

# Climate-Adaptive Viticulture

Sustainable Farming and Changing Climates

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# Vineyard Health

- ‘Health’ – the state of being **free** from illness or injury





# Vineyard Health

- ‘Health’ – the state of being **free** from illness or injury
- No way to be **totally free** of illness or injury





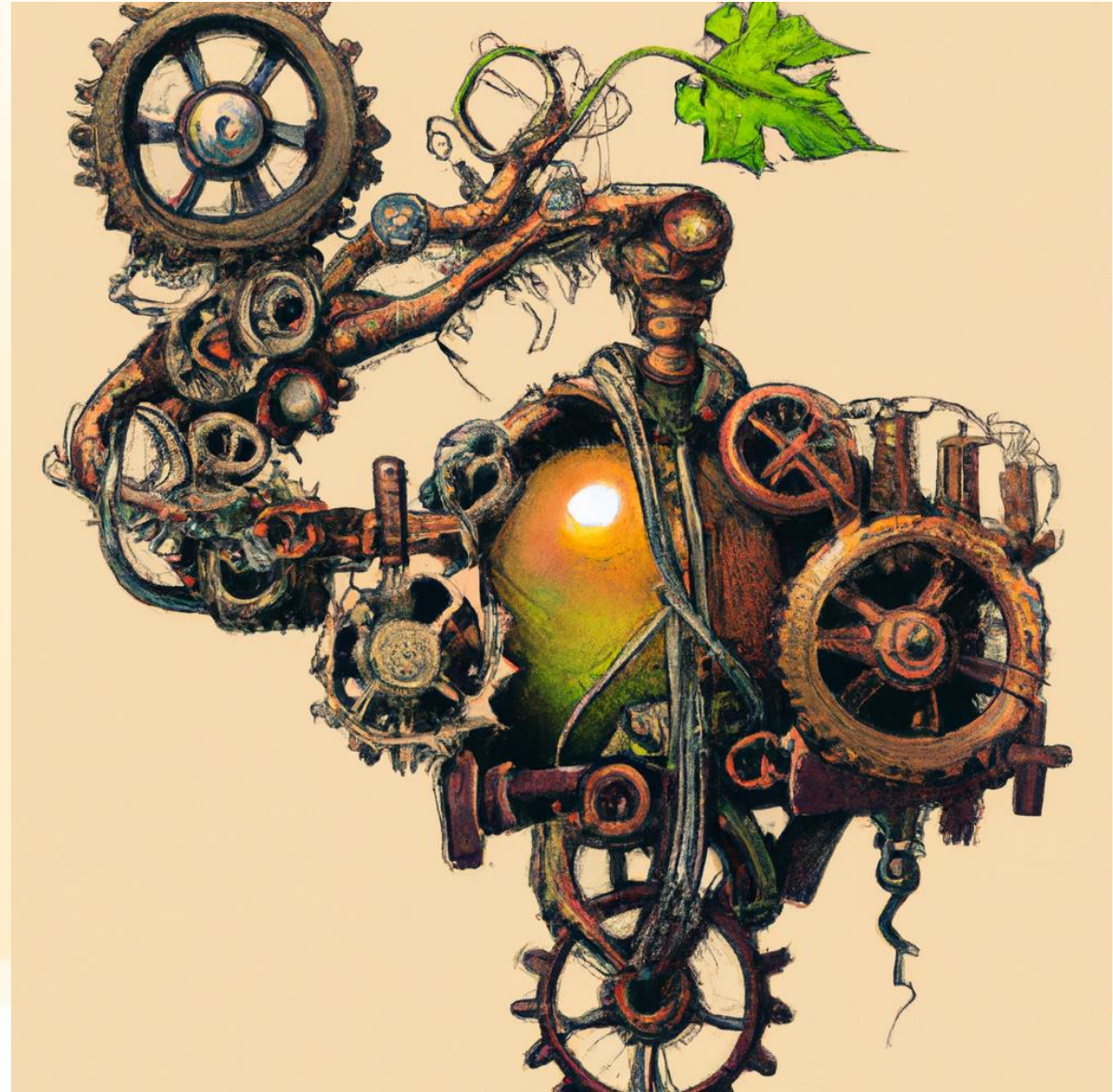
# Vineyard Health

- ‘Health’ – the state of being **free** from illness or injury
- No way to be **totally free** of illness or injury
- The next best option is to keep illness or injury to a minimum



# Vineyard Health

- **Vine Function  $\approx$  Vine Health**
- Important Vine Functions
  - i. Photosynthesis
  - ii. Vascular system
  - iii. Reproductive efficacy
  - iv. Available Nutrients





# Changing Climates

- Climates are changing and impacting the factors that affect vine health.
  - i. Temperatures
    - Affects all aspects of vine health
  - ii. Precipitation
    - Affects all aspects of vine health
  - iii. Extreme weather events
    - Heatwaves, fire, and late frost events
    - Impacts photosynthesis and reproduction
  - iv. Pests and Diseases
    - Directly limits vine health



# Changing Climates

## Temperatures

- Impact all living things
- Alter physiology
- Ideal range differs by species
- Range differs by cultivar too



# Changing Climates

## Precipitation

- Mediterranean climates with unique precipitation patterns
- Changing with the climate
- No precipitation in late-Summer
- Limits Summer diseases







# Changing Climates

## Extreme weather events

- Affects regions differently
- Impacts dependent on microclimates
- Existing infrastructure matters
  - Heatwaves
    - ❖ More damaging in coastal regions
  - Spring Frosts
    - ❖ More damaging inland

# Climate Concerns

Frost damage, heat, and drought

## Vine susceptibility ~ abiotic stress

No natural immune system

- Additive resistance
- Defense compound synthesis
- Abiotic stressors redirect resources

Can tolerate pests/diseases under best conditions

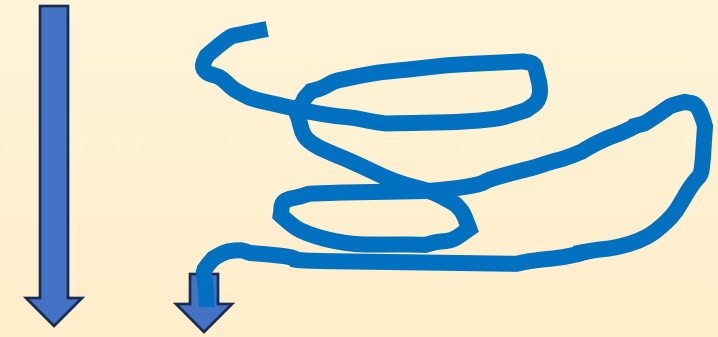




# Climate Impacts

- Must consider both **direct** and **indirect** impacts of changing climates
  1. Change in growing season length
  2. Earlier or later budbreak and ripening
  3. Resource scarcity (i.e., water/fertilizer)
  4. Increased soil salinity
  5. More extreme weather events

Climate Change



Impacts





# Extreme Heat

Extreme temperatures



High evapotranspiration

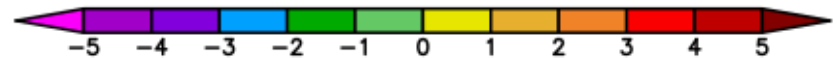
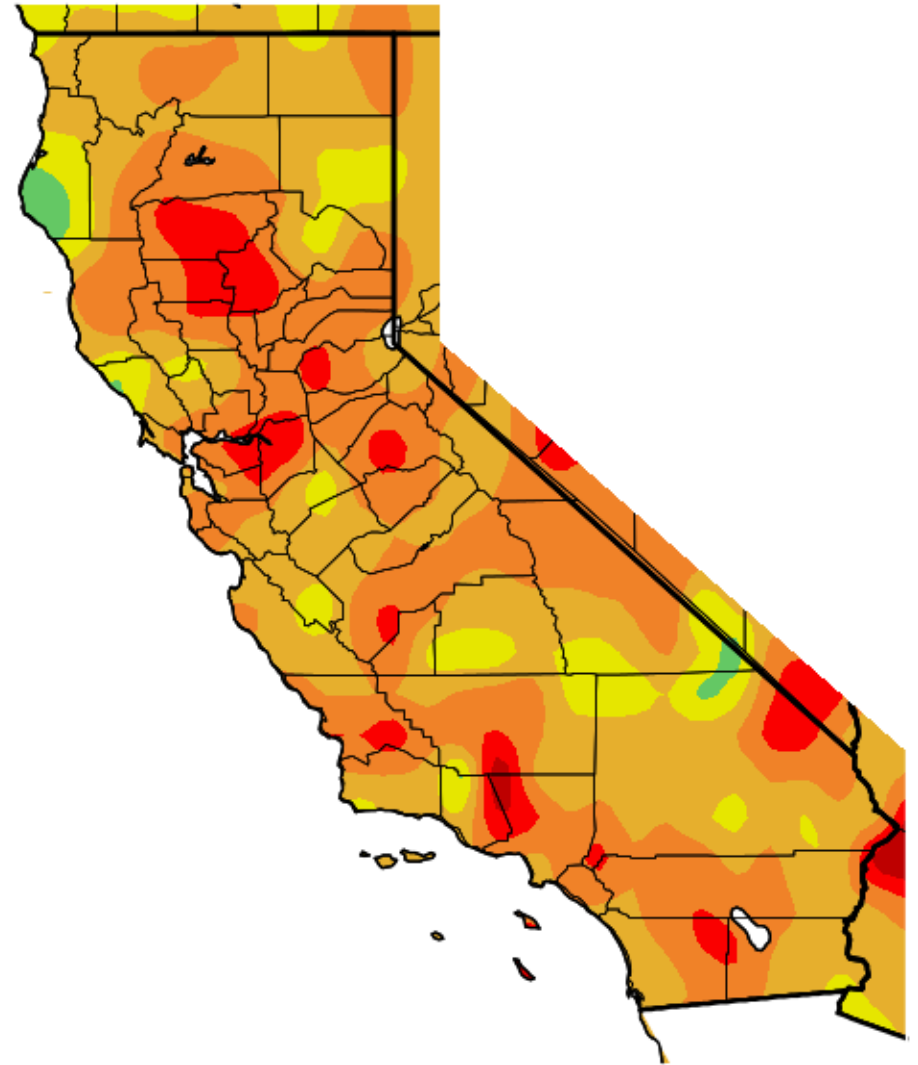


Greater water demand



Damaged fruit

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
4/5/2020 - 4/4/2021

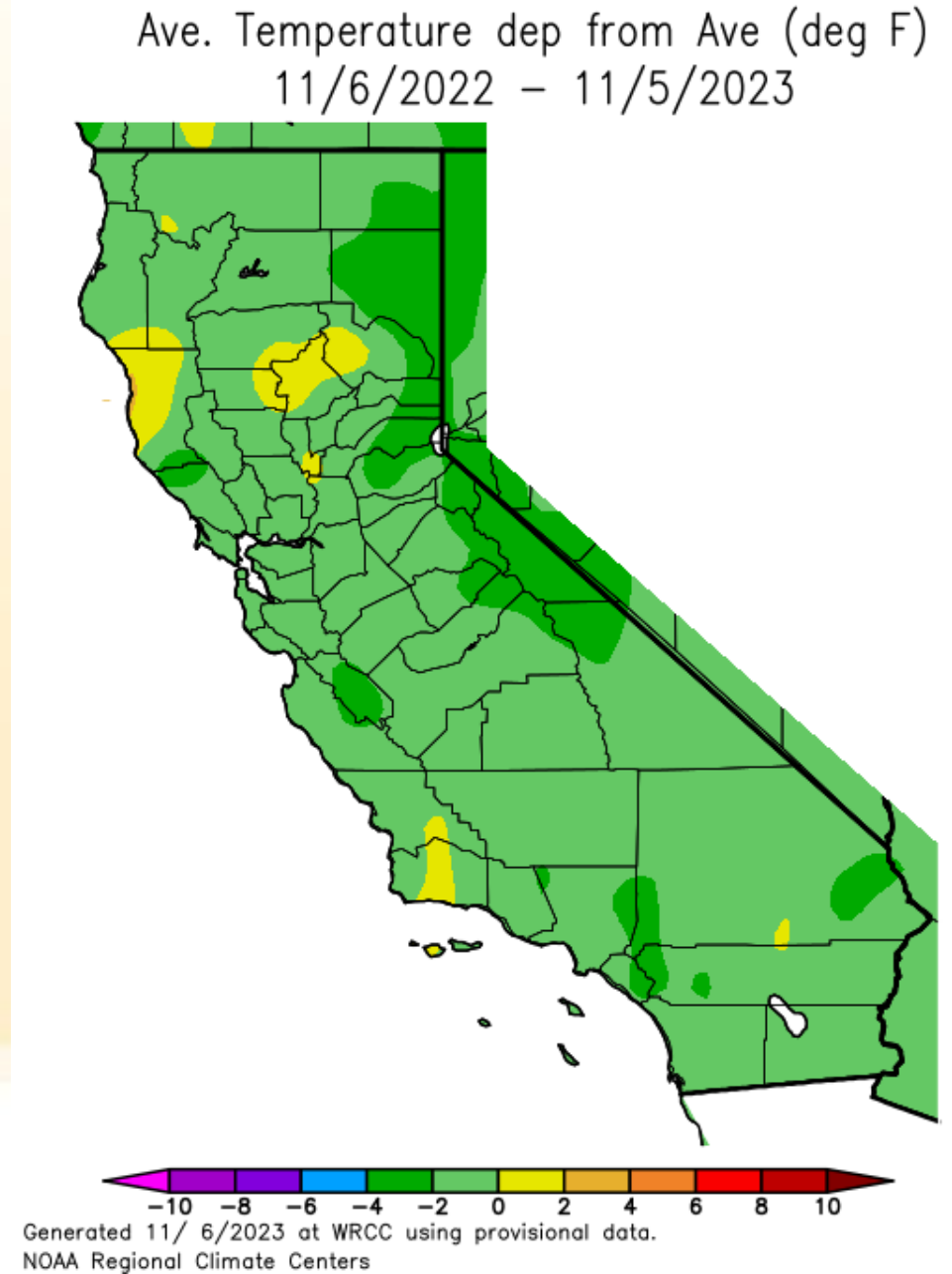


Generated 4/ 5/2021 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Credit: California Climate Data Archive (2021)

# Extreme Heat?

Average temperatures in the 2023 growing season were notably lower across the state compared to average





Station	Year	Final GDDs	Winkler Zone
Ukiah	2023	3301.5	III
Ukiah	2022	3475.5	III
Ukiah	2021	3679.1	IV
Ukiah	2020	3604.9	IV
Ukiah	2019	3470.4	III
Ukiah	2018	3602.5	IV
Ukiah	2017	3640.7	IV
Ukiah	2016	3344.6	III
Ukiah	2015	3656.8	IV
Ukiah	2014	3635.5	IV
Ukiah	2013	3326.1	III
Ukiah	2012	3285.4	III
Ukiah	2011	2965.9	II
Ukiah	2010	3136.9	III
Ukiah	2009	3572.9	IV
Ukiah	2008	3516.6	IV
Ukiah	2007	3392.1	III
Ukiah	2006	3666.2	IV
Ukiah	2005	3335.1	III
Ukiah	2004	3575.9	IV
Ukiah	2003	3509.8	IV



Hottest



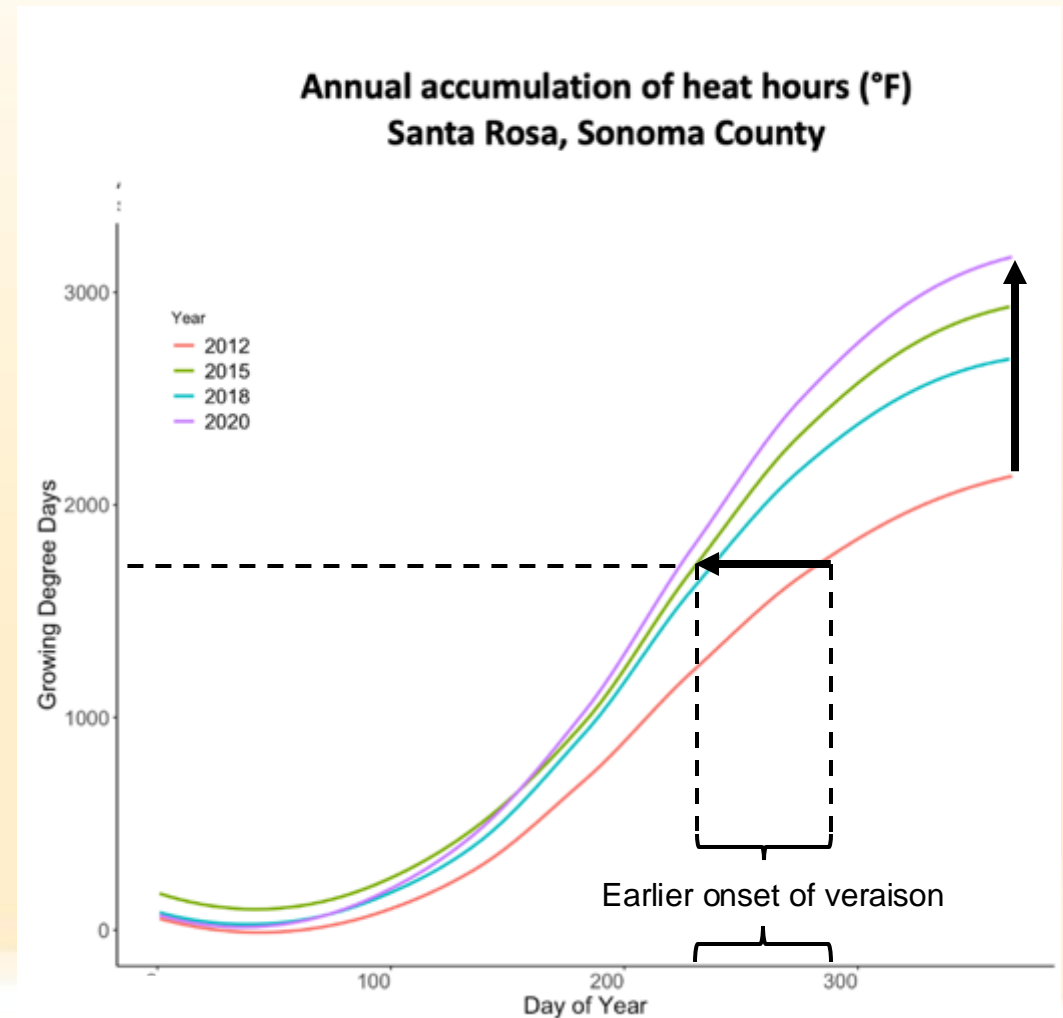
Coolest

# Increasing Temperatures

In Central Europe the impact of warming climates has been documented in Bernáth et al. 2021

Between 1985 and 2018

- Budbreak: 5-7 days earlier
- Flowering: 7-10 days earlier
- Berry maturity: 18 days earlier
- Harvest: 8-10 days earlier



Cumulative heat accumulation in Santa Rosa, California in 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2020. (Data from <https://cimis.water.ca.gov>)



# What can we do?

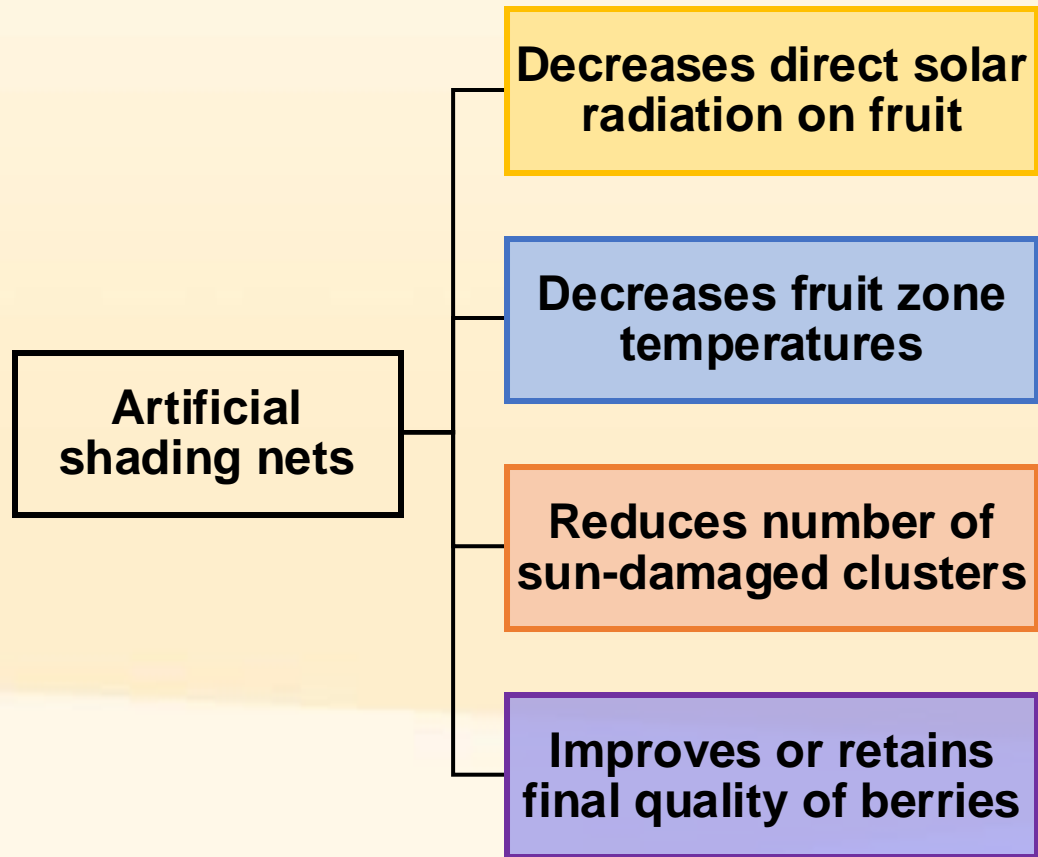
- Vineyards need tools to address extreme weather conditions and other impacts of climate change
- Concerns of note:
  1. Shorter time between budbreak and harvest
  2. Increased risks of heat damage
  3. Increased risks of cold damage
  4. Limited water availability
  5. Pest acclimation to climate and beneficials
  6. Soil salinization



# Heat and Solar Radiation



# Shade nets to mitigate heat and solar radiation damage



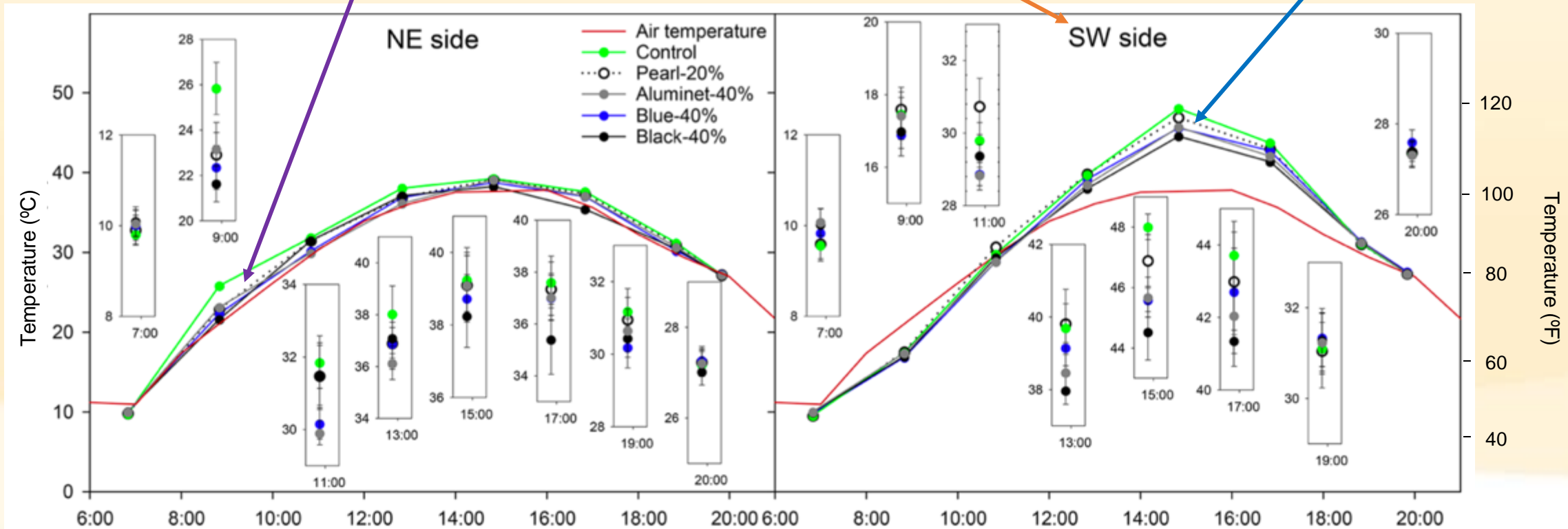
Different colored shade nets applied to Cabernet Sauvignon in Oakville, CA in 2017.

# Effects of Shade Netting on Berry Temperatures

Very effective when either side is in direct sunlight

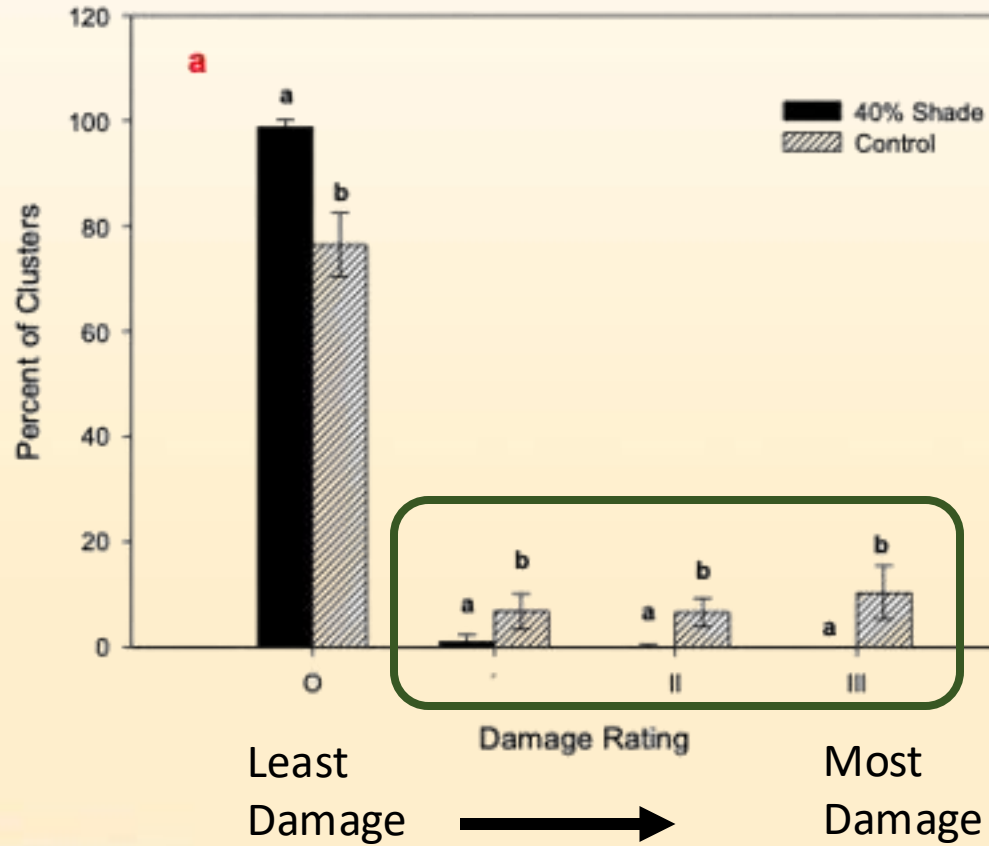
Impact last longer on the more exposed side of the canopy

Can be up to 5 °F cooler under the canopy [2]

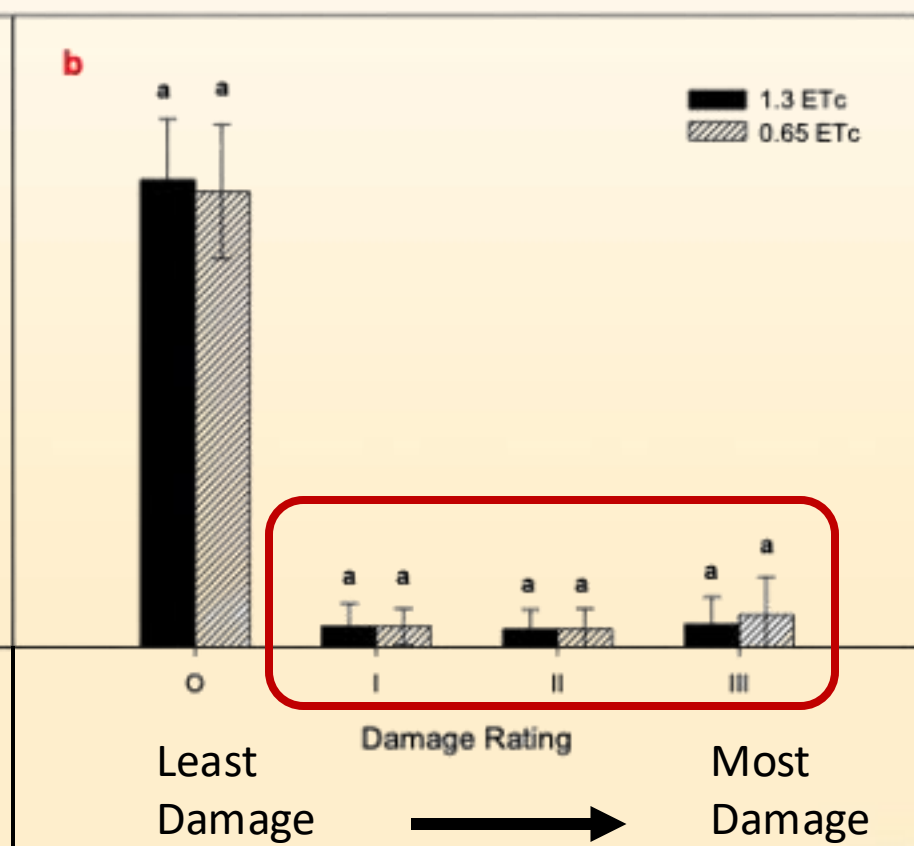


Cabernet Sauvignon fruit zone air temperatures measured under different colored shade nets in Oakville, CA in July 2016 (figure from Martínez-Lüscher et al. 2017)

### Black shade net applied



### Modified Irrigation





# Increasing Temperatures

*No shade netting*

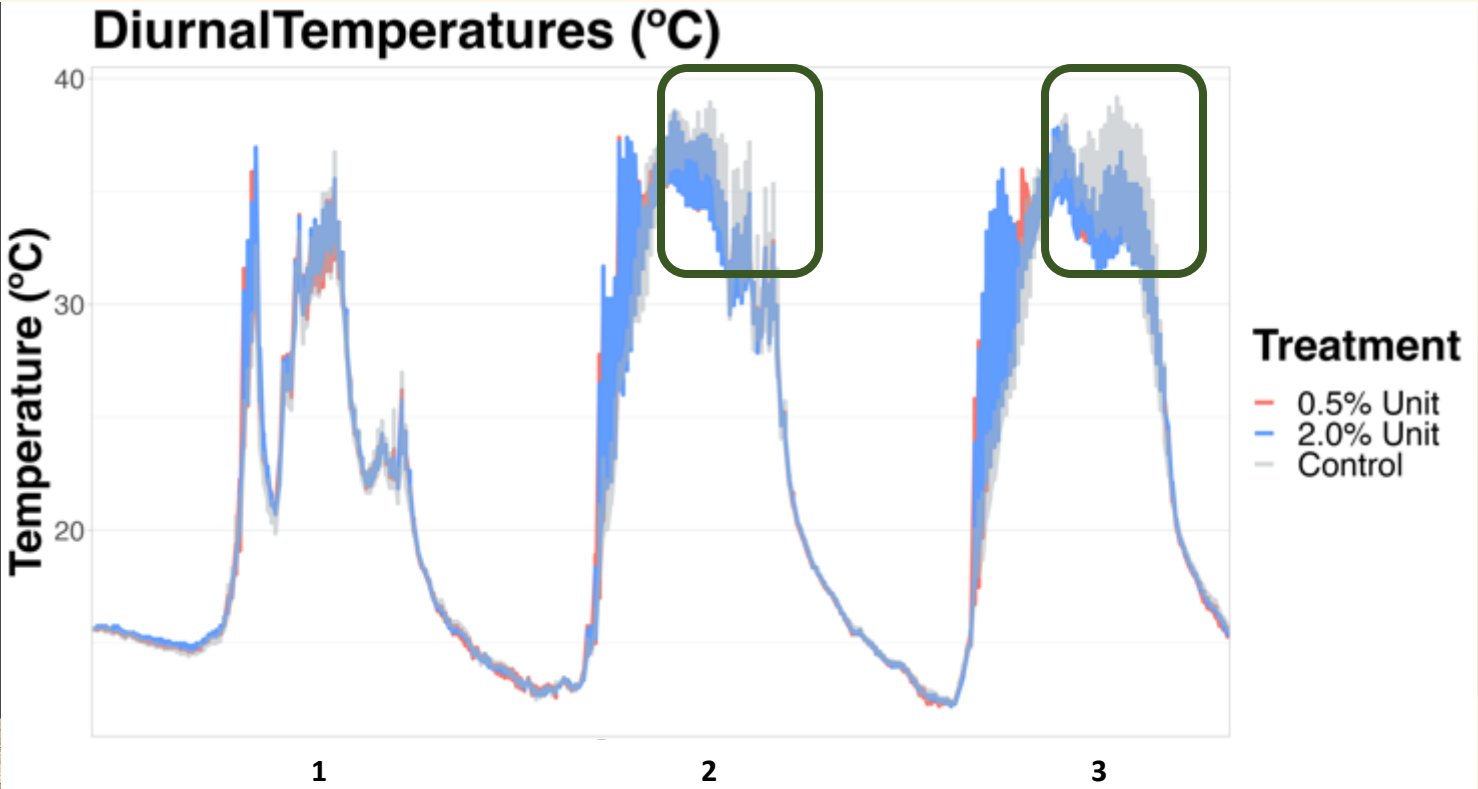


*Shade netting*

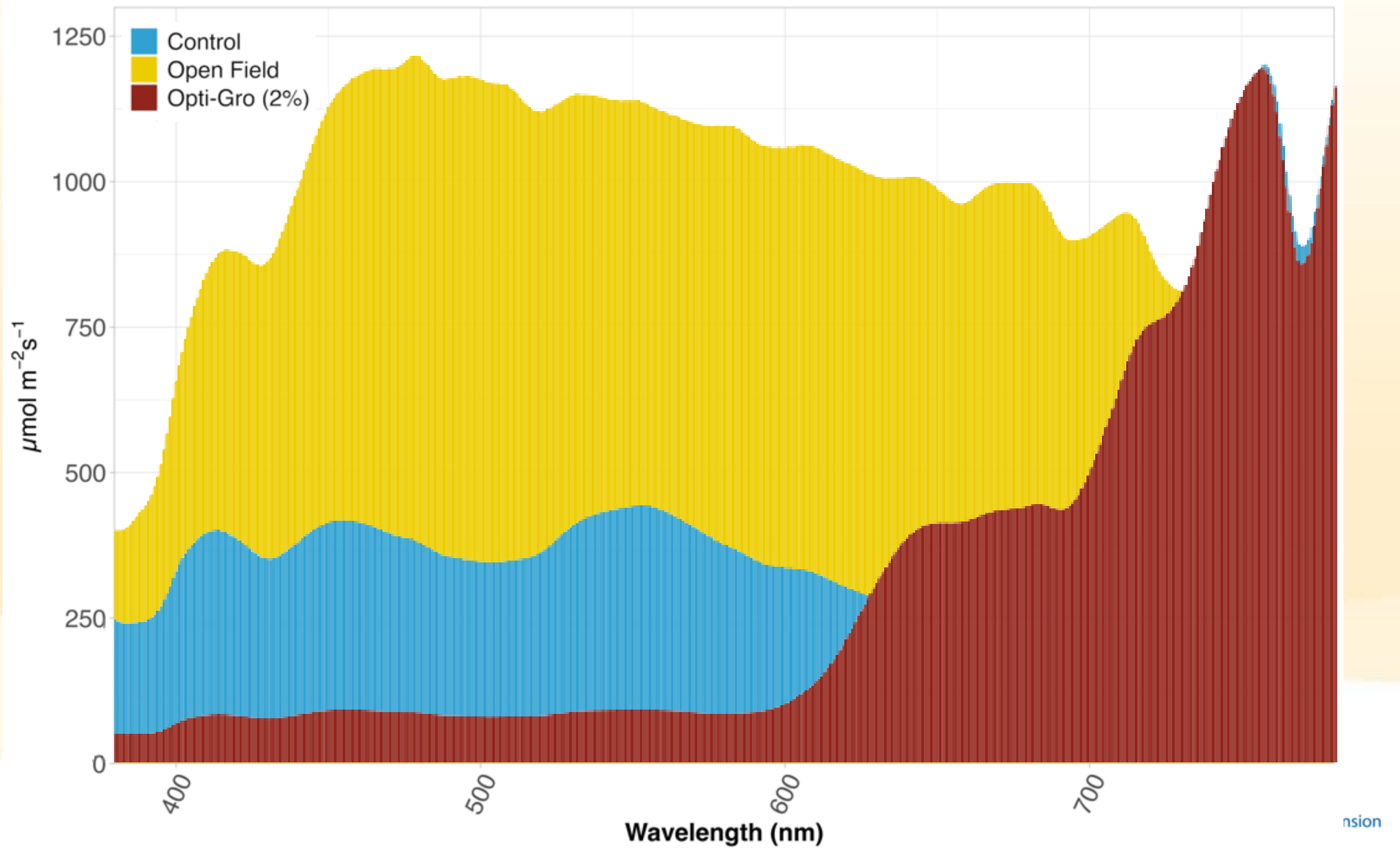


Left to Right: (a) no shade net applied; (b) example of black shade net applied following fruit set; (c) resulting cluster protected by shade net; all images were taken on the same day in Oakville, CA in August 2017.

# Light Modification in Other Forms



# Light Spectrum Intensity





# Pests and Diseases

# Worldwide Temperature Increases

Heatwaves have increased in frequency, severity, and length

Fungi tolerance to high temps is bookended

- Unless they can adapt to hotter climates; opening more niches for themselves
- *Candida auris* – human fungal pathogen simultaneously emerged

Viral temperature ranges are similarly problematic

- However, viruses can adapt rapidly to new conditions



# Pest and disease responses to climate change

As a result of the indirect impacts of:

1. Increased average temperatures
2. Higher atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>
3. More environmental pollutants
4. Changes in distribution and range of host plants

We expect to see changes in:

1. Pest and disease migratory behavior
2. Over wintering success
3. Species interactions
4. Effectiveness of pest predators and parasitoids



# Pest and disease responses to climate change

Both the pest and host can respond to changing climates in unpredictable ways <sup>(5)</sup>

Changes in temperature and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels have impacted the timing of generational cycles of insect species in vineyards <sup>(6, 7, 8)</sup>

- Resulting in some asynchrony between pest and predator/parasatoid

5. Rumbidzai Katsaruware, Paramu Mafongoya, and Augustine Gubba. Responses of insect pests and plant diseases to changing and variable climate: A review. *Journal of Agricultural Science*, 9:160, 11 2017. doi: 10.5539/jas.v9n12p160.

6. Diego Tomasi, Gregory V Jones, Mirella Giust, Lorenzo Lovat, and Federica Gaiotti. Grapevine phenology and climate change: Relationships and trends in the veneto region of italy for 1964–2009. *American Journal of Enology and Viticulture*, 62:329, 9 2011. doi: 10.5344/ajev.2011.10108

7. Amelia Caffarra, Monica Rinaldi, Emanuele Eccel, Vittorio Rossi, and Ilaria Pertot. Modelling the impact of climate change on the interaction between grapevine and its pests and pathogens: European grapevine moth and powdery mildew. *Agriculture, Ecosystems Environment*, 148:89–101, 2012. ISSN 0167-8809. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2011.11.017>.

8. Sandra Skendžić, Monika Zovko, Ivana Pajač Živković, Vinko Lešić, and Darija Lemić. The impact of climate change on agricultural insect pests. *Insects*, 12, 2021. ISSN 2075-4450. doi: 10.3390/insects12050440



# Insect responses to climate change

Insects can respond to climate change in several ways, however three major responses that have been cited are <sup>(9)</sup> :

1. Moving to a climate more suitable to them
2. Shifting their phenology to correspond with the local changes in environmental conditions, or
3. Adapt to the new conditions and the associated impacts on the ecosystem

9. Deepa S Pureswaran, Audrey M Maran, and Shannon L Pelini. Chapter 18 - insect communities, 2021.

# Insect/pathogen migration in response to changing climates

A migration of insects and pathogens is expected to move northward as climates change. <sup>(15)</sup>

- This is the case for more crops than grapevines

Temperatures and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels are essential components to estimate the potential for pest/disease migration <sup>(20)</sup>



20. Holly A. Ameden and David R. Just. Pests and agricultural production under climate change, 2001.



# Disease Expression

- Host-Pathogen interaction is broadly impacted by environmental conditions
- Certain abiotic stressors can increase susceptibility of grapevines to pathogens or trigger symptomatic expression of the pathogen <sup>(10)</sup>
- Fungal trunk diseases
  - Have expressed more symptoms in vines than usual in N. Coast
  - Two years of extreme drought followed by late spring frost and summer rains



10. A Songy, O Fernandez, C Clément, P Larignon, and F Fontaine. Grapevine trunk diseases under thermal and water stresses. *Planta*, 249:1655– 1679, 2019. ISSN 1432-2048. doi: 10.1007/s00425-019-03111-8.

# Overwinter Recovery – *Xylella fastidiosa*

Overwinter recovery from Pierce's Disease relies on cold Winter temperatures < 53 °F for prolonged periods <sup>(11)</sup>

Warmer winter temperatures could impede the phenomenon of overwinter recovery

Winter temperatures in California have risen around 2 °F since the 1970s <sup>(12)</sup> and made overwinter recovery of *X. fastidiosa* less likely to occur in hotter regions.

11. Helene Feil and Alexander H. Purcell. Temperature-dependent growth and survival of xylella fastidiosa in vitro and in potted grapevines. *Plant Disease*, 85 (12):1230–1234, 2001. doi: 10.1094/PDIS.2001.85.12.1230

12. Tapan B Pathak, Mahesh L Maskey, Jeffery A Dahlberg, Faith Kearns, Khaled M Bali, and Daniele Zaccaria. Climate change trends and impacts on California agriculture: A detailed review. *Agronomy*, 8, 2018. ISSN 2073-4395. doi: 10.3390/agronomy8030025.

# Susceptibility of stressed vines to pests and diseases

Water stress has been shown to increase transmission of *Xylella fastidiosa* in grapevines <sup>(13)</sup>

Combined biotic and abiotic stress responses in plants often involve numerous signaling pathways

Plants can tailor their response to specific stress combinations through hormone signaling, receptors, and transcription factors <sup>(14)</sup>

13. Celia Del Cid, Rodrigo Krugner, Adam R Zeilinger, Matthew P Daugherty, and Rodrigo P P Almeida. Plant Water Stress and Vector Feeding Preference Mediate Transmission Efficiency of a Plant Pathogen. *Environmental Entomology*, 47(6):1471–1478, 09 2018. ISSN 0046-225X. doi: 10.1093/ee/nvy136.

14. Venkategowda Ramegowda and Muthappa Senthil-Kumar. The interactive effects of simultaneous biotic and abiotic stresses on plants: Mechanistic understanding from drought and pathogen combination. *Journal of Plant Physiology*, 176:47–54, 2015. ISSN 0176-1617. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jplph.2014.11.008>.





# ‘New’ diseases in vineyards

Often can be difficult to identify:

- Lime disease on the West Coast or GRBV in vineyards

Grapevine Red-Blotch Associated Viruses

- Flagship example for grapevines
- Not known until 2008 (Oakville, CA)

# Case Study: GRBV



Red blotch was an unknown disease in grapevines for decades and likely was already present in the north coast during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

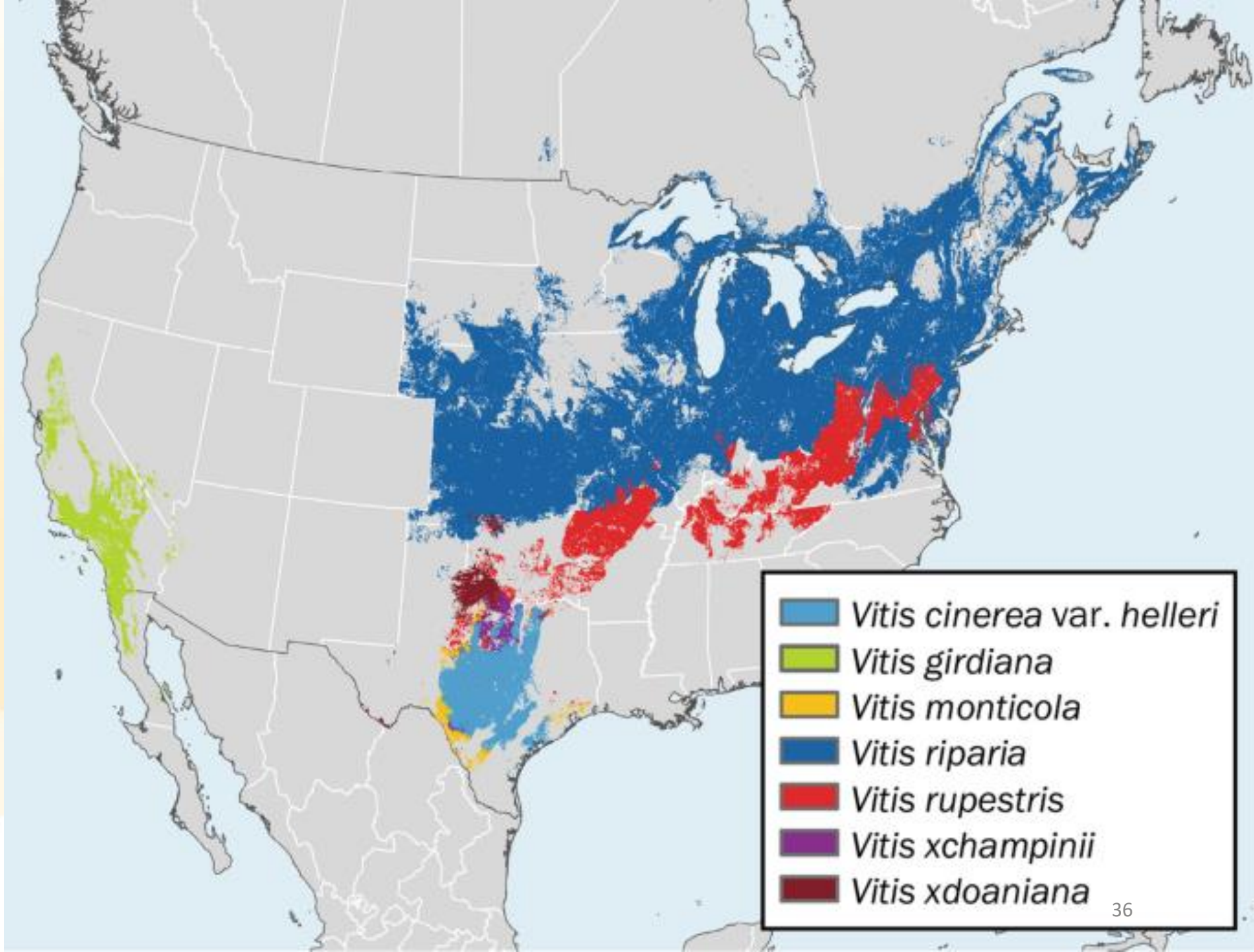
Large, clean-material vineyards used to source pathogen-free material did not know it existed and thus, did not know what to test for.

The future of our climate may increase the likelihood of new diseases we cannot test for or expression of existing pathogens becoming more problematic

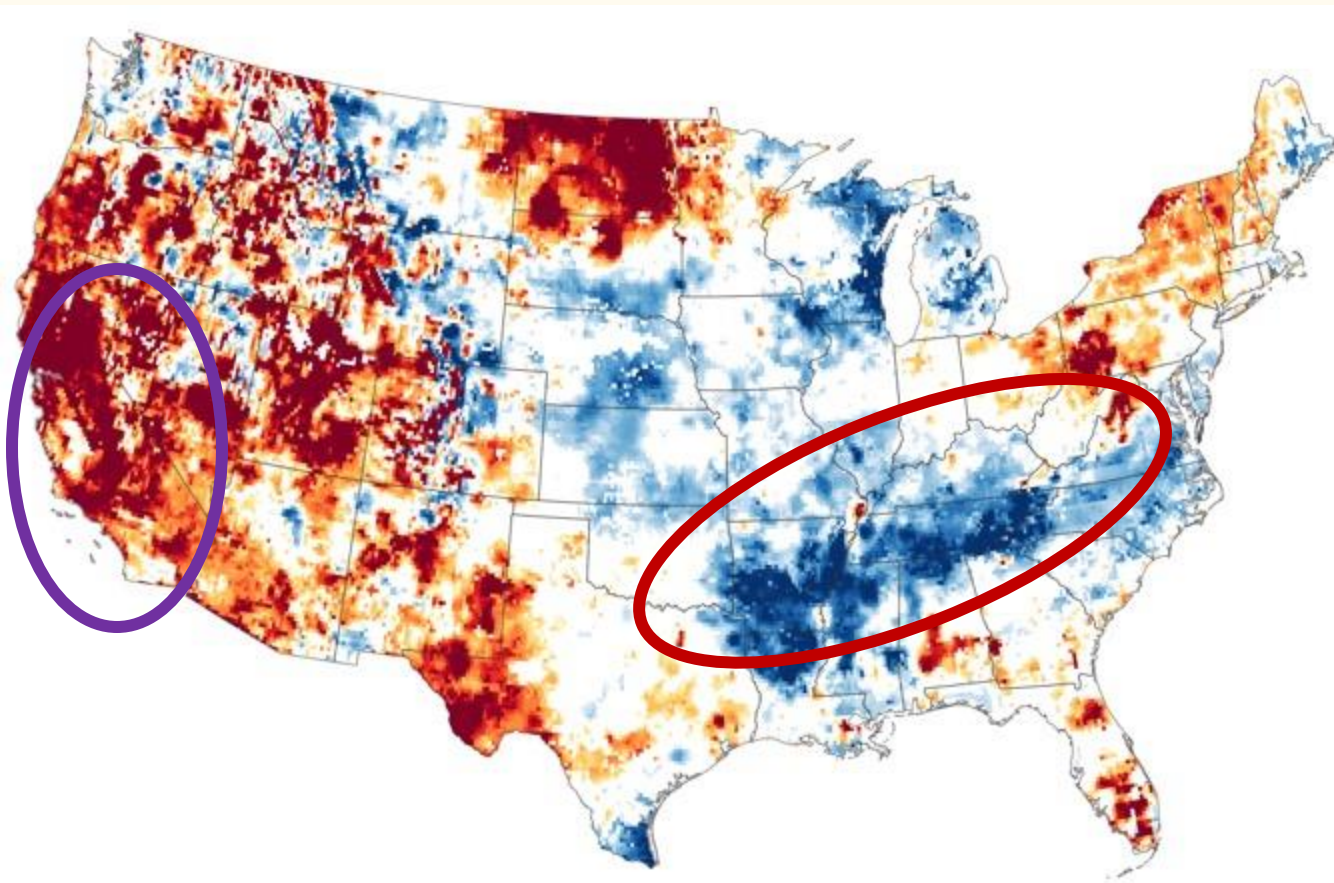


Trait  
sourcing

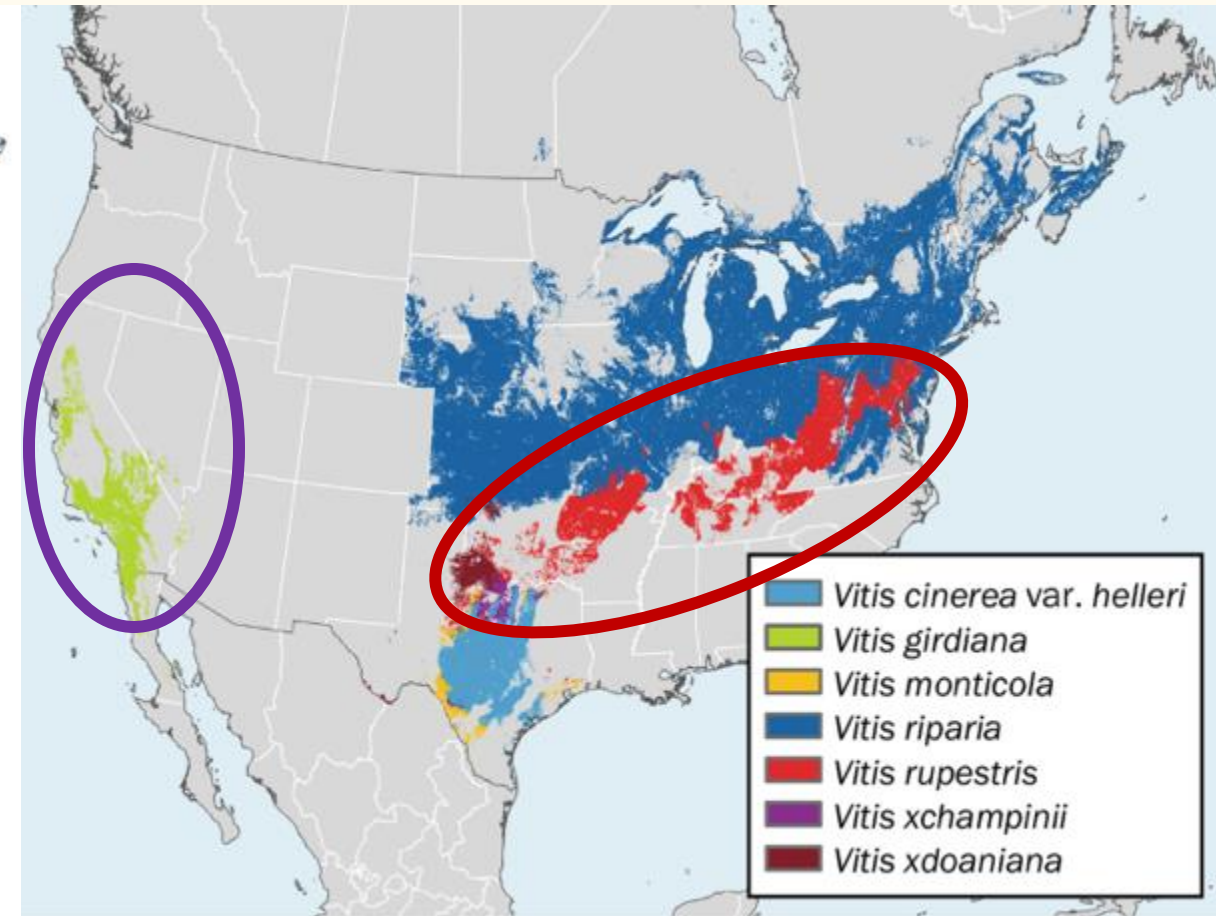
Wild vines







Drought conditions – 2021 (NASA)

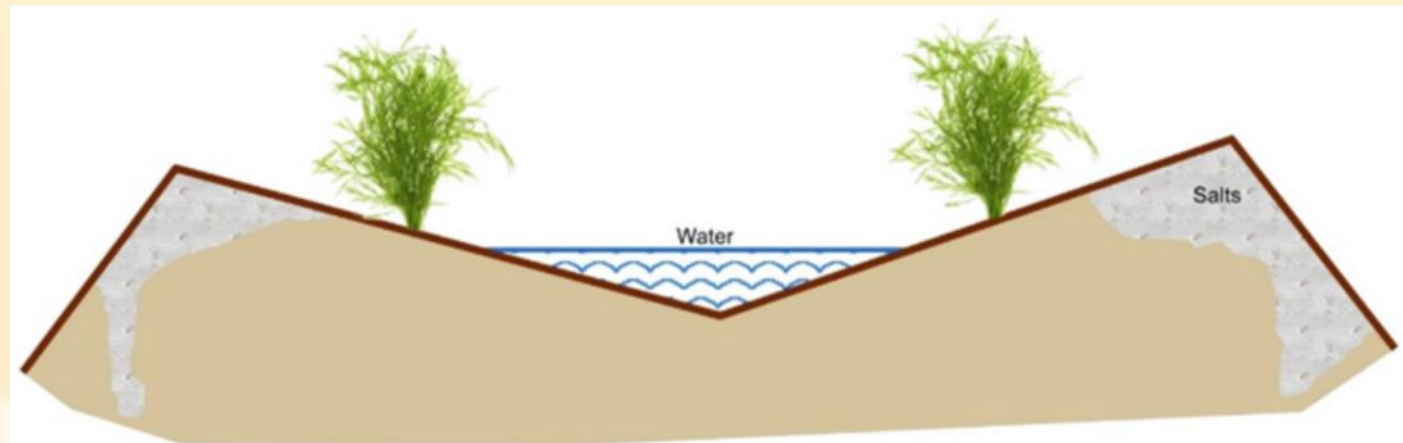


Heinitz et al. 2019

# Salinity

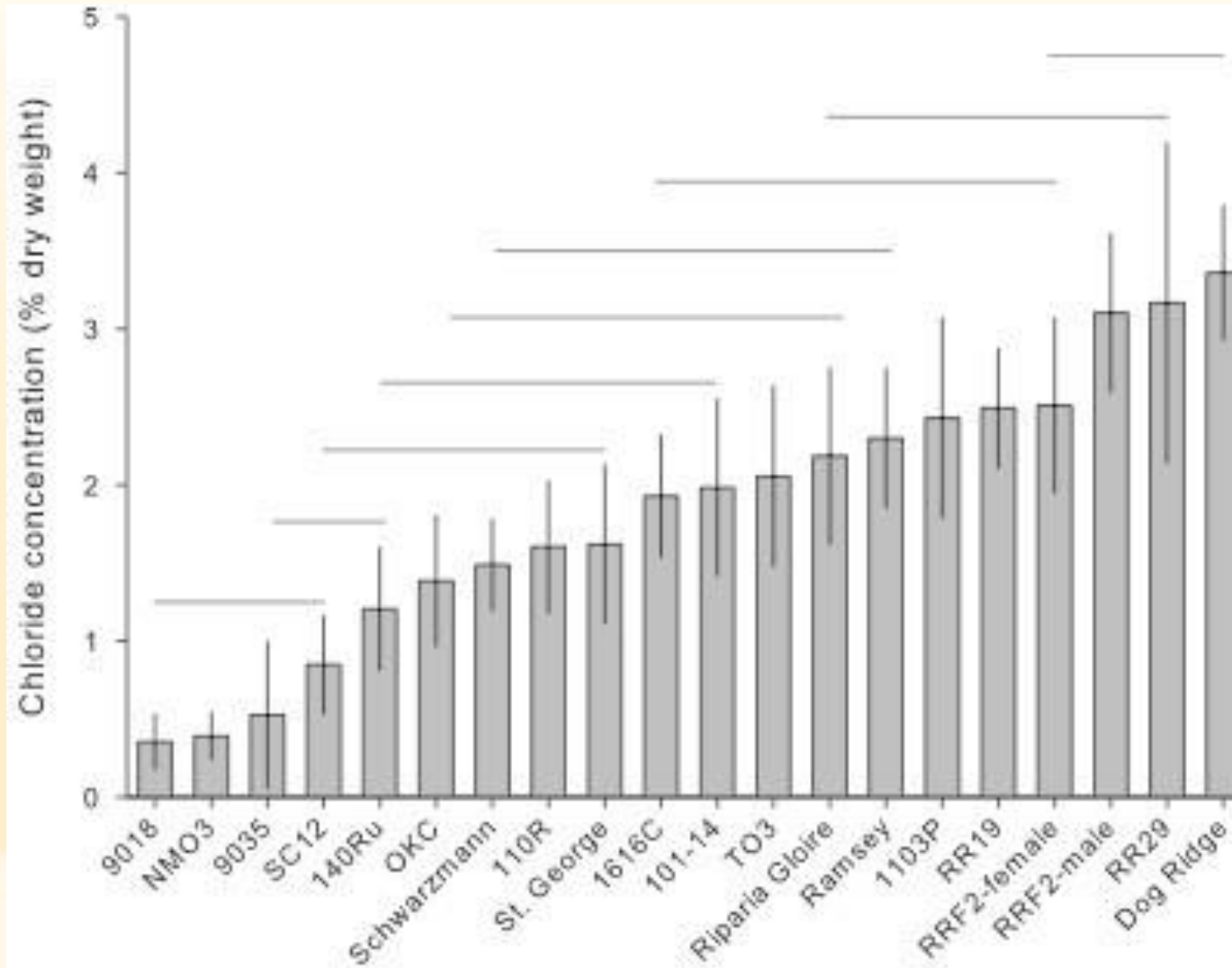
## *Management strategies*

- Sloped furrows
  - Can help redirect salt deposits away from roots
- Leaching salts
  - Clean water
  - Expensive
  - Reduce NaCl buildup around roots
- Monitoring
  - For increases in soil and water salinity



Examples of sloped furrows to direct salts to periphery of the root zone as soils dry and salts are deposited <sup>[5]</sup>.

# Chloride concentration in leaves (% dry weight)



Heinitz, C. C., Fort, K., & Walker, M. A. (2015, 2015/4//). Developing drought and salt resistant grape rootstocks. *Acta Horticulturae*,



# Salinity Tolerance

- Salinity tolerance is one of the traits we might seek in new phenotypes or species
- From 2018-2021 we tested wild grapevines to find a candidate
- Required to tolerate up to 12.5% the average NaCl concentration in seawater

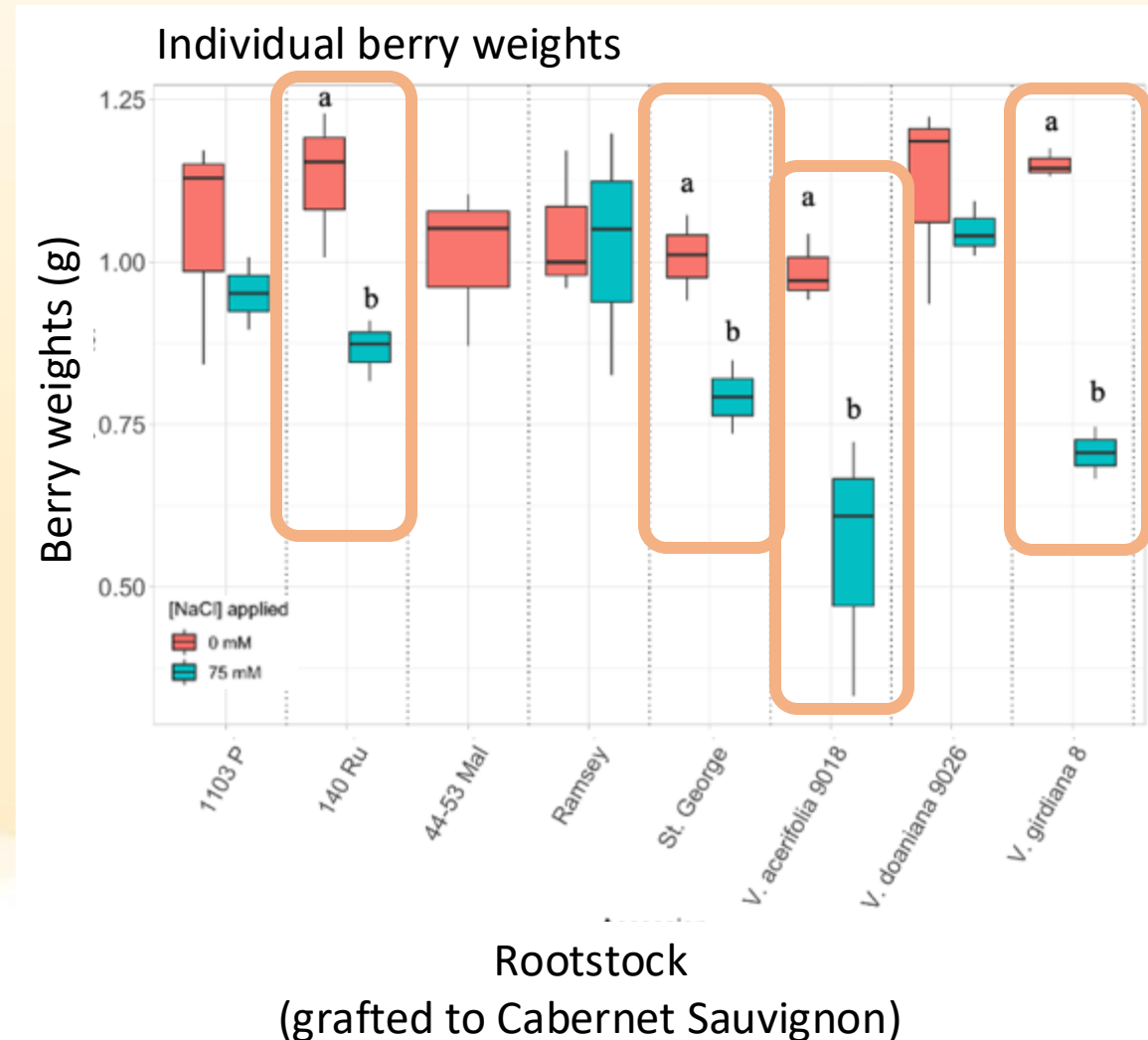


# New Agronomic Traits

## *Unexpected problems*

In some of the promising candidates we found that some agronomic traits were missing

- Up to 40% Smaller berries
- Poor vigor
- Low graft success rates

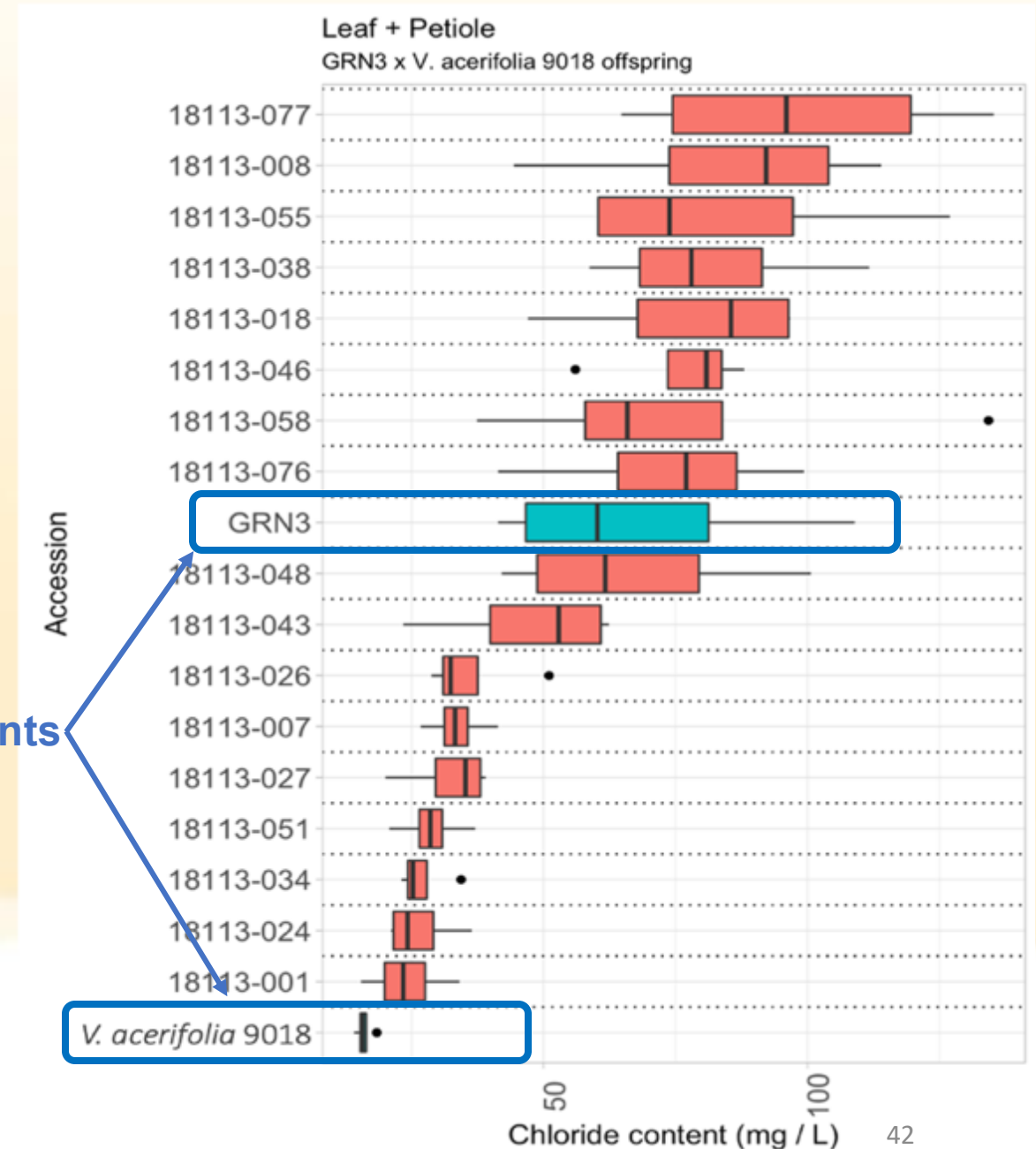


# New Agronomic Traits

## *Breeding new cultivars*

- Long term solution
  - Can take decades
- Utilize wild grapevines
  - Huge gene pool
  - Potential for high salinity tolerance
  - Largely unexplored
- Incorporate existing traits
  - Preserve other traits of existing rootstocks
  - Rootability, drought tolerance, vigor

Parents



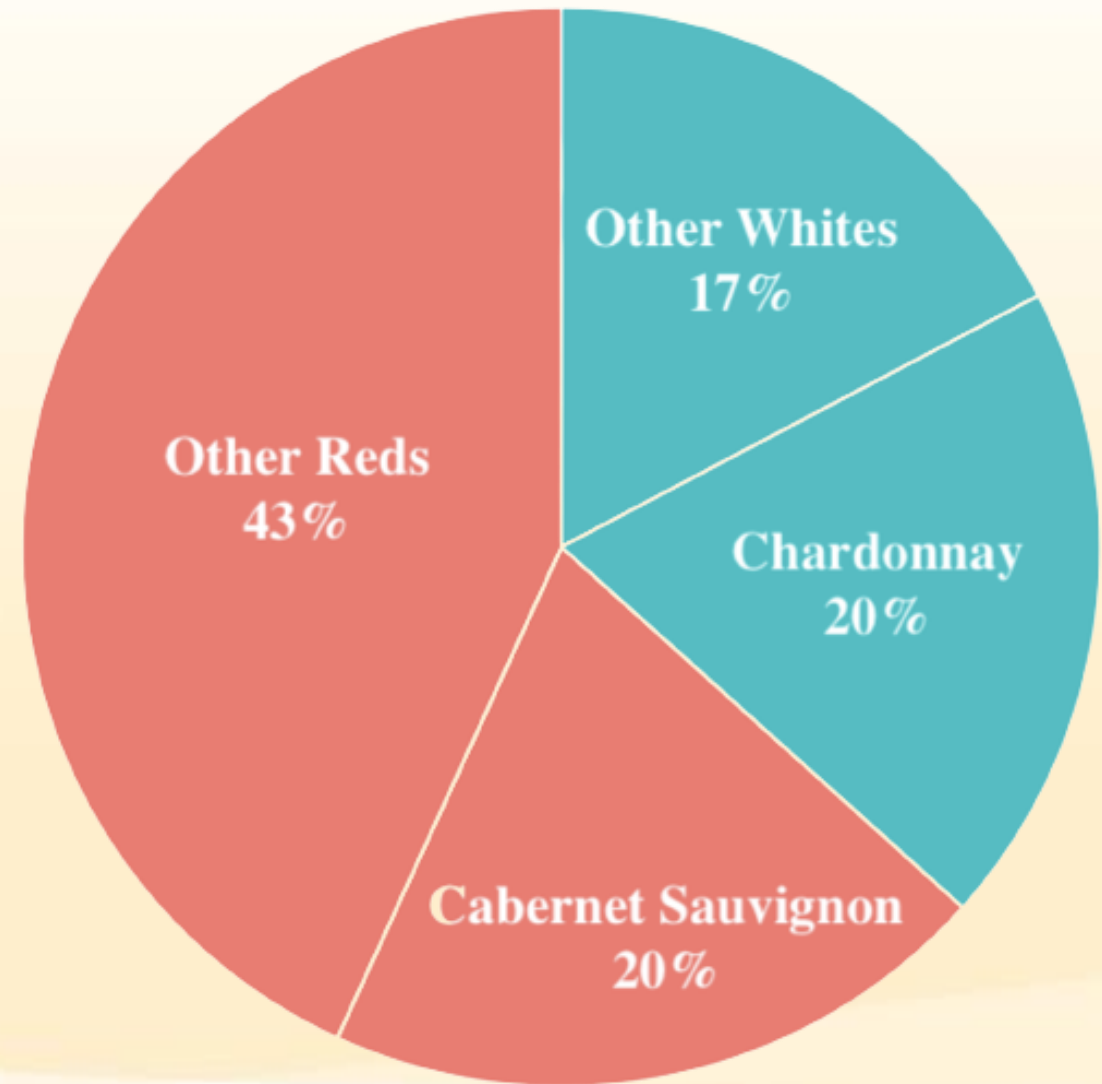


# Scion Variety Bottleneck

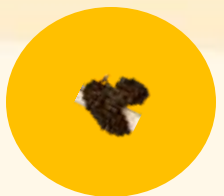
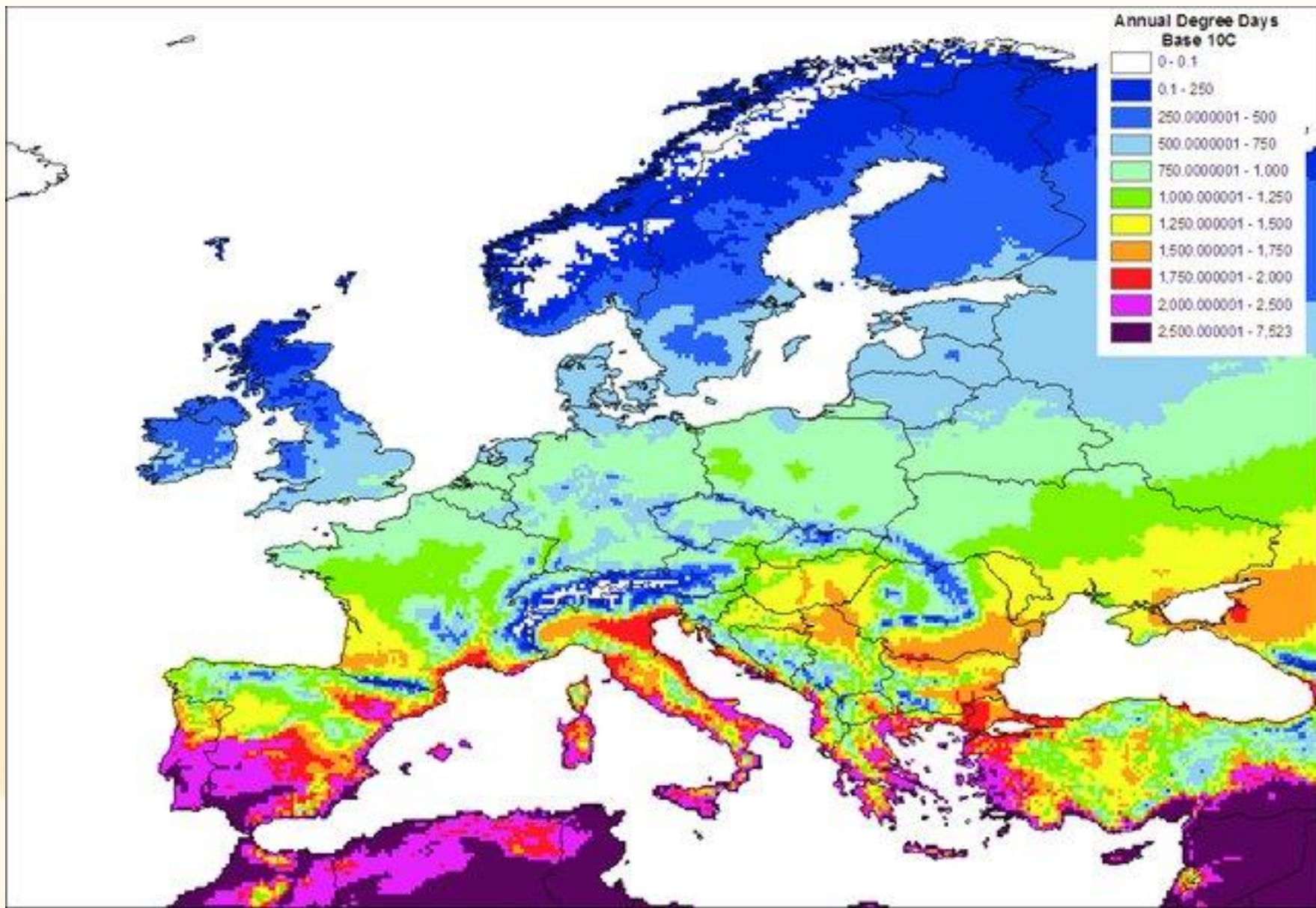
- Market limitations on profitable cultivars
- Bottleneck down to two scions
- Wide range of climate adaptation in scions

## Examples of desirable characteristics:

- i. Late budbreak (avoid frost)
- ii. Moderate vigor (less water demand)
- iii. Early fruit maturity (maybe)  
e.g., Sémillon; Tempranillo

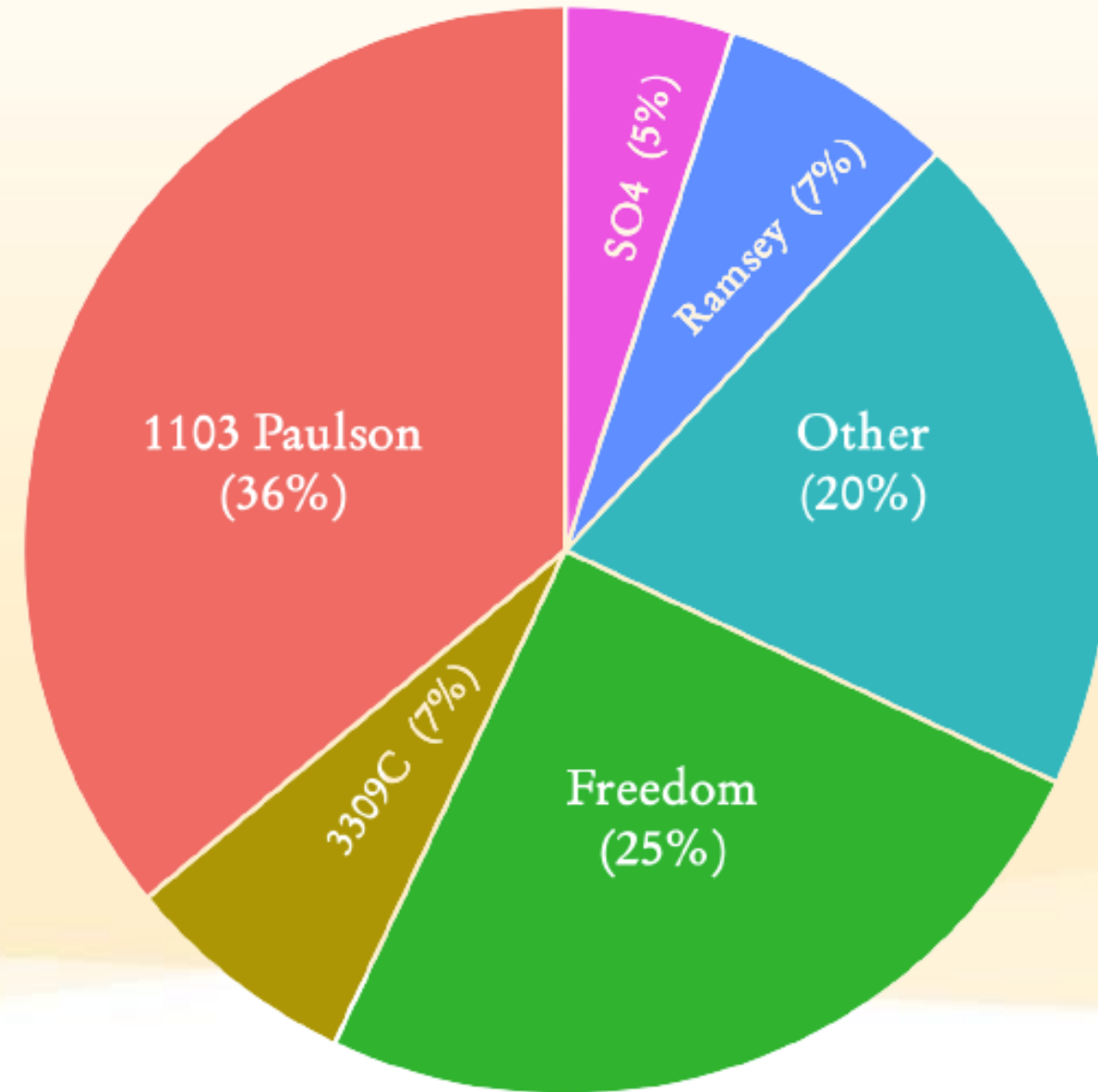


CA Grape Acreage Report (2020)



# Limited Rootstocks

- The trend observed in scions appears to hold true for rootstock varieties as well
- Data is sparse for rootstocks
- In 2022, we identified the most planted rootstocks across California





# Rootstocks by Usage

Rootstock	Vitis parentage	Phylloxera resistance	Nematode Resistance		Tolerance				Influence on scion		Soil adaptation	Ease of propagation	Other characteristics
			Root knot	Dagger ( <i>Xiphinema index</i> )	Drought	Wet soil	Salinity	Lime	Vigor	Mineral nutrition <sup>1</sup>			
Riparia Gloire	riparia	High	Low	Med.	Low	Low	Med.	Low	Low–med.	N, P: low K, Mg: low–med.	Deep, well-drained, fertile, moist soils	High	Early maturation; scions tend to overbear
St. George ( <i>Rupestris du lot</i> )	rupestris	High	Low	Low	Low–med. in shallow soils; high in deep soils	Low–med.	Med.–high	Med.	High	N: high P: low on low-P soils, high on high-P soils K: high	Deep soils	High	Fruit set problems with some scions; latent virus tolerant
SO4 (Selection Oppenheim)	berlandieri × riparia	High	Med.–high	Low–med.	Low–med.	Med.–high	Low–med.	Med.	Low–med.	N: low–med. P: med. K: med.–high Mg: med.	Moist, clay soils	Med.	Noted as a cool-region rootstock
5BB (Kober)	berlandieri × riparia	High	Med.–high	Med.	Med.	Low	Med.	Med.–high	Med.	N: med.–high P, K, Zn: med. Ca, Mg: med.–high	Moist, clay soils	High	Susceptible to phytophthora root rot; adapted to high-vigor varieties
5C (Teleki)	berlandieri × riparia	High	Med.–high	Low–med.	Low	Low–med.	Med.	Med.	Low–med.	N: low P, K: med. Mg: med.–high Zn: low–med.	Moist, clay soils	High	—
420A (Millardet et de Grasset)	berlandieri × riparia	High	Med.	Low	Med.	Low–med.	Low	Med.–high	Low	N, P, K: low Mg: med. Zn: low–med.	Fine-textured, fertile soils	Med.	Scions tend to overbear when young
99R (Richter)	berlandieri × rupestris	High	Med.–high	Low–med.	Med.–high	Low	Med.	Med.	Med.–high	P: med. K: high Mg: med.	Tolerant of acid soil	Med.	Young scions may develop slowly
110R (Richter)	berlandieri × rupestris	High	Low–med.	Low	High	Low–med.	Med.	Med.	Med.	N: med. P: high K: low–med. Mg, Zn: med.	Hillside soils; acid soils	Low–med.	Develops slowly in wet soils

**140 Ru**

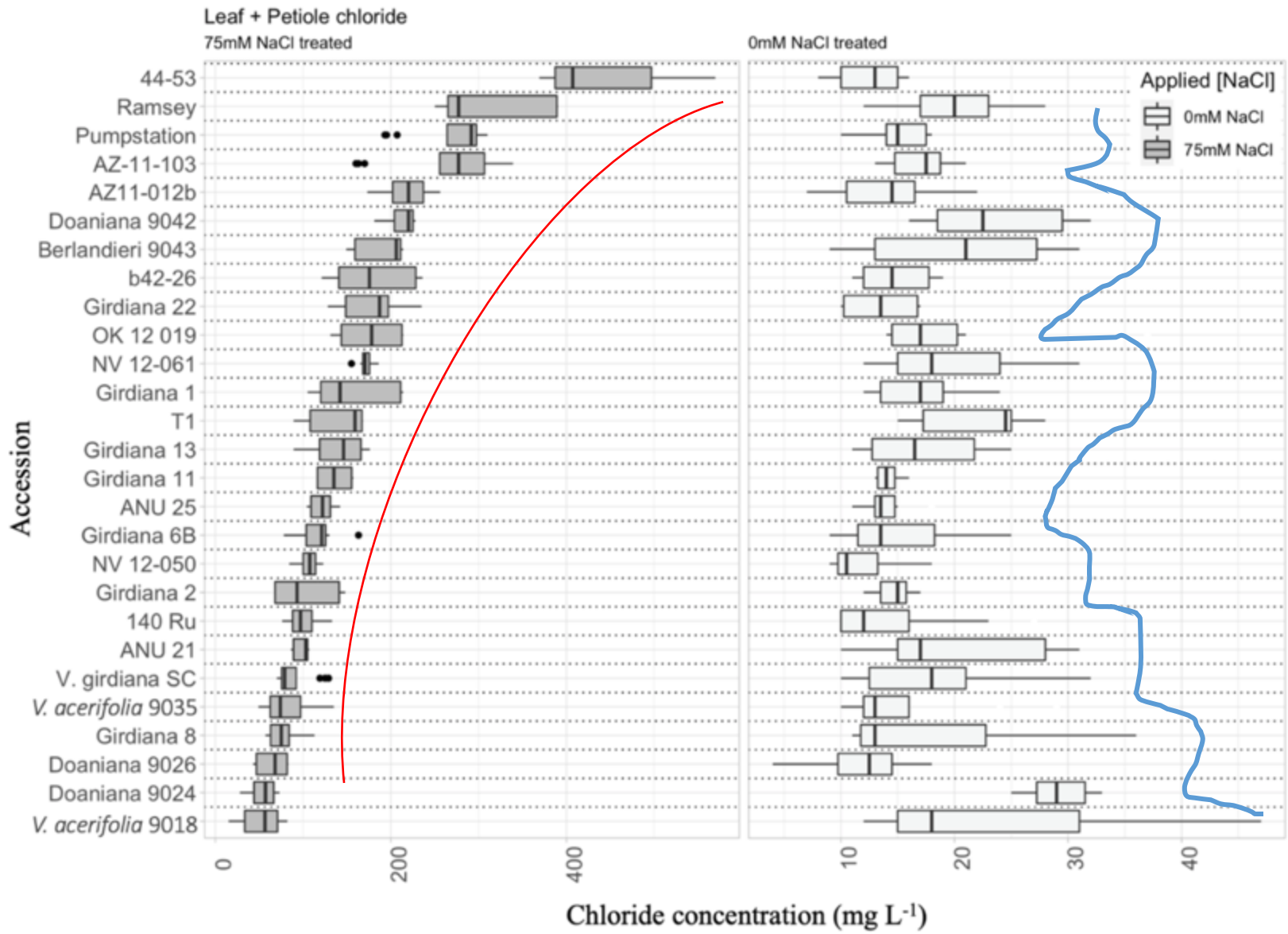


**140 Ru – deep rooted**

**101-14 mgt**



**101-14 mgt – shallow rooted**



Difference in scale



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cooperative Extension





# Research into combined stress responses

Plant responses to combined stressors may be unique to the specific combination of stressors.

- e.g., drought and *Xylella fastidiosa*

Changes in morphology and physiology are greater with combined stressors:

- Heat and drought in combination decrease plant growth and yields more so than each stressor individually.

Combined stressors may be thought of as a third-type of stress beyond biotic and abiotic

# Study: Climate-Adaptive Rootstocks

- Conducted 2022-2023
- Two Scions
  1. Cabernet Sauvignon
  2. Chardonnay
- Five Rootstocks
  - Most common rootstocks sold in past five years
- Nine locations
- Three Mesoclimate Classifications





# Mesoclimate Classification

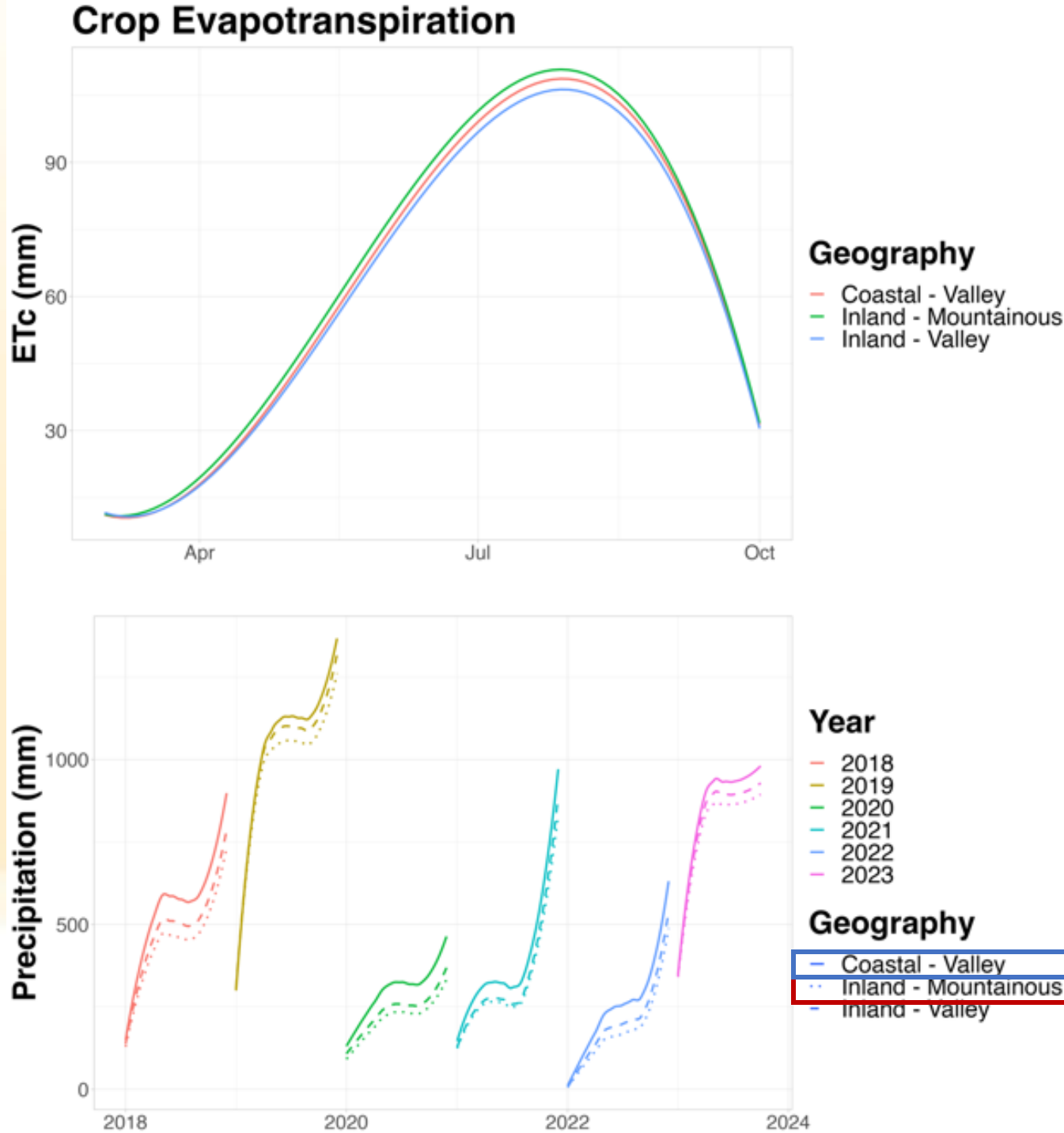
- Three classifications
  1. Coastal Valley
  2. Inland Valley
  3. Inland Mountainous
- Based on
  1. Proximity to coast
  2. Average temperatures
  3. Precipitation
  4. Geographic Location





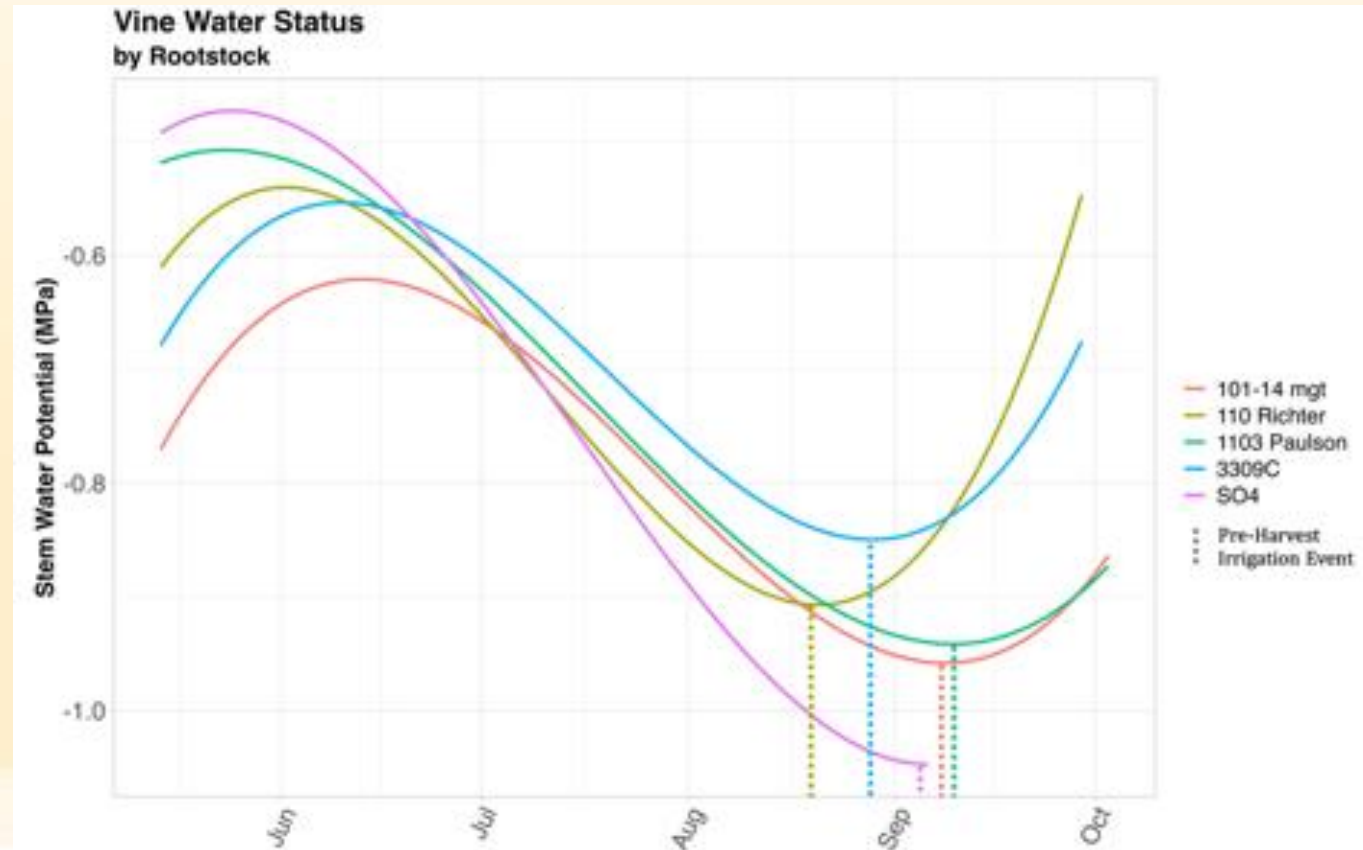
# Water Use by Mesoclimate

- Water use is important
- Crop evapotranspiration by geographic classification was not significantly different
- Precipitation was consistently highest in coastal valleys and lowest in inland mountain regions
- Inland mountains also lost more water to  $ET_c$  than other regions

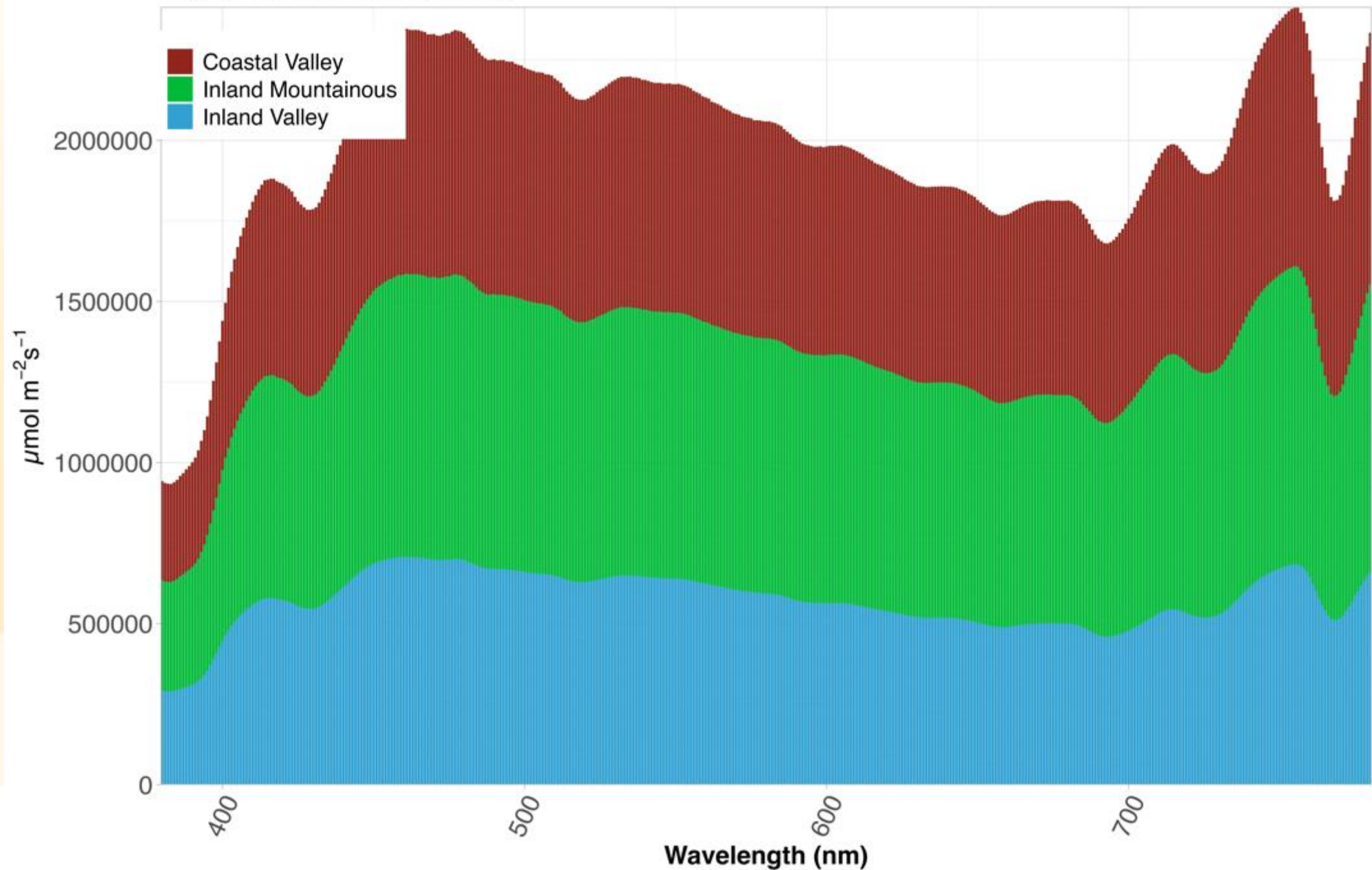


# Water Use by Rootstock

- Vine water stress varied by rootstock as well
- These data represent both scions for each rootstock listed
- Rates of vine water stress increased at consistent levels as SWP dropped in summer
- Vine recovery varied by rootstock
  - 110R recovered fastest with pre-harvest irrigation event
  - Other rootstocks recovered at a slower rate



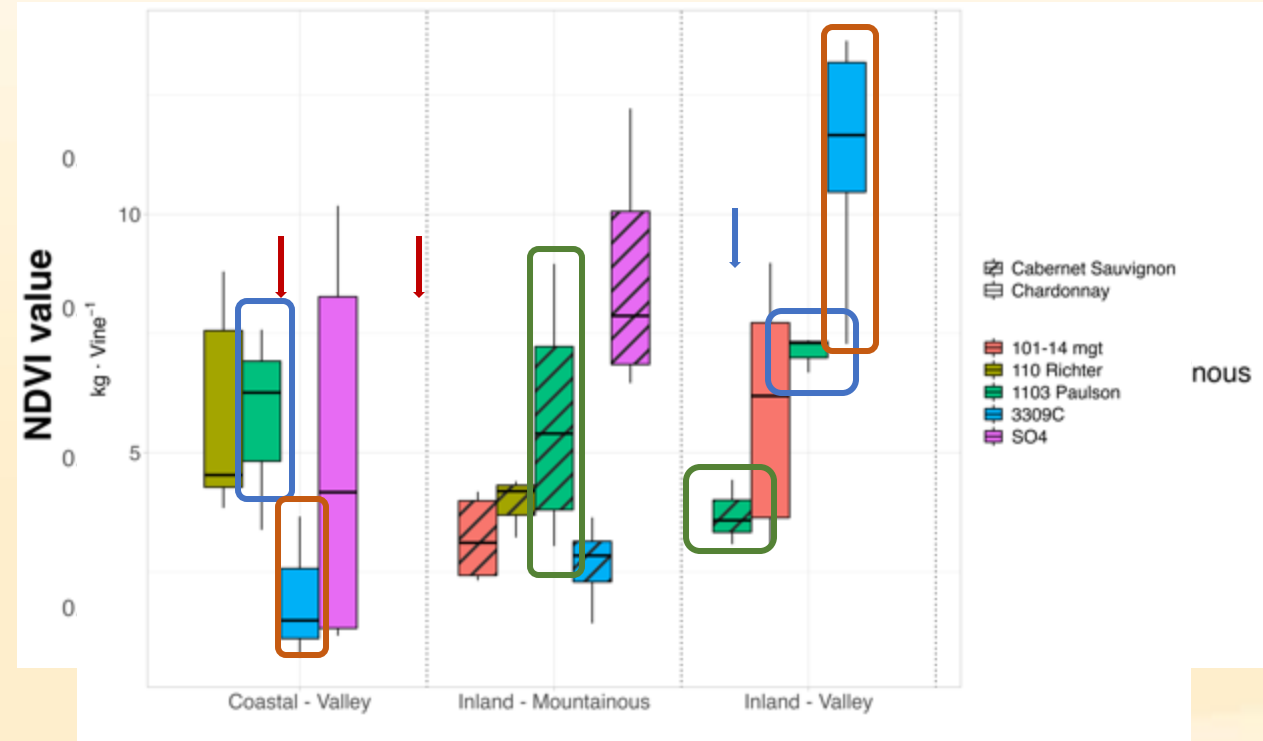
# Light Spectrum Intensity





# Agronomic Performance

- Factors that were significantly different by rootstock or site
  1. Growth rate (NDVI)
  2. Clusters per Vine
  3. Yield per Vine
- Some rootstock ~ scion combinations performed consistently regardless of site
- Other combinations were influenced by site significantly



# Site Conditions or Rootstock?

- It's both
- Site influence > Rootstock influence
- Rootstock alone impacted:
  - Yields
  - Individual Cluster Weights
  - Vine Water Status
  - Cluster Counts per Vine
- Site/Geographic classification impacted
  - Yields
  - Individual Cluster Weights
  - Berry Size
  - Vine Water Status
  - Cluster Counts per Vine
  - Sugar Accumulation

# The Climate-Adaptive Vineyard



# The Climate-Adaptive Vineyard

## 1. Water Use Efficiency

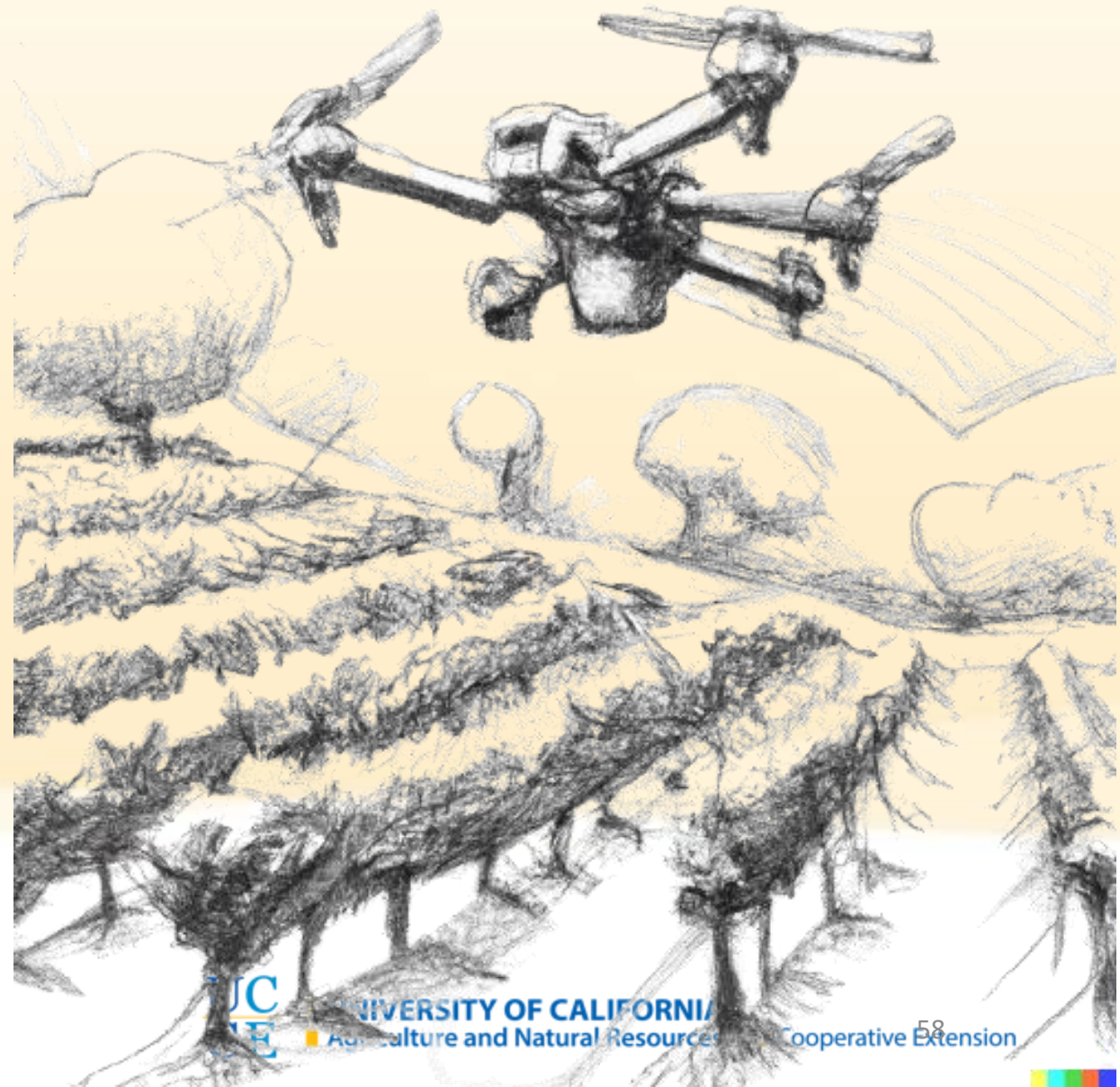
- Drought tolerant cultivars
- Precision irrigation methods
- Water-efficient cultural practices
- Better soil-water dynamics

## 2. Heat/Drought tolerant varieties

- Research and testing
- Available and adopted

## 3. Pest-tolerant rootstocks

- Identify future pest risks
- Select for current pests
- Available and adopted



# The Climate-Adaptive Vineyard

## 4. Efficient management practices

- Precision irrigation
- Optimize canopy design

## 5. Improving soil health

- Increasing water infiltration
- Improve water retention
- Improve nutrient retention
- Promote mycorrhizae health

## 6. Desirable employment

- Make jobs desirable
- Improve employee retention and well-being
- Keep skilled labor



# The Climate-Adaptive Vineyard

## 7. Adaptable Infrastructure

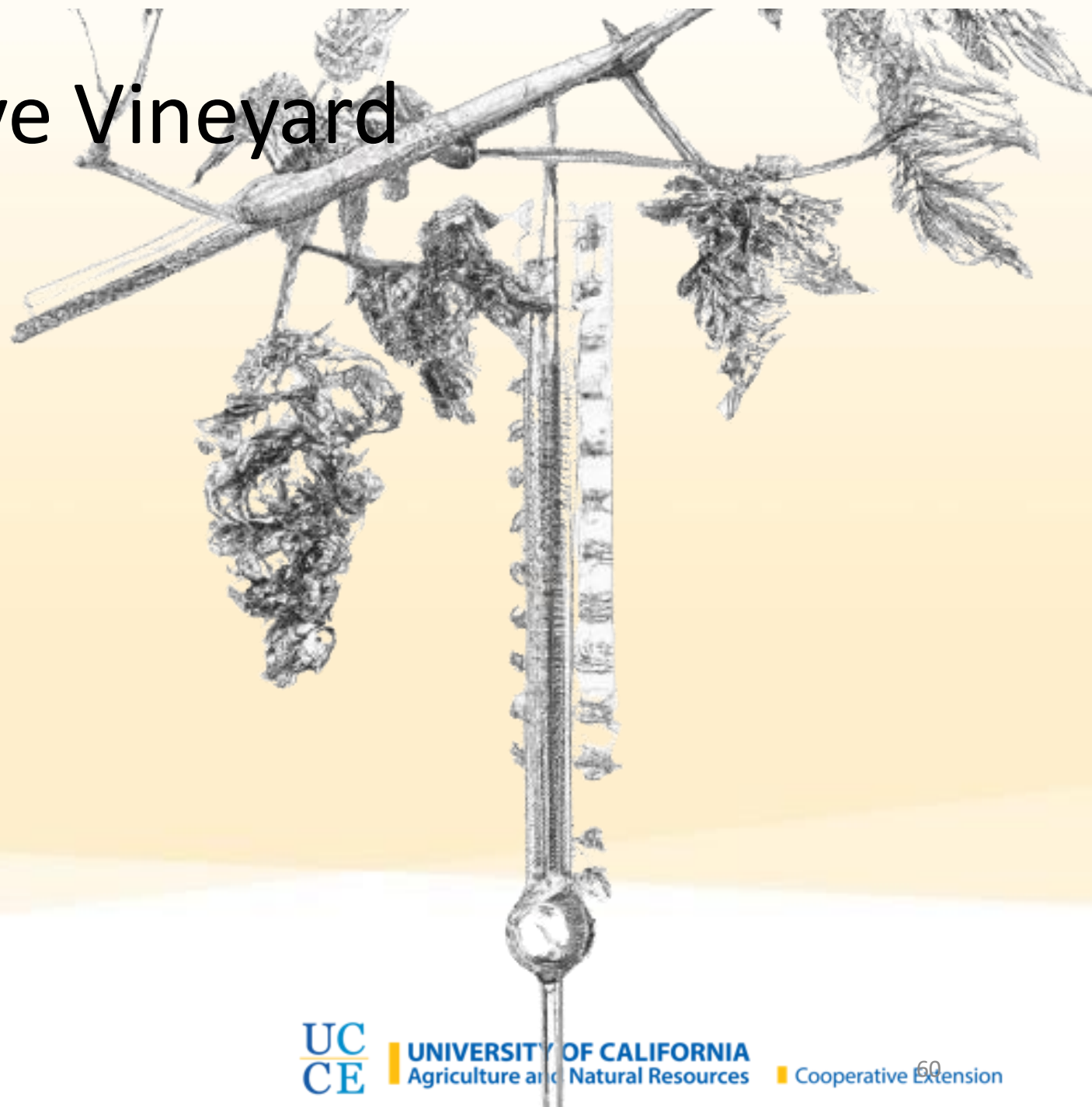
- Dynamic trellises
- As-needed devices

## 8. Consistent monitoring

- Observe and record patterns and trends
- Get ahead of challenges before they become costly

## 9. Ready adoption of new practices

- Growers willing to try out new concepts and practices
- Increase our climate-resilience greatly





# Other Challenges

There are many more challenges when considering adapting vineyard systems to climate change that must be addressed:

Adaptable Infrastructure Labor Supplies

Site Suitability

Smoke-taint in Fruit

Wildfires

'New' Pests

Changes in Beneficials

Alternative Chemical Controls

# How to Assess Climate at Your Vineyard

- CIMIS / Weather Stations
- Temperature loggers
- Soil ~ Water interactions
- Other soil characteristics (i.e., texture)
- Resource access and availability
- Spectrophotometers



# Use Online Resources to Assess your Site

- CropManage

<https://cropmanage.ucanr.edu/>

- OpenET

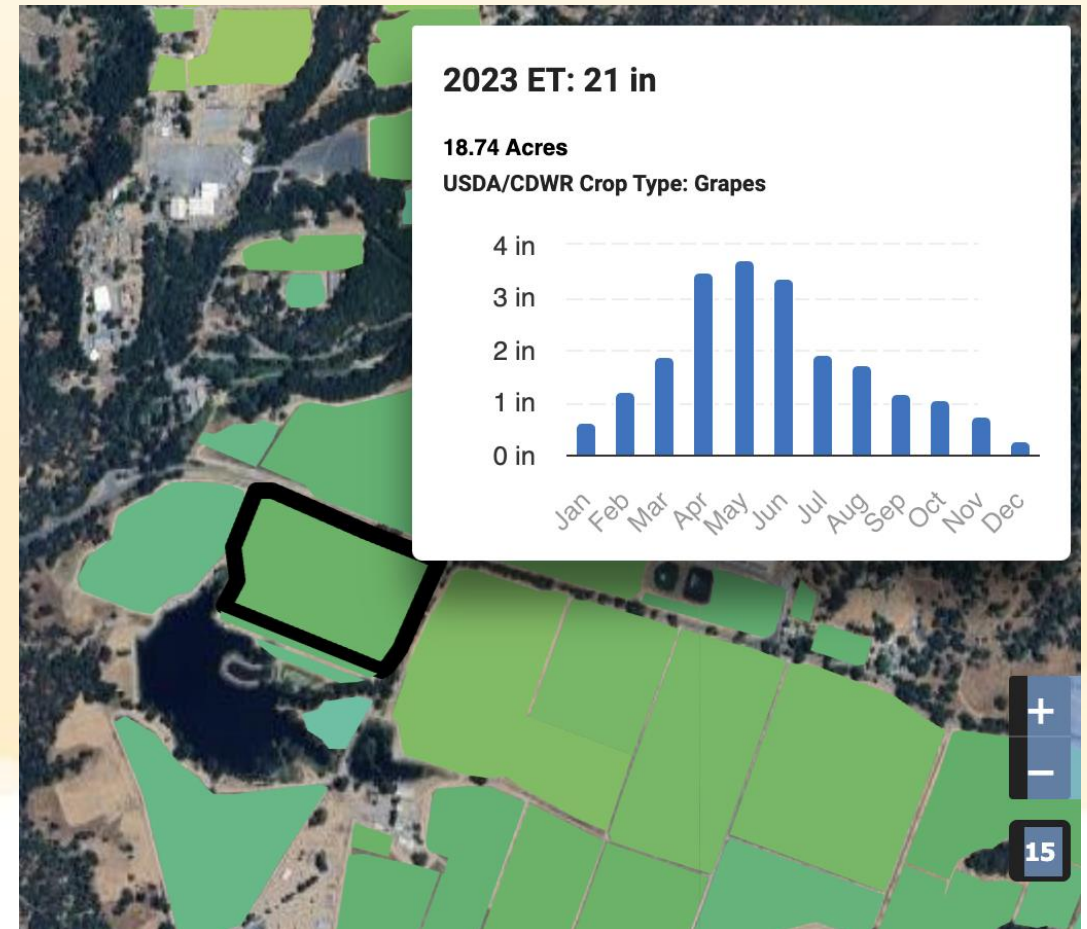
<https://etdata.org/>

- CIMIS

<https://cimis.water.ca.gov/>

- UC IPM

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>







# Summary

1. Climate challenges may be addressed with beneficial traits present in existing cultivars
2. The **direct** and **indirect** challenges of climate change will impact both vines and pests
3. Short-term solutions, like artificial light modification, may be useful when cultivars are locked in
4. Site Conditions > Rootstock
5. There are many ways to improve the climate-resilience of your vineyard; choose the methods that are suited to your site



# Thank you



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