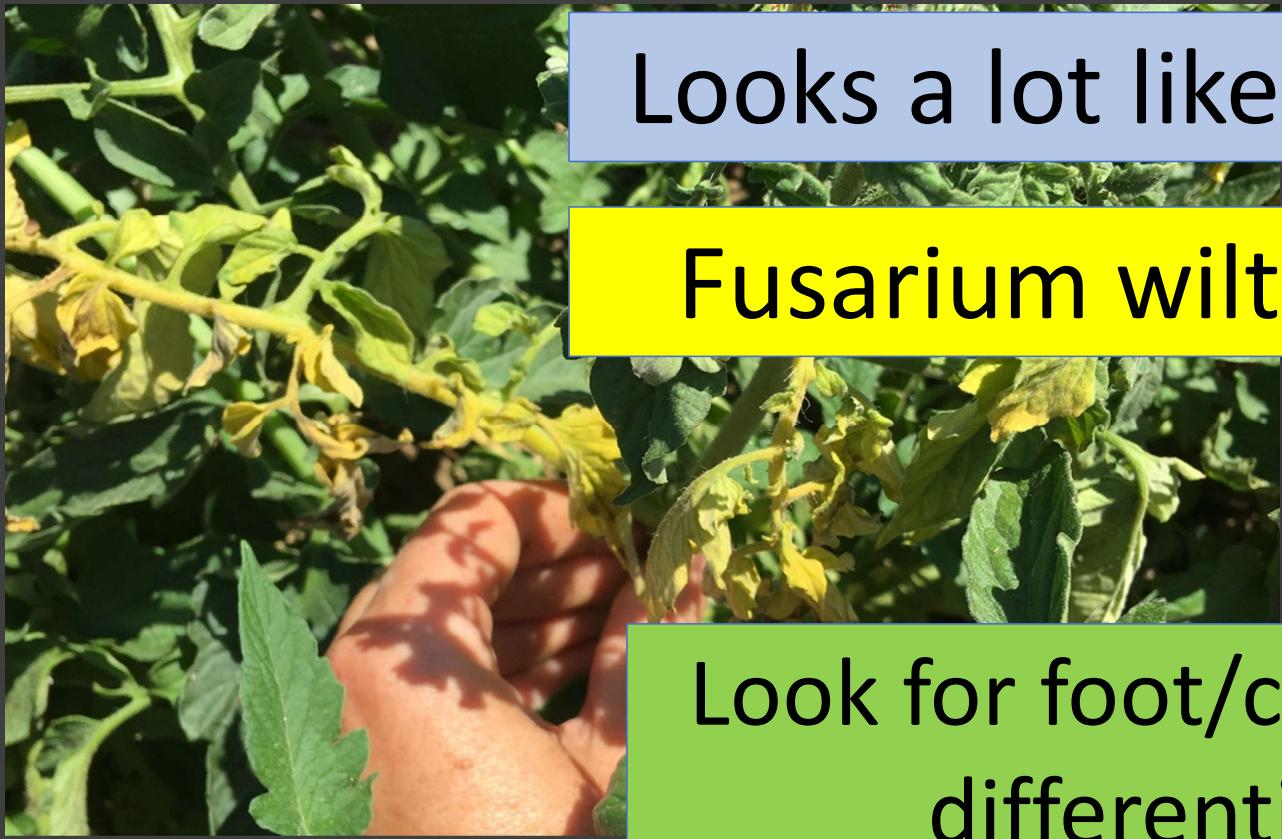
Looks a lot like?

Fusarium wilt



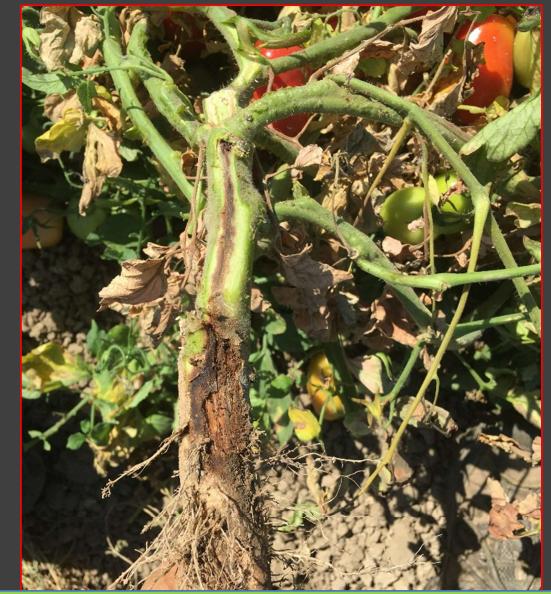
Foliar symptoms

Share similarity to other disorders, leading to misdiagnosis



Looks a lot like?

Fusarium wilt

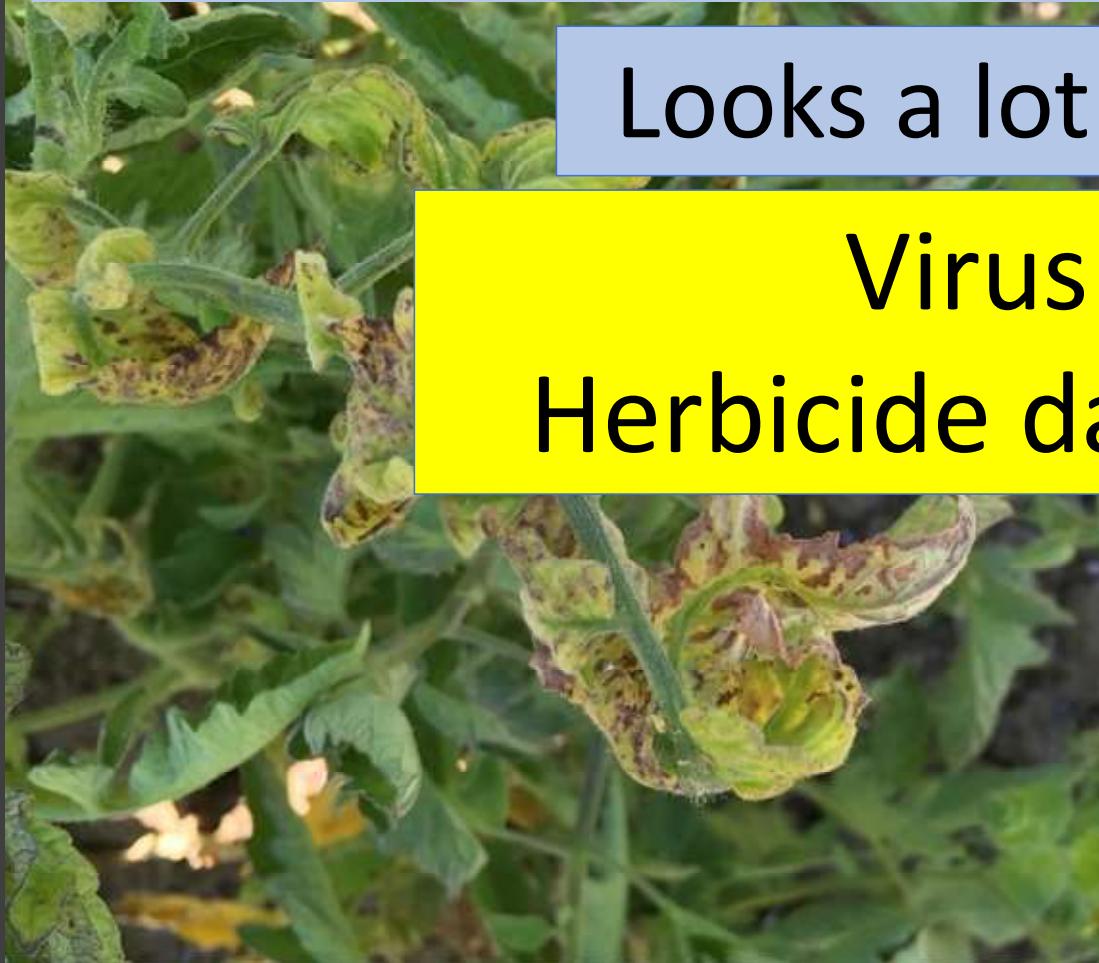


Look for foot/crown/stem rot to
differentiate? EARLY

Deep leaf curling, deformity, little leaf

Looks a lot like?

Virus
Herbicide damage

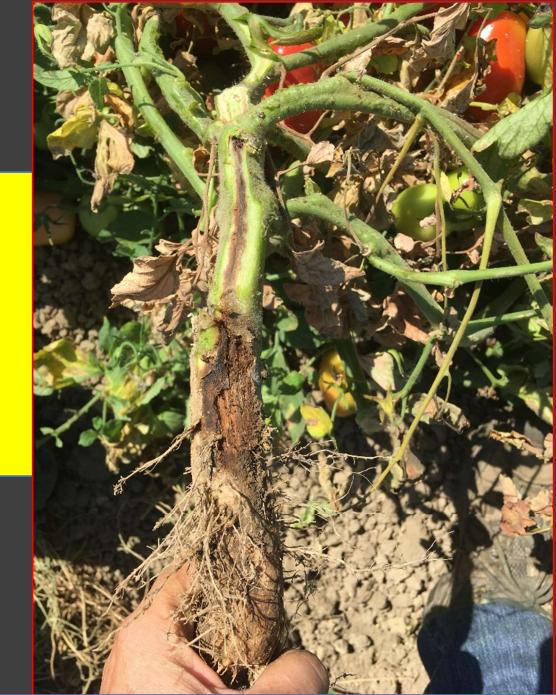


Deep leaf curling, deformity, little leaf

Looks a lot like?

Virus
Herbicide damage

Look for foot/crown/stem
rot to differentiate



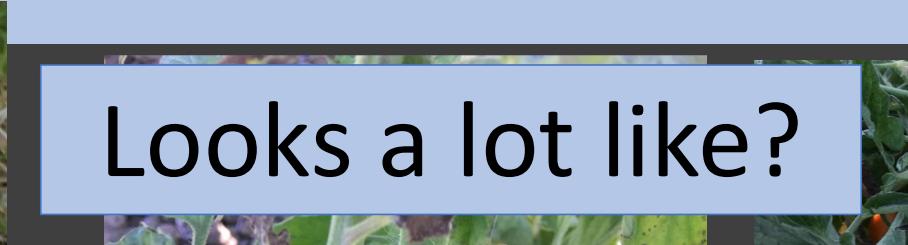
Leaf speckles → leaflet blight → leaf death



Leaf death → whole plant death



Leaf speckles → leaflet blight → leaf death



Looks a lot like?



Boron toxicity
Herbicide damage
Salt damage

Leaf speckles → leaflet blight → leaf death



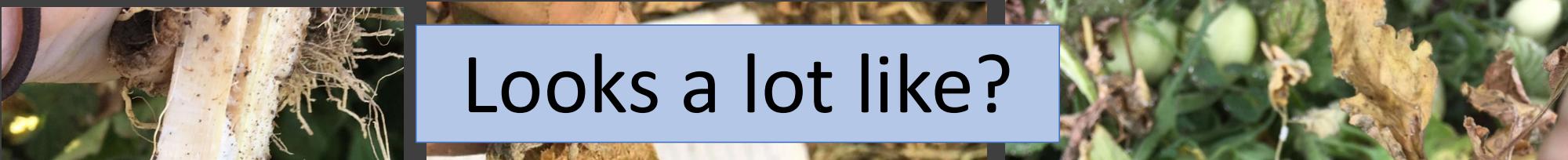
Looks a lot like?

Boron toxicity
Herbicide damage
Salt damage



Look for foot/crown/stem
rot to differentiate

Foot and crown rot



Looks a lot like?

Fusarium foot rot

Fusarium crown and root rot

Southern blight



Foot and crown rot

Looks a lot like?



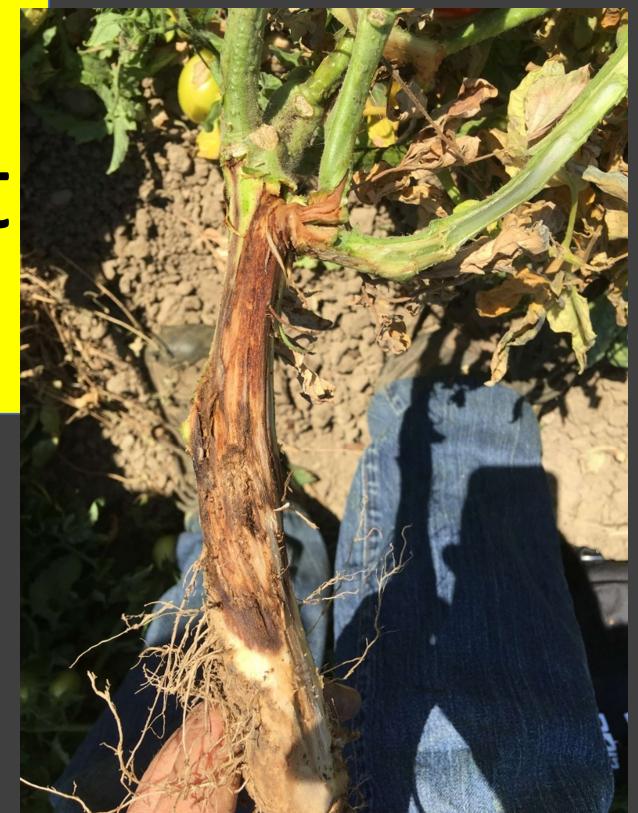
Fusarium foot rot

Fusarium crown and root rot

Southern blight



Look for severe
stem rot? HARD



Stem rot

Looks a lot like?

Fusarium wilt or
Verticillium wilt...



Foliar speckles/necrosis



Stem rot

Looks a lot like?

Fusarium wilt or
Verticillium wilt...



Discrete lesions

Not all foliar symptoms develop in all cultivars



Rare



Less rare

Most common



Foot/crown/stem rot are the ONLY consistent symptoms

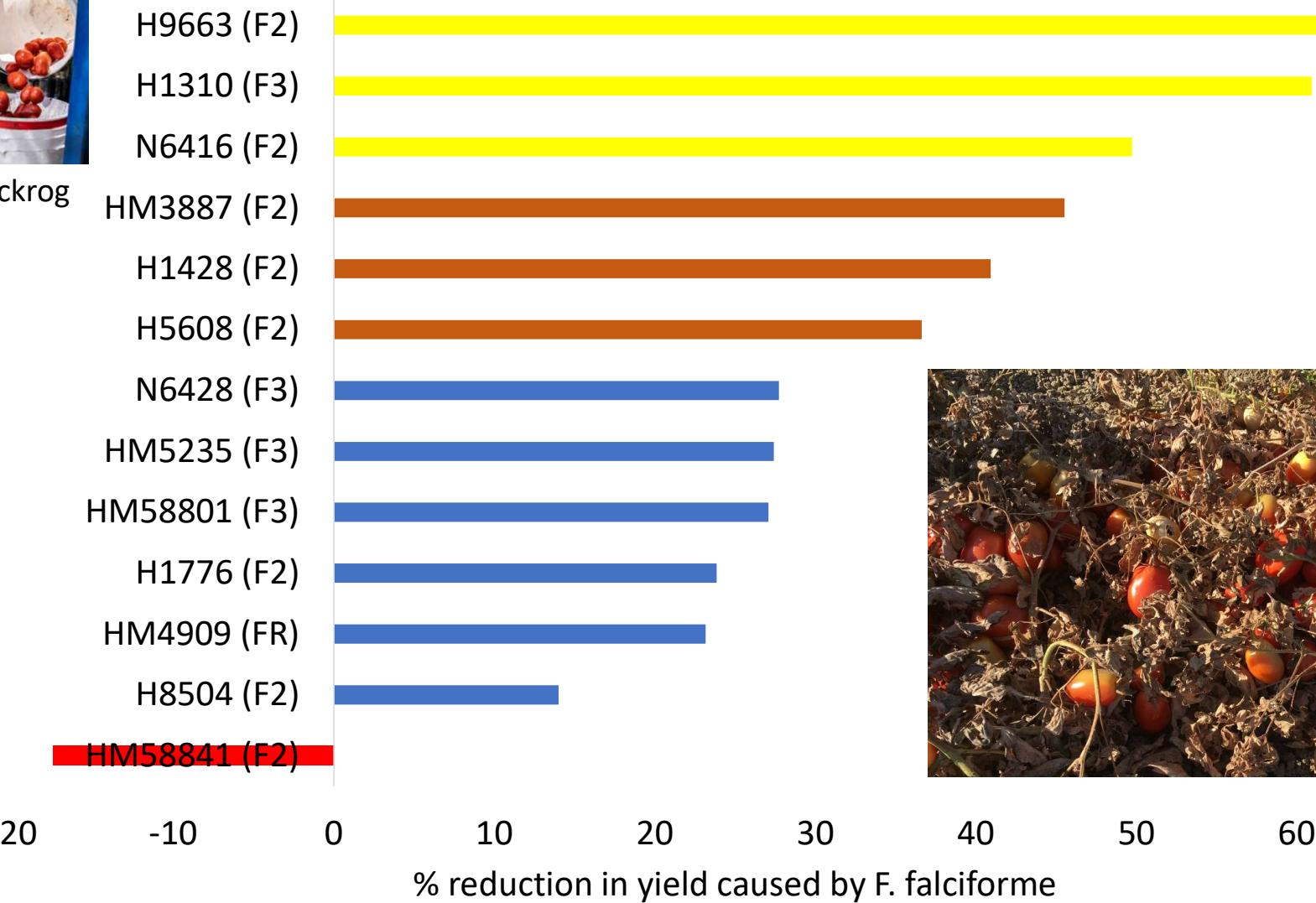


Cultivar comparisons: 16 commercial varieties





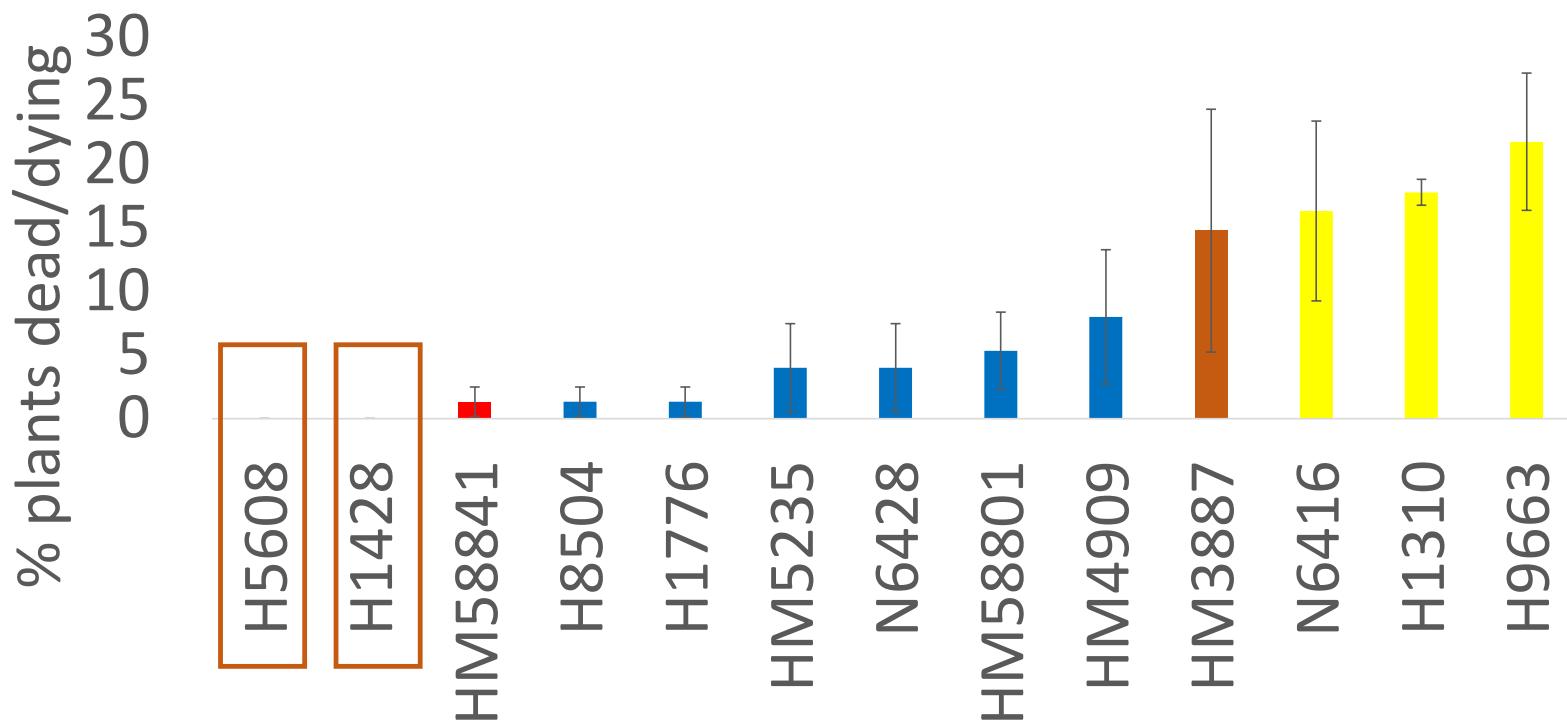
Alyssa Brackrog





Alyssa Brackrog

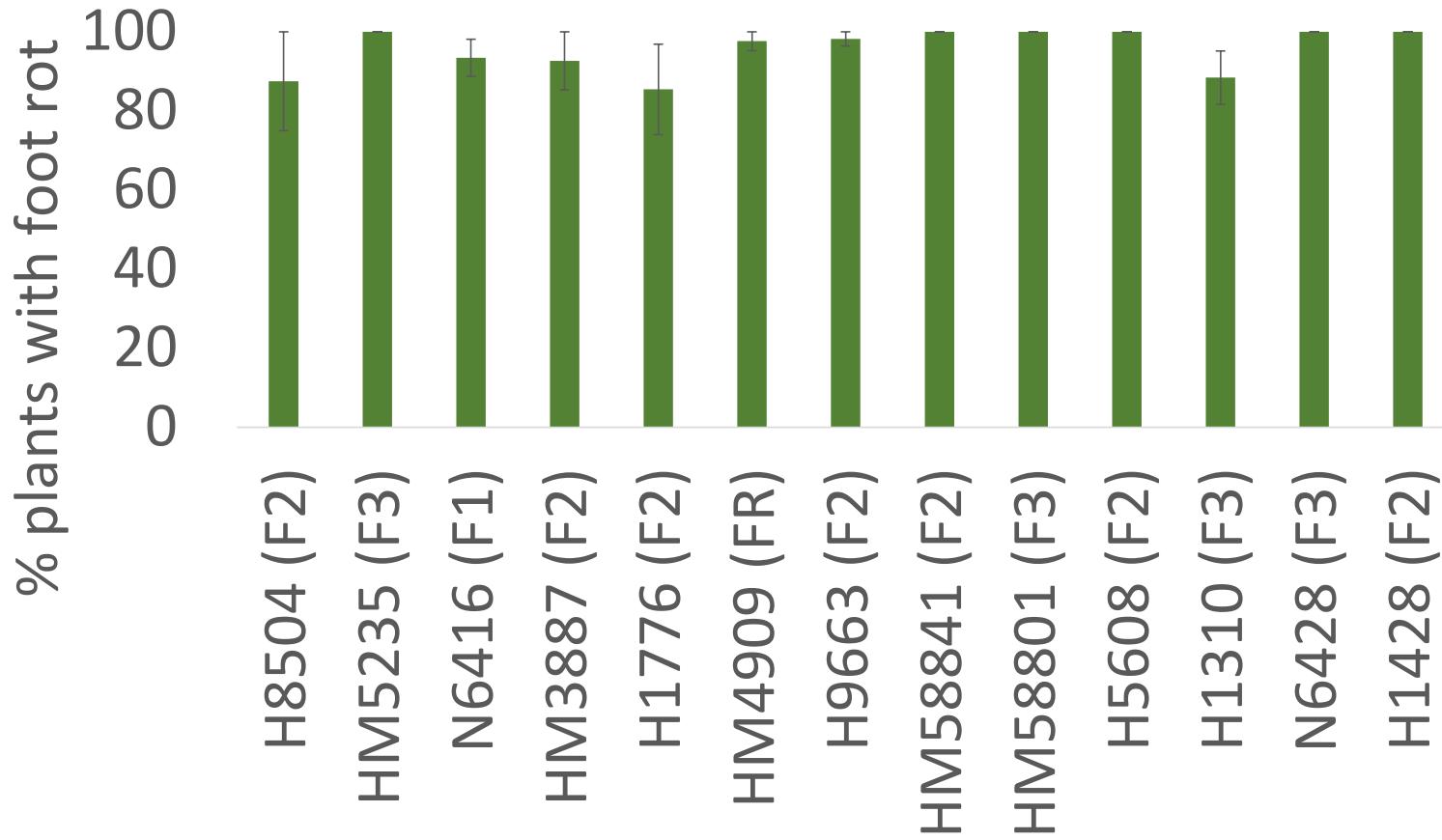
Better yield performance associated with lower premature vine decline incidence



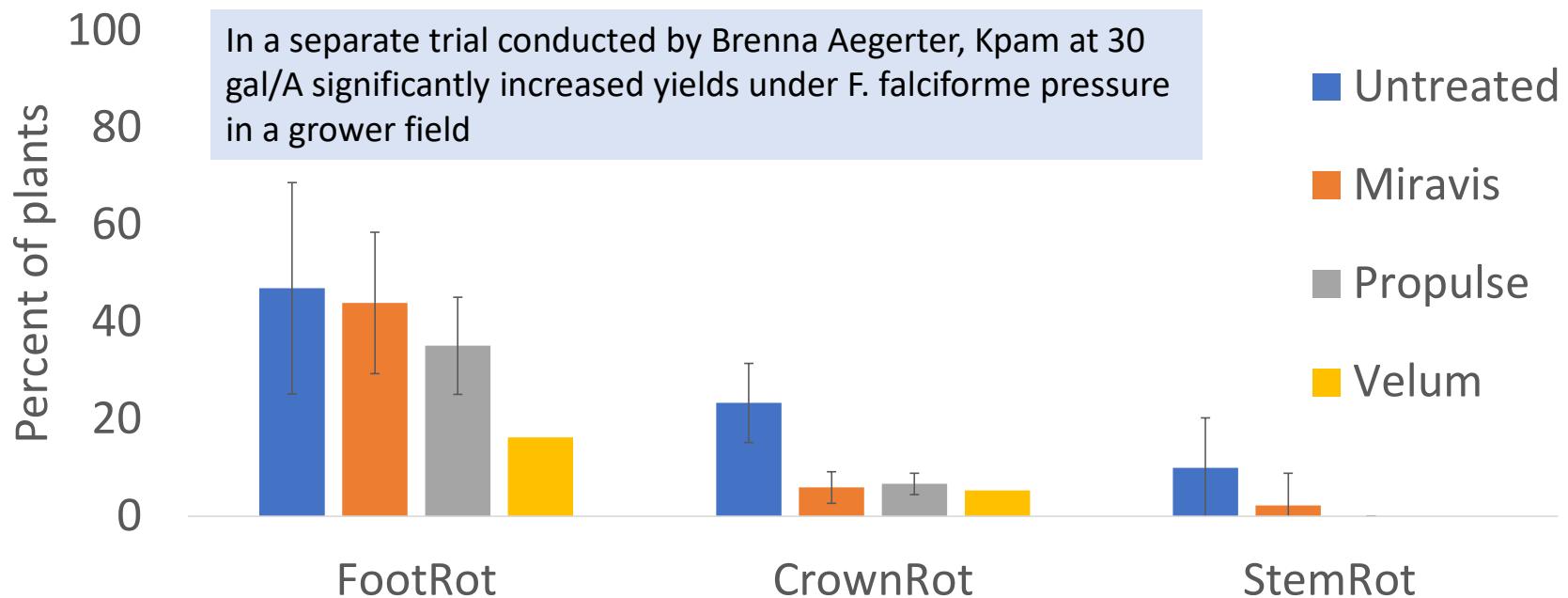


Alyssa Brackrog

All cultivars: 85-100% of all plants developed rot



On-farm management options-Effect of drip applied fungicides on *F. falciforme*



Progress on *F. falciforme* IPM

- Commercial cultivars have field tolerance to *Fusarium falciforme*
 - HM58841
 - H1776, HM 4909, H8504? (poor in 2018), HM58801, HM5235, N6428 (strong in 2018)
- Some cultivars are highly susceptible to *F. falciforme*-- avoid if possible in heavily infested fields
 - H9663, H1310, N6416 and HM3887
- Fungicide and fumigants may fit into IPM programming for *F. falciforme*
 - Velum and Kpam show the most promise
- Crop rotations / alternate hosts?
 - TBD—funded project (CTRI)





Next field day: 2021
1:1 available by
appointment

To see this in action:
Biennial Tomato Disease
Field Day-UC Davis



The amazing Swettonians!



- **People who conducted/assisted with these projects:** Alyssa Brackrog, Kelley Paugh, Johanna Del Castillo, Erin Helpio, Beth Hellman, Justine Beaulieu, Megan Kozel, Andrea Paultk, Karla Espino, Mirialini Narayan, Harrison Powell, Greg Sugwara, Elver Raymundo, Emma Centeno
- **Field support:** Bryan Pellissier, Lexi, Armstrong field assistants
- **Collaborating farm advisors:** Brenna Aegerter, Gene Miyao, Amber Vinchesi, Tom Turini, Joe Nunez, Scott Stoddard, Margaret Lloyd, Joe Nunez
- **Research advisors:** Zach Bagley, industry breeders and pathologists, many tomato growers



- **People who conducted/assisted with these projects:** Alyssa Brackrog, Kelley Paugh, Johanna Del Castillo, Erin Helpio, Beth Hellman, Justine Beaulieu, Megan Kozel, Andrea Paultk, Karla Espino, Mirialini Narayan, Harrison Powell, Greg Sugwara, Elver Raymundo, Emma Centeno
- **Field support:** Bryan Pellissier, Lexi, Armstrong field assistants
- **Collaborating farm advisors:** Brenna Aegerter, Gene Miyao, Amber Vinchesi, Tom Turini, Joe Nunez, Scott Stoddard, Margaret Lloyd, Joe Nunez
- **Research advisors:** Zach Bagley, industry breeders and pathologists, many tomato growers



HM•CLAUSE



