

***Responses of Primocane Blackberries to  
Different Mow-down and Tipping Regimes***

***Blackberry Irrigation Management***

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- *Traditional floricanne blackberries bear on one-year old wood*
  - *have a limited production season*



- *Primocane fruiting varieties fruit on current seasons growth*
  - *more flexibility to manage harvest season*



Field trials to evaluate timing of mow-down and tip pruning  
of Primeark-45 blackberry- **SANTA BARBARA County**

- *Important market window remains*
- *Previous research showed advantages to tip pruning*
- *Mow-down January 15, February 15, March 15*





***Tip pruning : force branching to increase fruiting branches and yield.***

- *Timing is important*
- *When? Repeat later?*



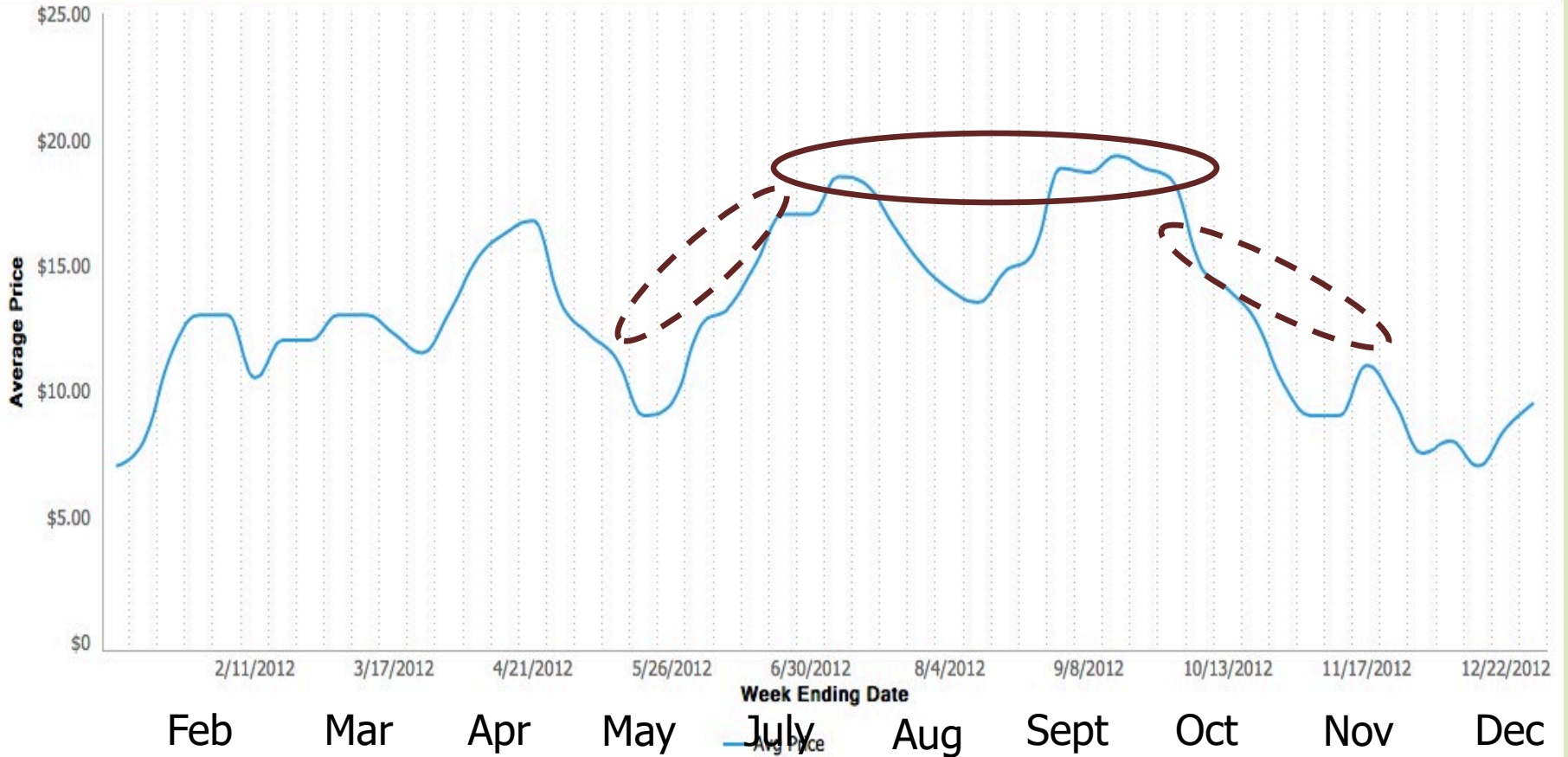
## *2013 Primeark 45 pruning / tipping trials*

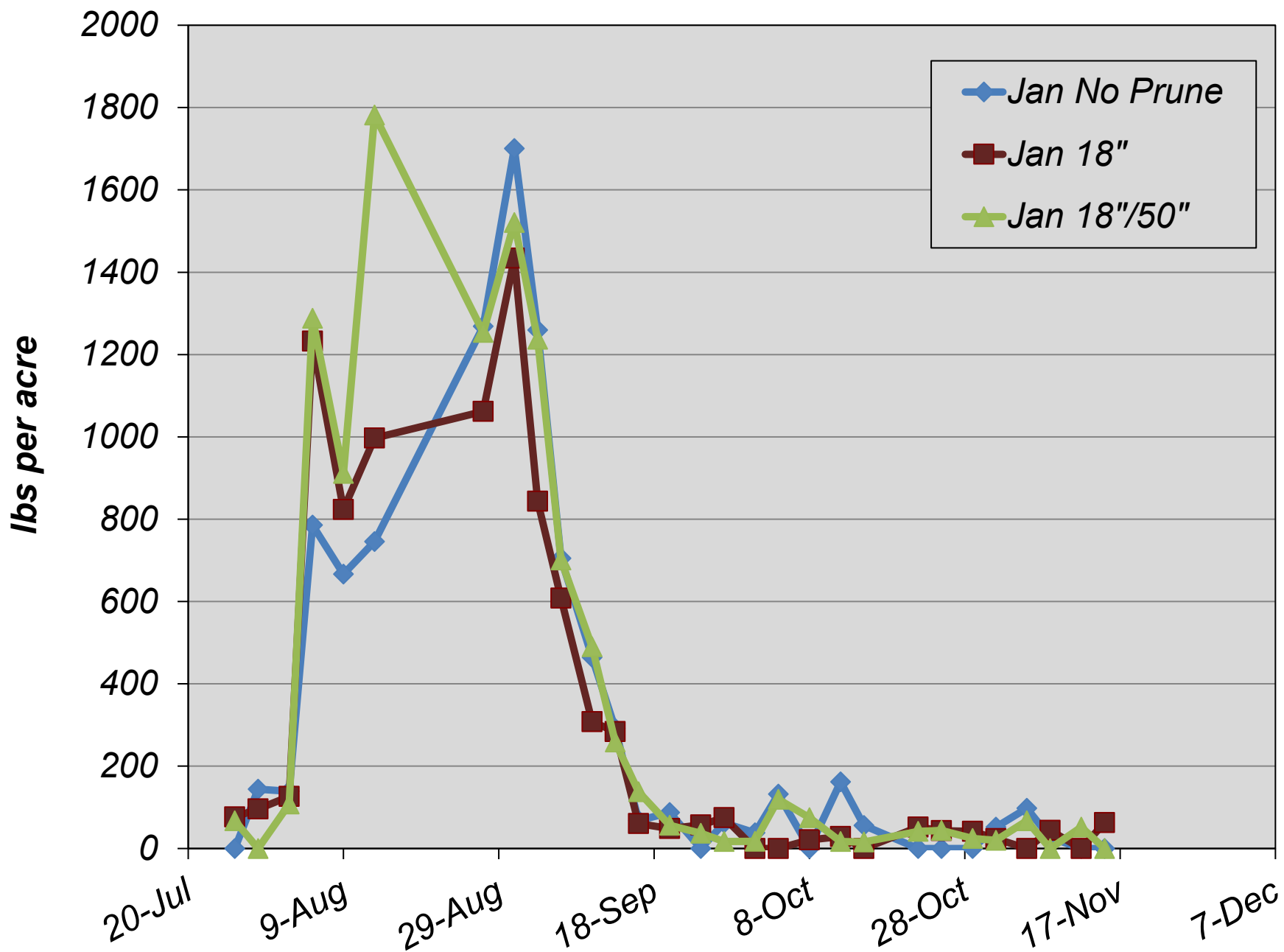
- *Two sites*  
***Nipomo*** – open field until June  
***Los Alamos*** – tunnel from beginning
- *Mow-down at varying times – January to April*  
+ *floricane – Los Alamos*
- *Tipping height (Nipomo)*
  - 18"
  - 50"
  - 18' 50"
  - none

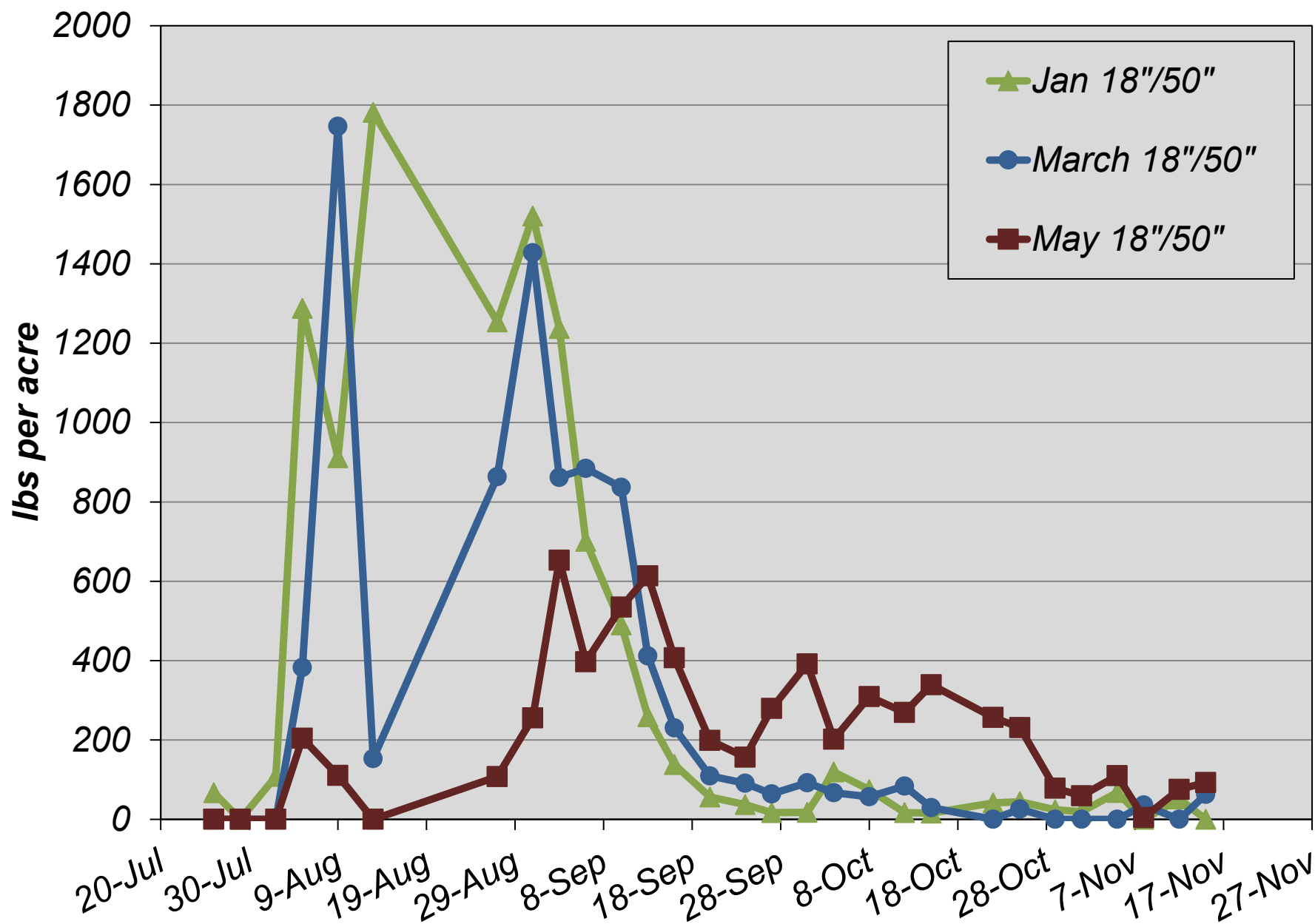
# All Shipping Points

\$14.05

## Average Price Trend











## *Total Seasonal Berry Yield (marketable)*

Pruning Treatment	Yield (lb / acre)
January mow / no tip	8,960
January mow 18" tip	8,481
January mow 18" tip + 50" tip	10,469
March mow / no tip	7,697
March mow /18" tip	9,530
March mow / 18" tip + 50" tip	8,518
May mow / no tip	5,762
May mow / 18" tip	6,392
May mow / 18" + 50" tip	6,358



*Primocane vegetative growth may be excessive in warm tunnels*





## *Questions for future trials*

### *Floriculture pruning of Primeark?*

- Does elimination of foliage with mow-down affect redberry mite?*
- Is traditional redberry control with oils adequate enough to take advantage of earlier harvest resulting from floriculture pruning?*

### *In-season pruning?*

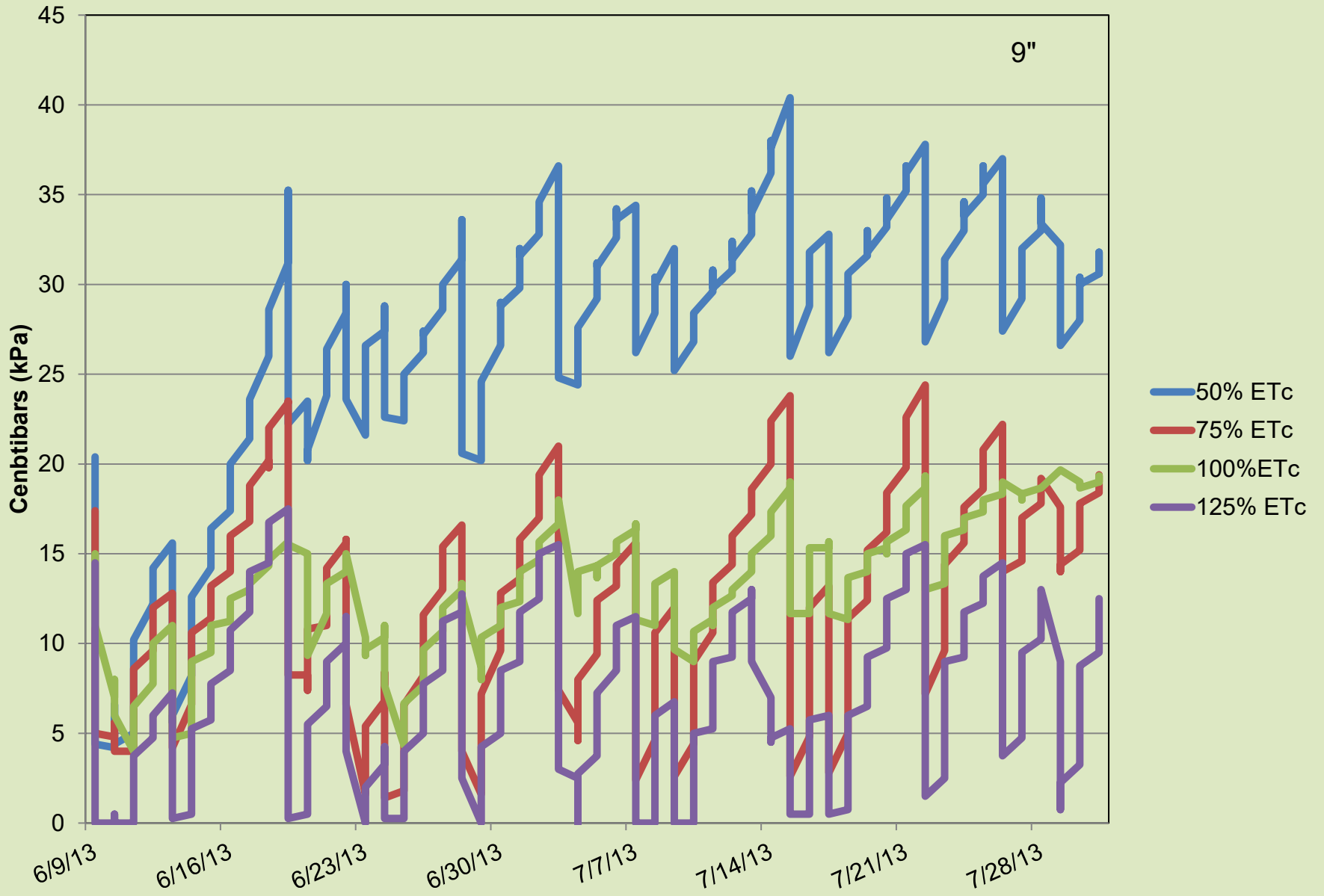
- What about late season pruning?  
- will August cut back to 3 ft increase October production?*

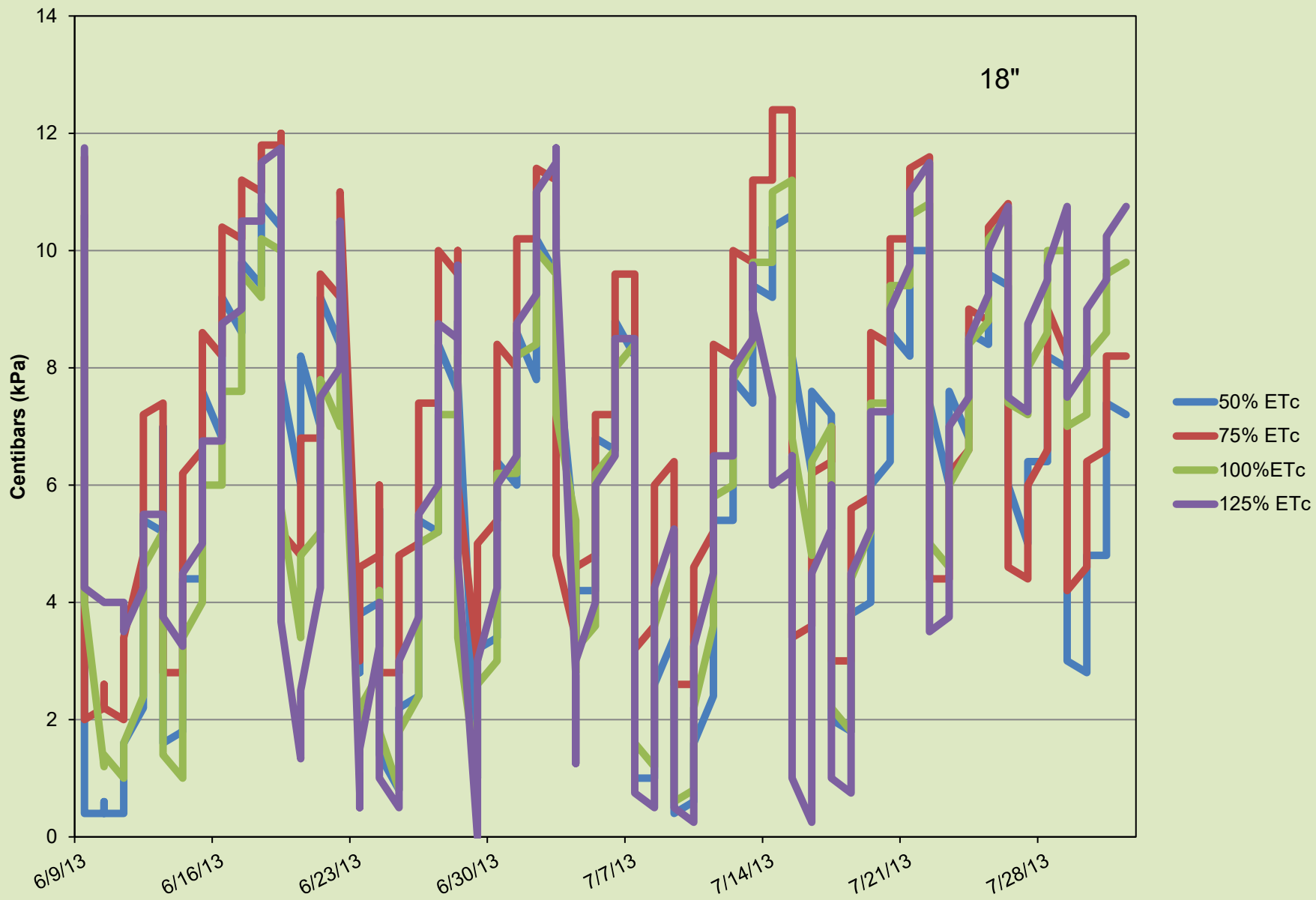
### *Effects of tunnels, heating?*

- Put up plastic as late as possible to minimize vegetative growth, reduce fruiting height?*

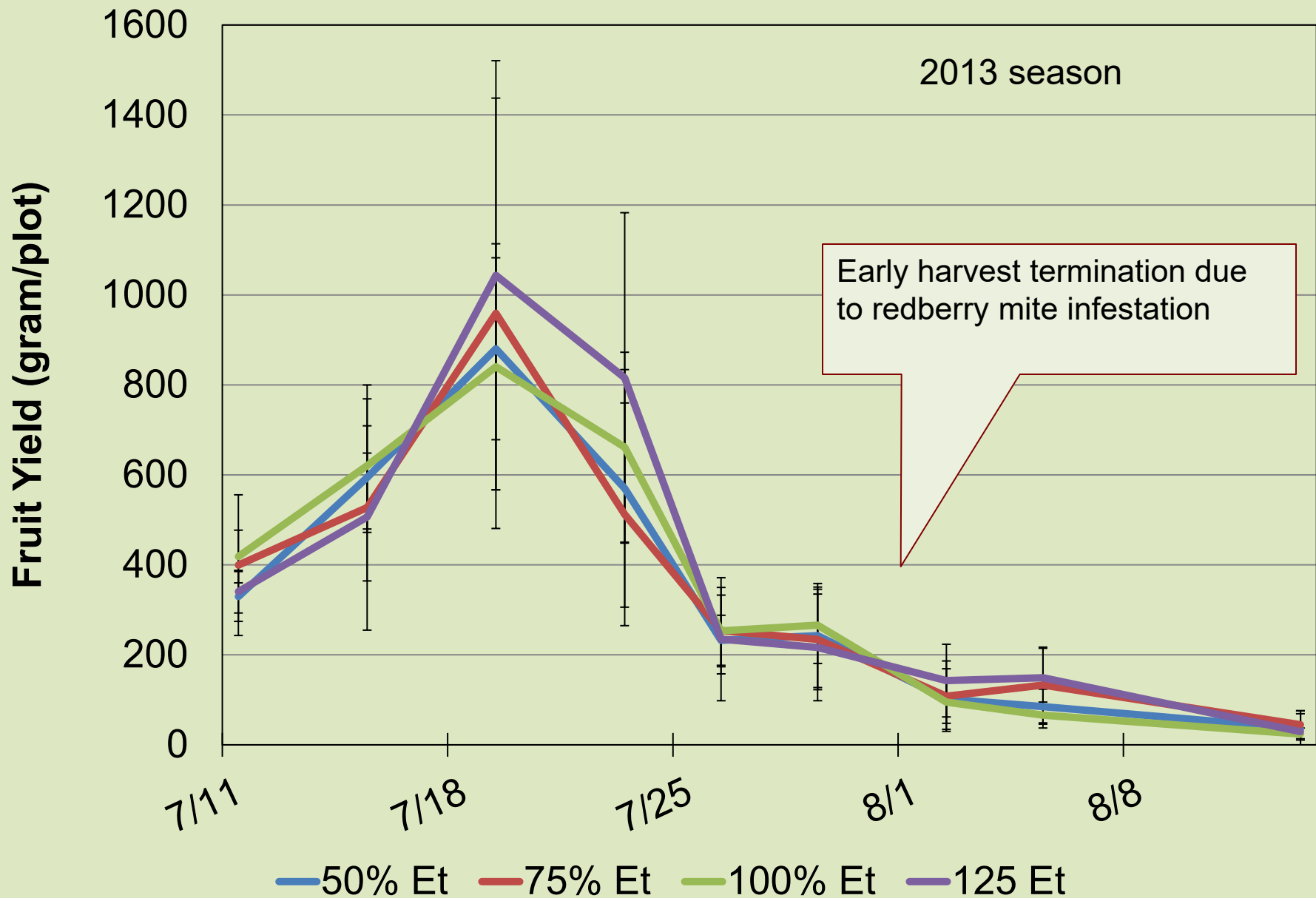
## *2013 Ouachita Irrigation Management*

- *Effects of irrigation regime on blackberry yield and quality*
- *Compared weekly harvests at 4 irrigation regimes*
  - > 50 % Et*
  - > 75% Et*
  - > 100% Et*
  - > 125% Et*











## *Acknowledgements*

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