

# Bases nutricionales para la construcción de fruta de alta calidad

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# The Continuum

The most important thing to remember is that there is a **continuum** from the grower to the consumer

*The steps in the continuum*

**Grower** – Packer – Distribution – **Consumer**

*For this reason it is imperative that growers be involved at all levels of our industry*

# Susceptibility to low storage temperatures



External Chilling Injury



Internal Chilling Injury

# There are problems with fruit arrivals



# Limitations to postharvest handling

- Preharvest Factors
- Postharvest Factors
  - Fruit maturity and quality
  - Storage duration
  - Stage of ripeness

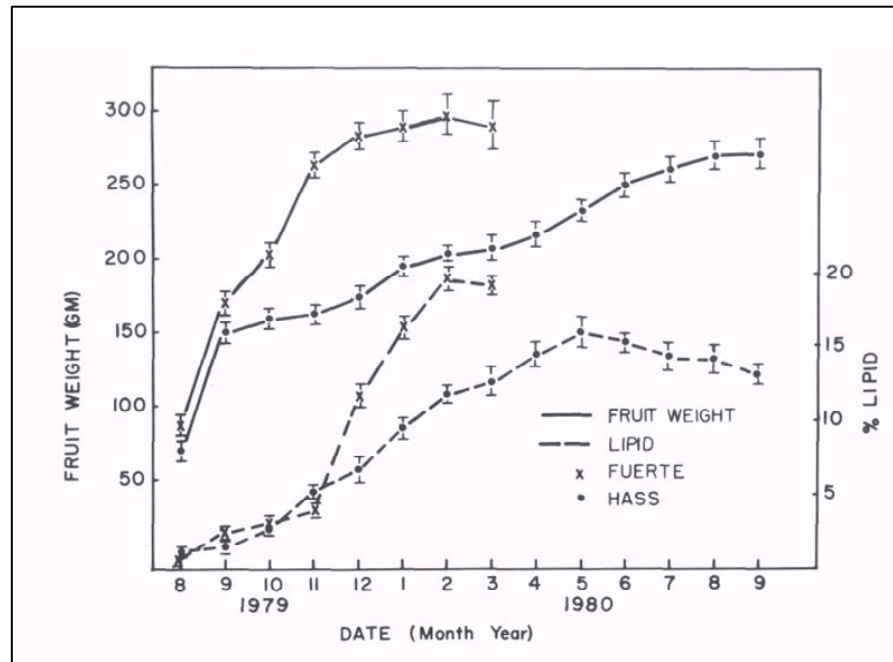
The key for solving  
our problems are  
under our control  
and are profoundly  
influenced by tree  
management

**WE MUST  
UNDERSTAND  
THE AVOCADO**



## Unusual things about the avocado fruit:

- ✓ Continued cell division during growth and development
- ✓ Contains many healthy phytochemicals and unusual sugars
- ✓ Accumulates large quantities of lipids in the fruit flesh



Eaks, 1990



THE TERTOHO AVOCADO, ONE OF THE LARGEST GUATEMALAN VARIETIES.

The fruits here shown are not yet fully grown. Good specimens of this variety weigh 3 pounds and are of excellent quality, the flesh being rich yellow in color, free from all discoloration, and of nutty flavor. The seed, as will be noticed in the illustration, is comparatively small. This variety has a considerable reputation in the vicinity of the city of Guatemala, owing principally to its large size. Avocados weighing more than 2 pounds are rare in Guatemala. (Photographed at the city of Guatemala, December 2, 1917; P17466FS.)

Relatively "new" crop to domestication

Highly diverse

Still retains the traits that are adapted to its native neotropical rainforest habitat

The physiology of the tree is poorly understood



*"Minimization of stress is increasingly the key to commercial viability. Climate and soil selection are the foremost determinants."*

*N. Wolsthenholme, 2002*





# The link between the preharvest environment and fruit quality

## **BOTTOM LINE:**

**Quality does NOT improve after harvest**

- Nutritional management - N, Ca relationships
- Rootstocks/pollinizers - what influence do they have?
- Stress - cold, salinity, irrigation management
- Canopy management - managing light

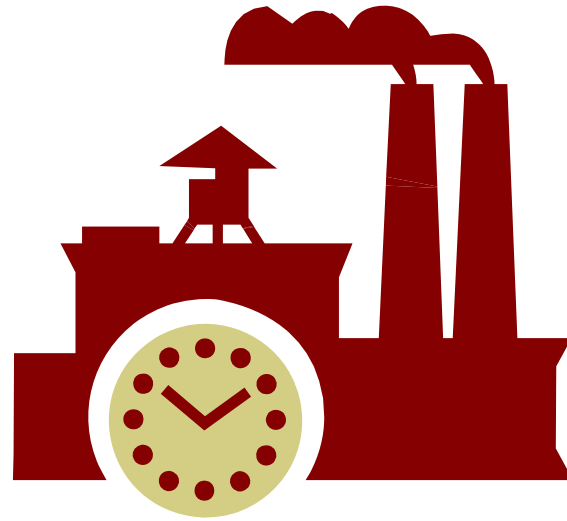
*All contribute to fruit quality; interact with each other*

*Important to understand interaction with fruit maturity as well*

Raw  
Materials



Labor



Product

Light  
Carbon Dioxide  
Temperature  
Water  
Nutrients



Labor



Fruit

Where is the key control point of the Factory?



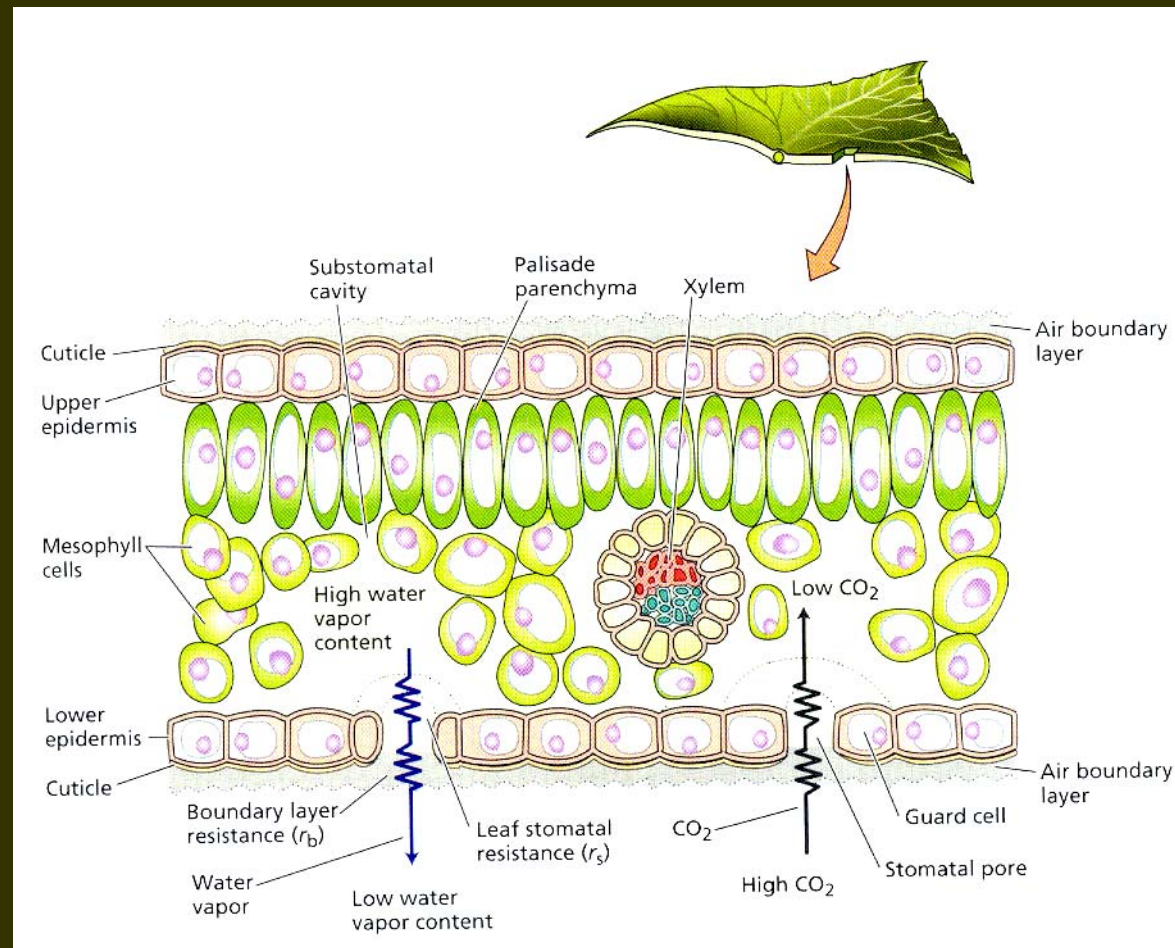
# Photosynthesis is the "factory"



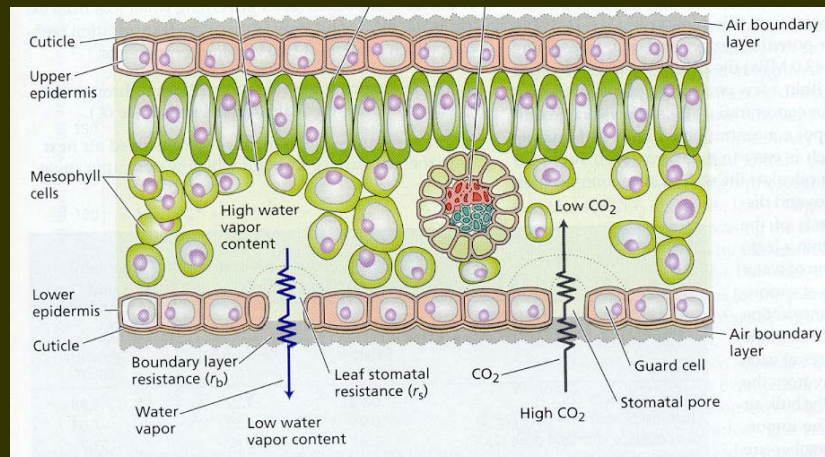
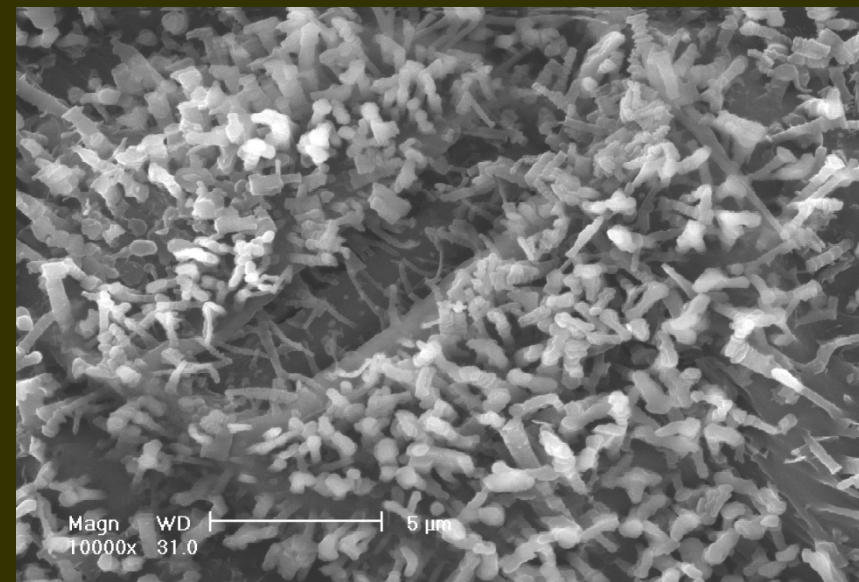
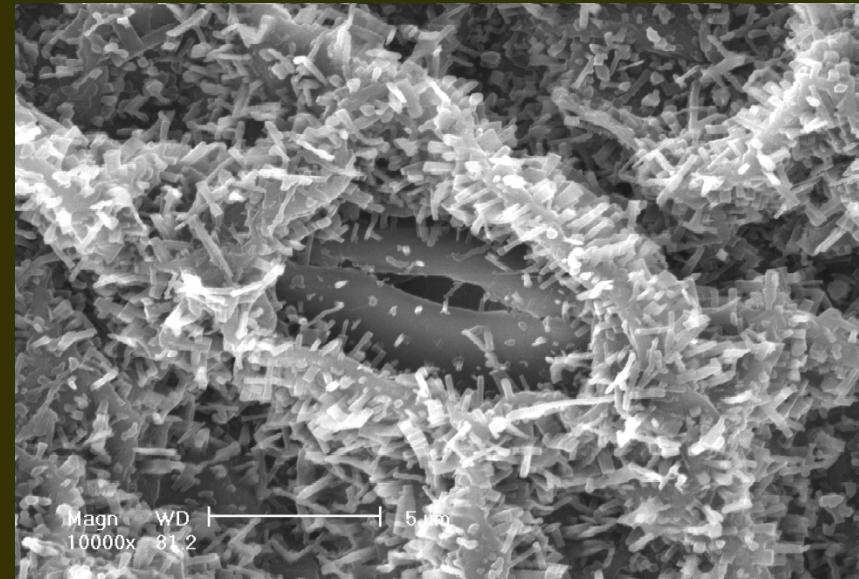
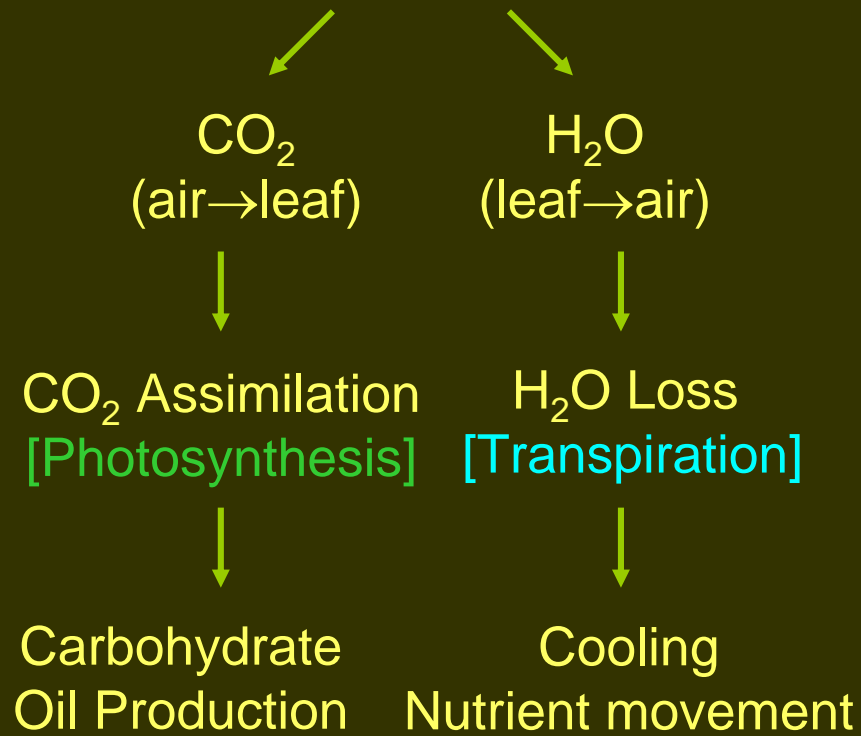
What factors limit photosynthesis?

STOMATA =  
CO<sub>2</sub> & WATER FLOW

# Stomates control water loss (transpiration) and $\text{CO}_2$ uptake (photosynthesis)

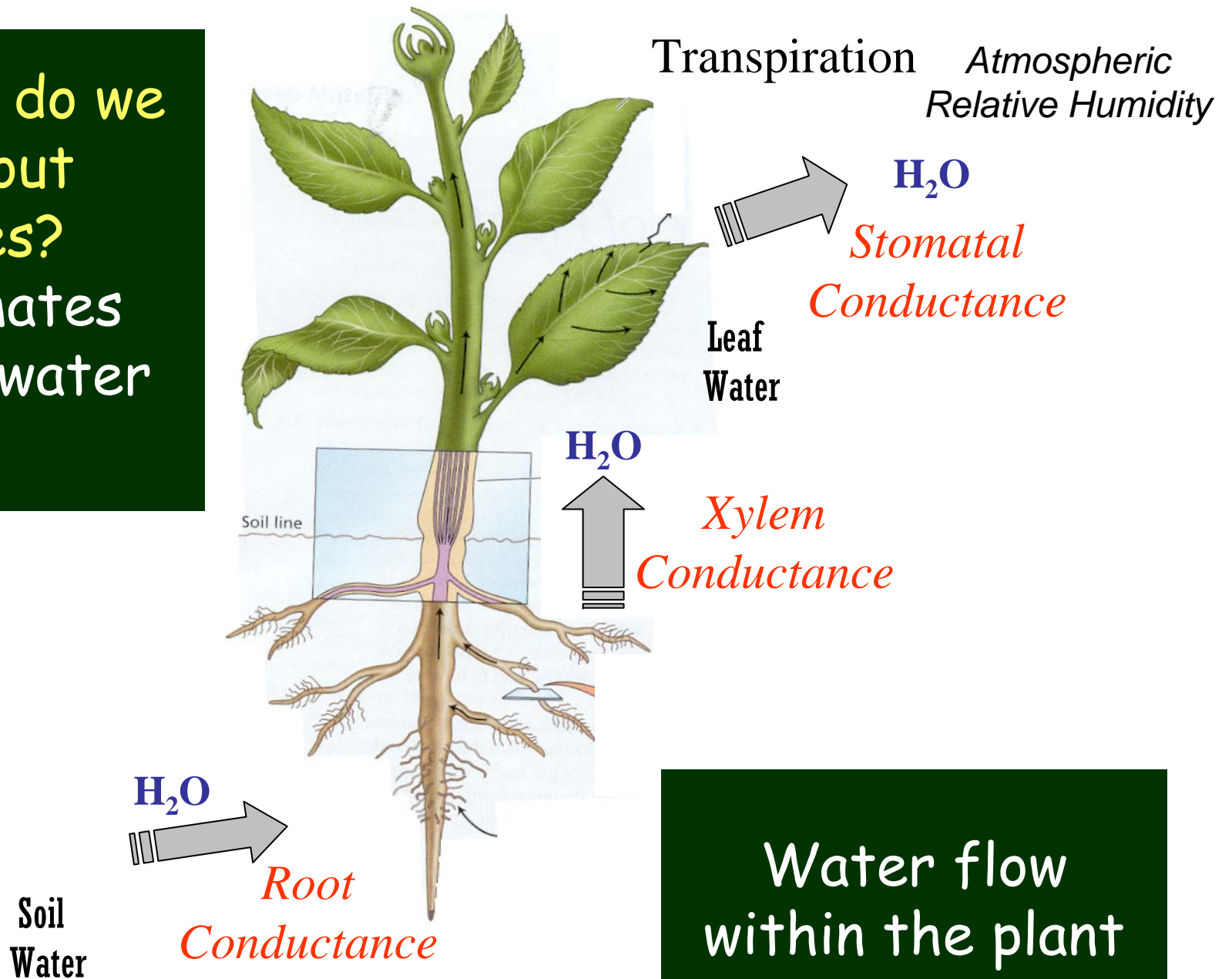


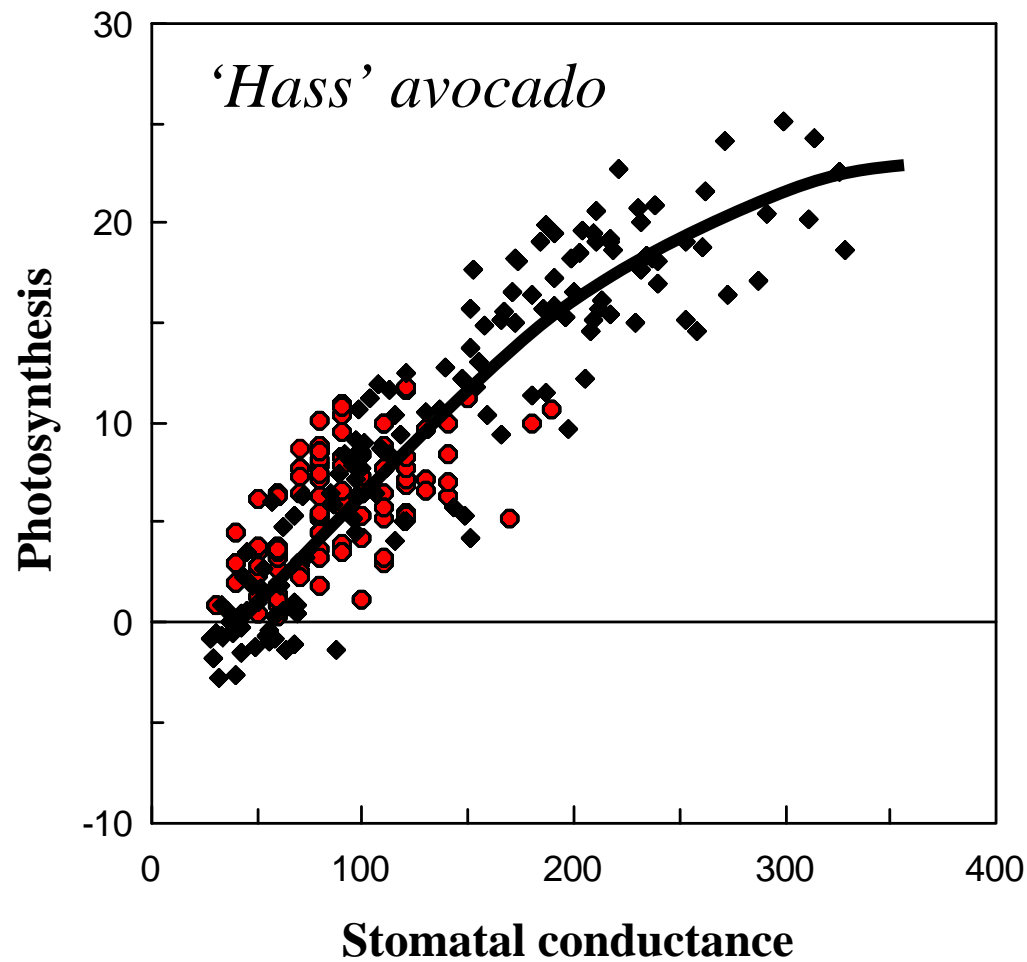
# Stomate (regulated opening in leaf)



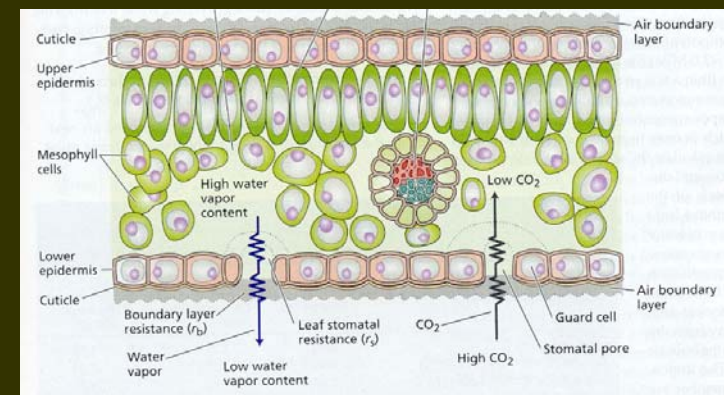
Q: Why do we care about stomates?

A: Stomates control water loss





Photosynthesis is related to stomatal conductance





# Factors that affect photosynthesis

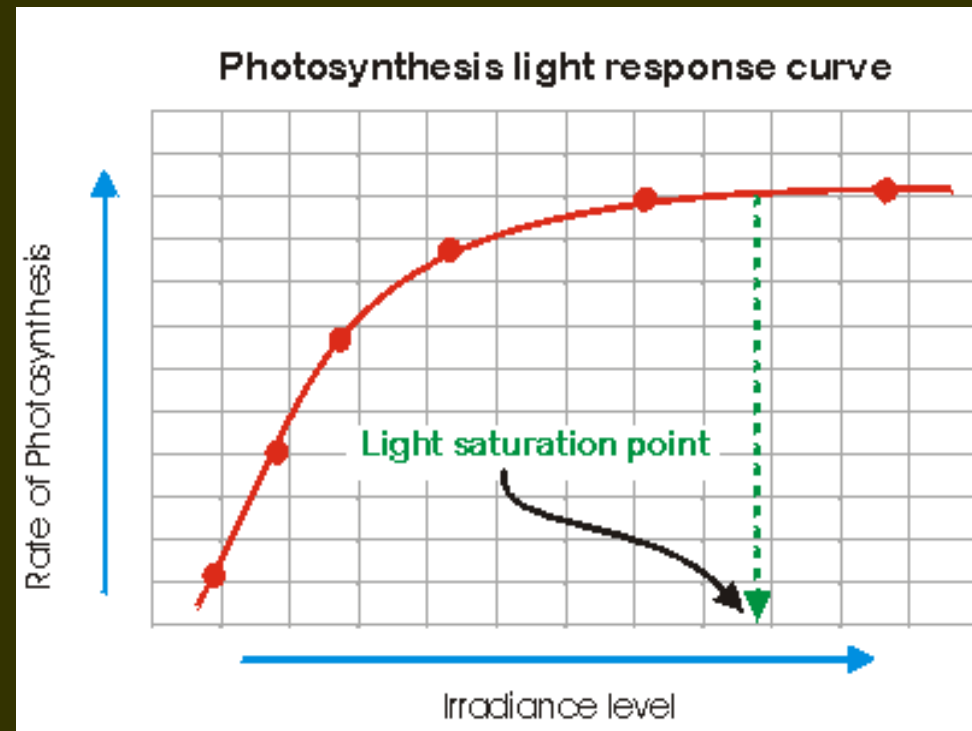
- Light
- Temperature
- Relative humidity
- Wind
- Water



# Light

Avocado leaves reach the light saturation point at 1/4 to 1/3 full sunlight.

Light *quantity* and *quality* are reduced with successive canopy layers.



# Low density planting



# High Density



# Half-tree contour of light penetration – Hedge Row

Extent of effective light penetration

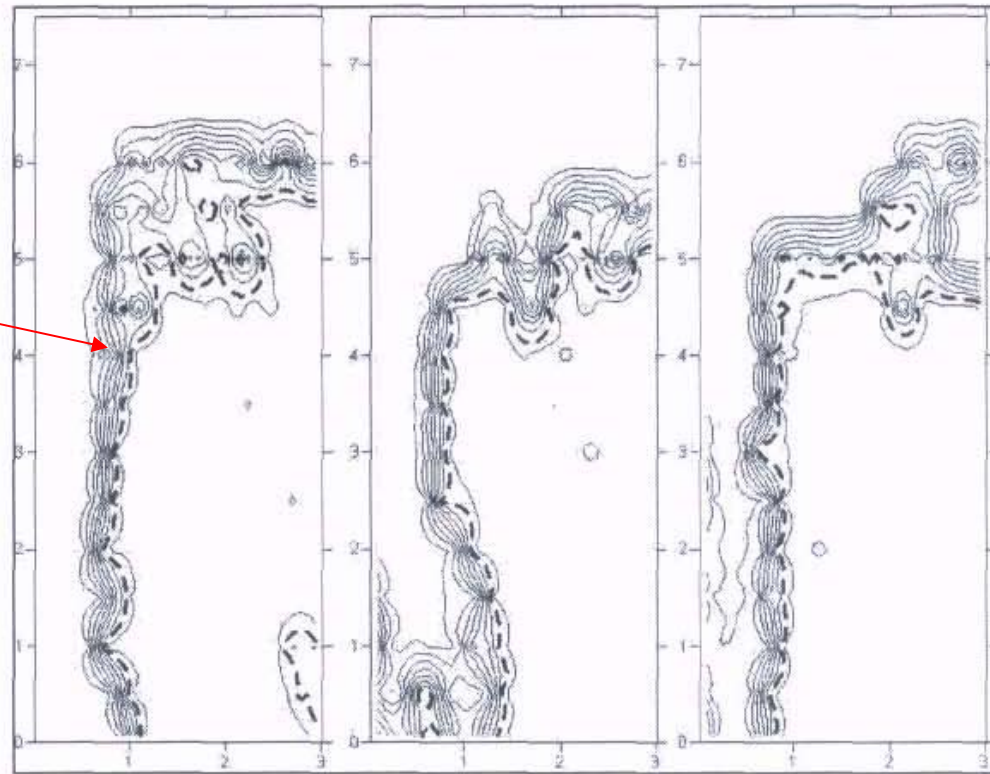


Figure 51– Contours of half-tree cross sections based on measurements done on the 7/9/2003 in ‘Shomrat’ orchard: CV. Hass: pruned hedgerow: three different cross sections from the same row.

# Light penetration into the tree

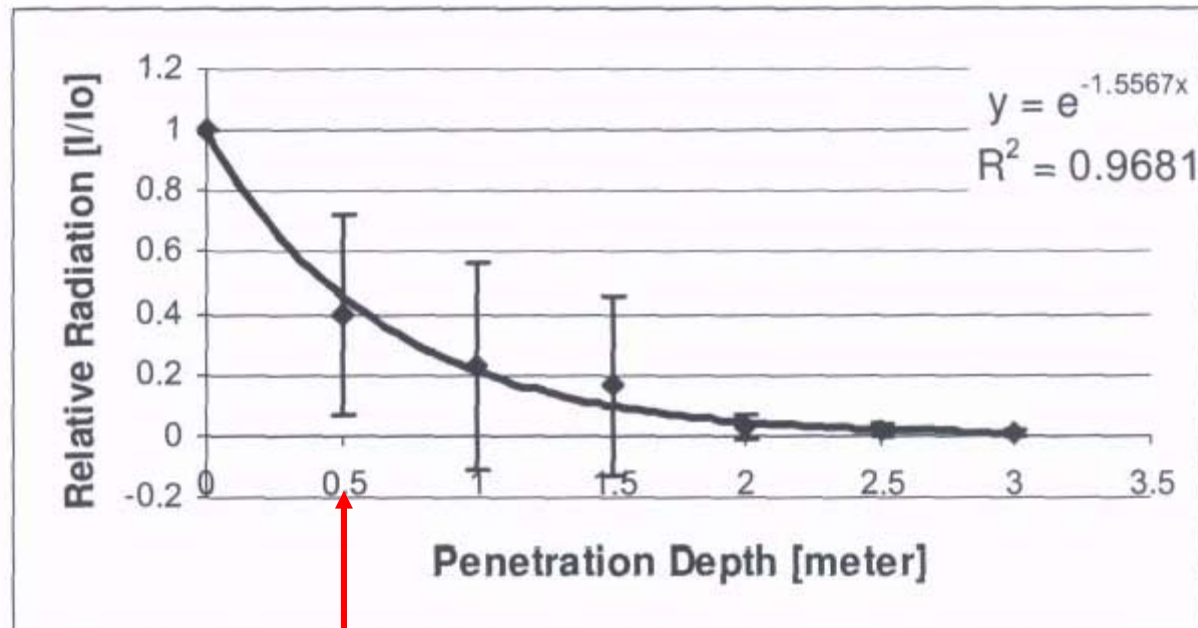


Figure 53- Relative irradiance in different depth of the canopy as measured on the 3/9/2003; "Shomrat orchard", CV. 'Hass'.

60% reduction of light penetration within 0.5 m

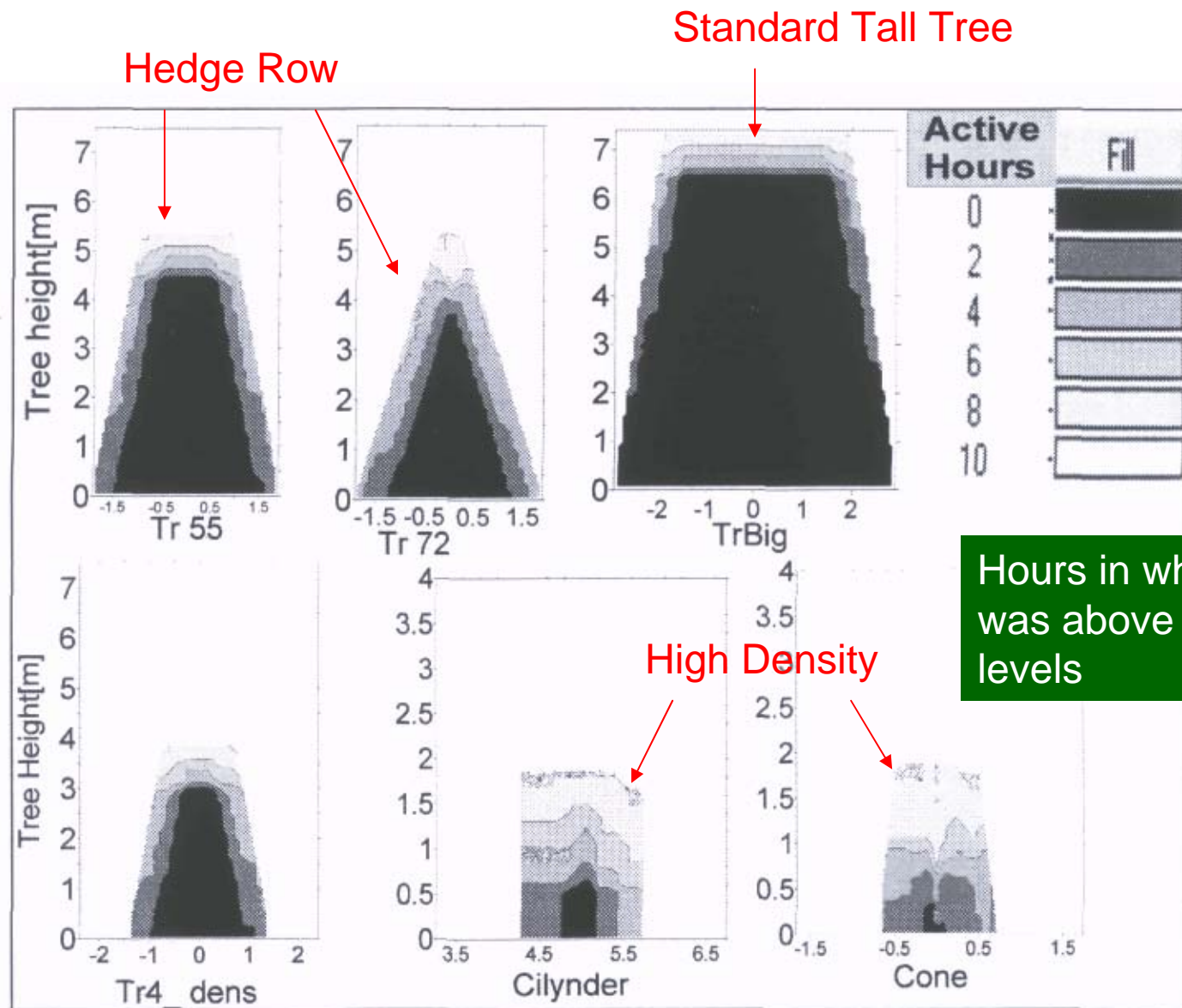
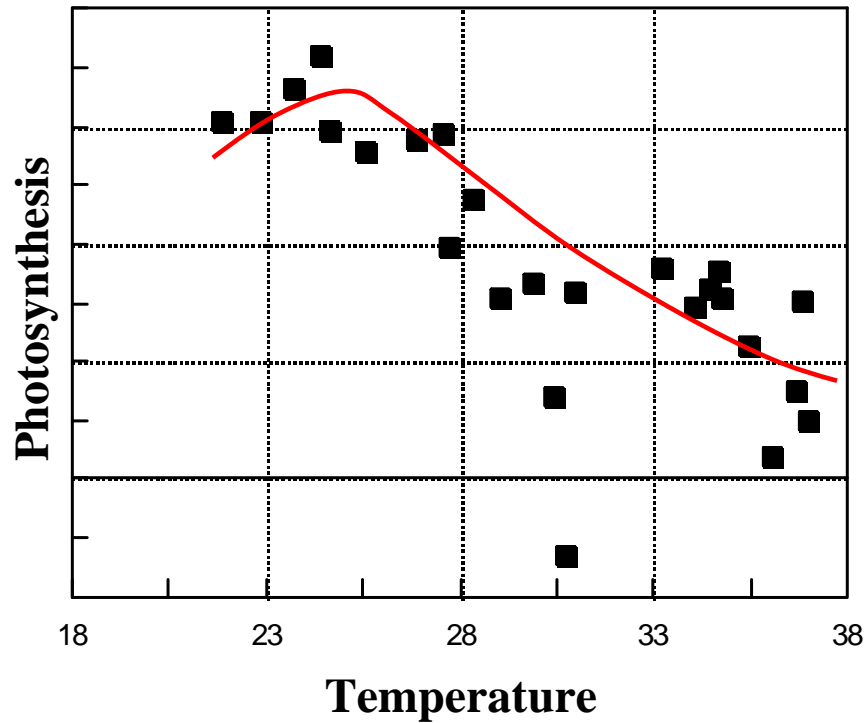


Figure 50 - Seasonal averaged daily exposure hours with PAR above the threshold level in selected models.

# Temperature

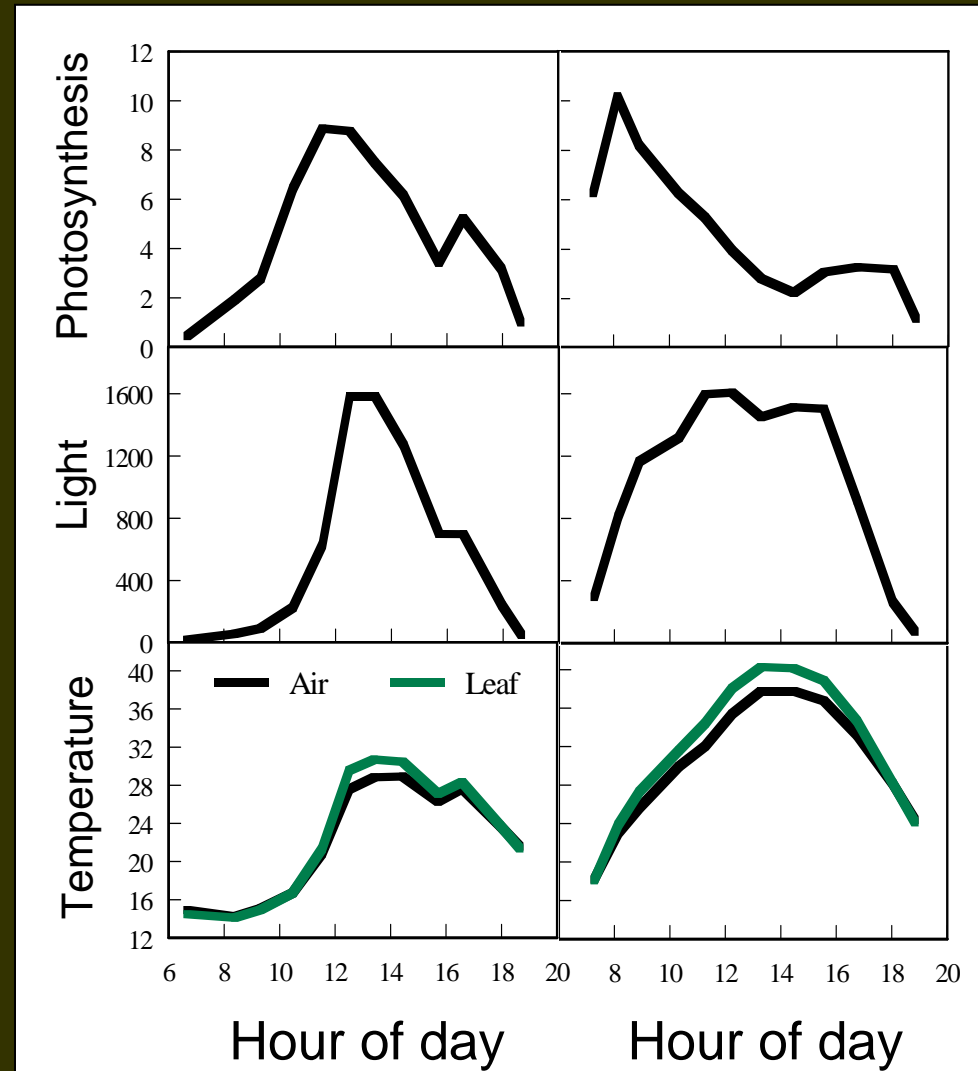


Photosynthesis is reduced at high temperatures.



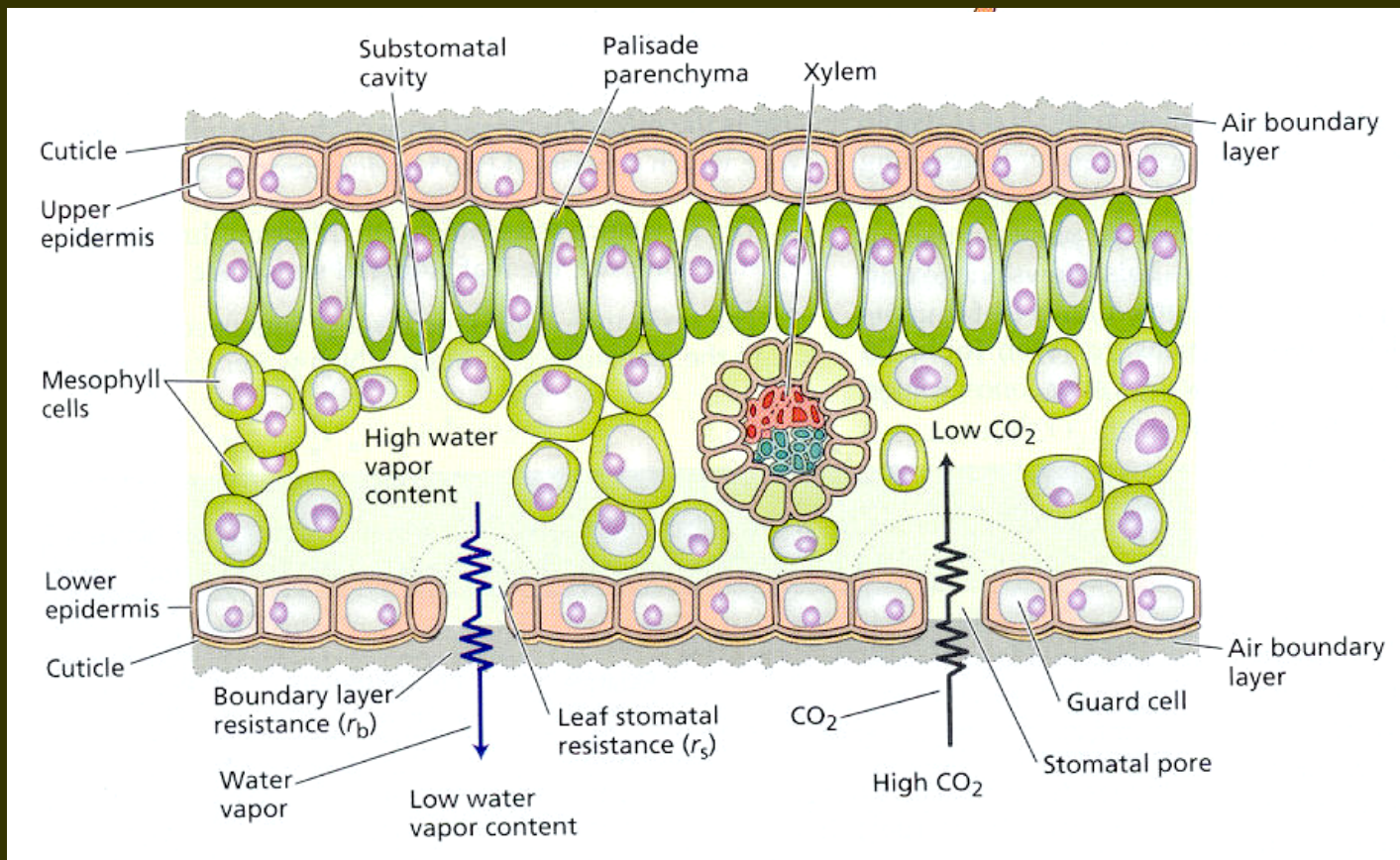
# Temperature

High afternoon temperatures reduce photosynthesis.

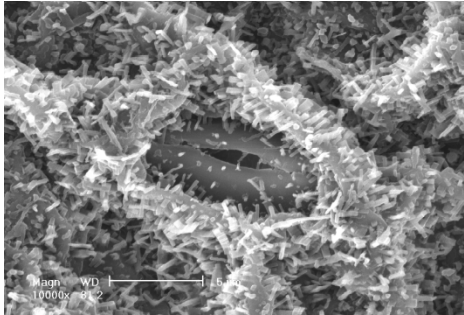
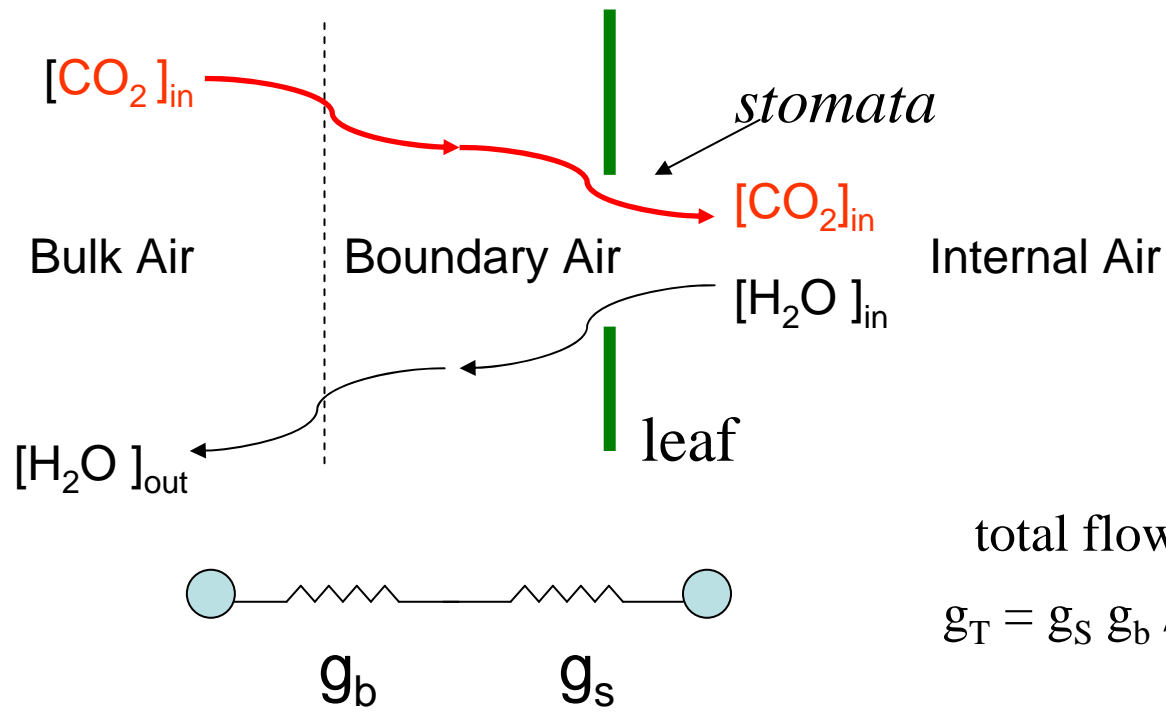


# Wind

Boundary layer increases with low air movement, limiting photosynthesis.



# Wind



total flow is:

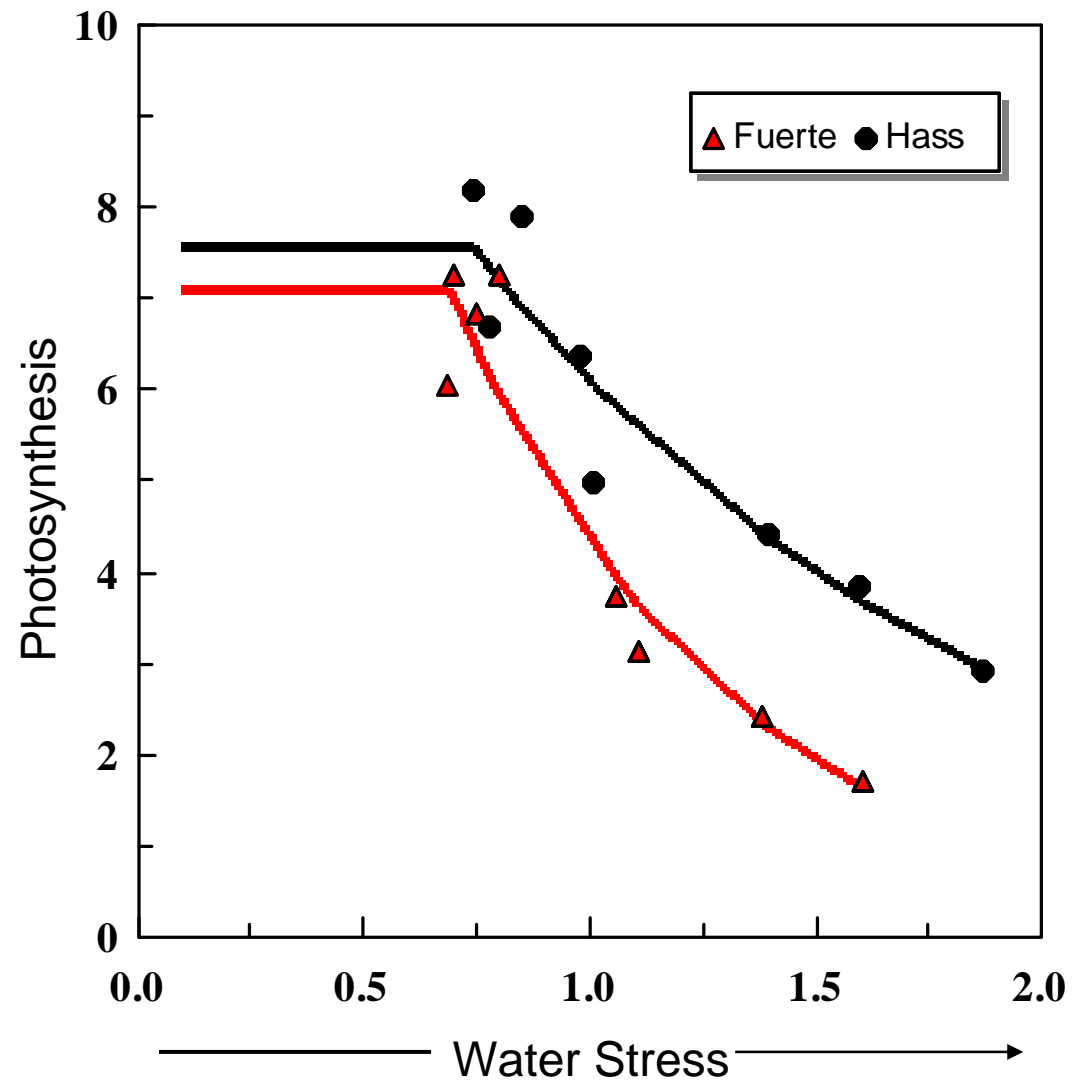
$$g_T = g_S g_b / (g_S + g_b)$$

*Goal is lowest water loss dependent upon the roots' ability to gather water.*

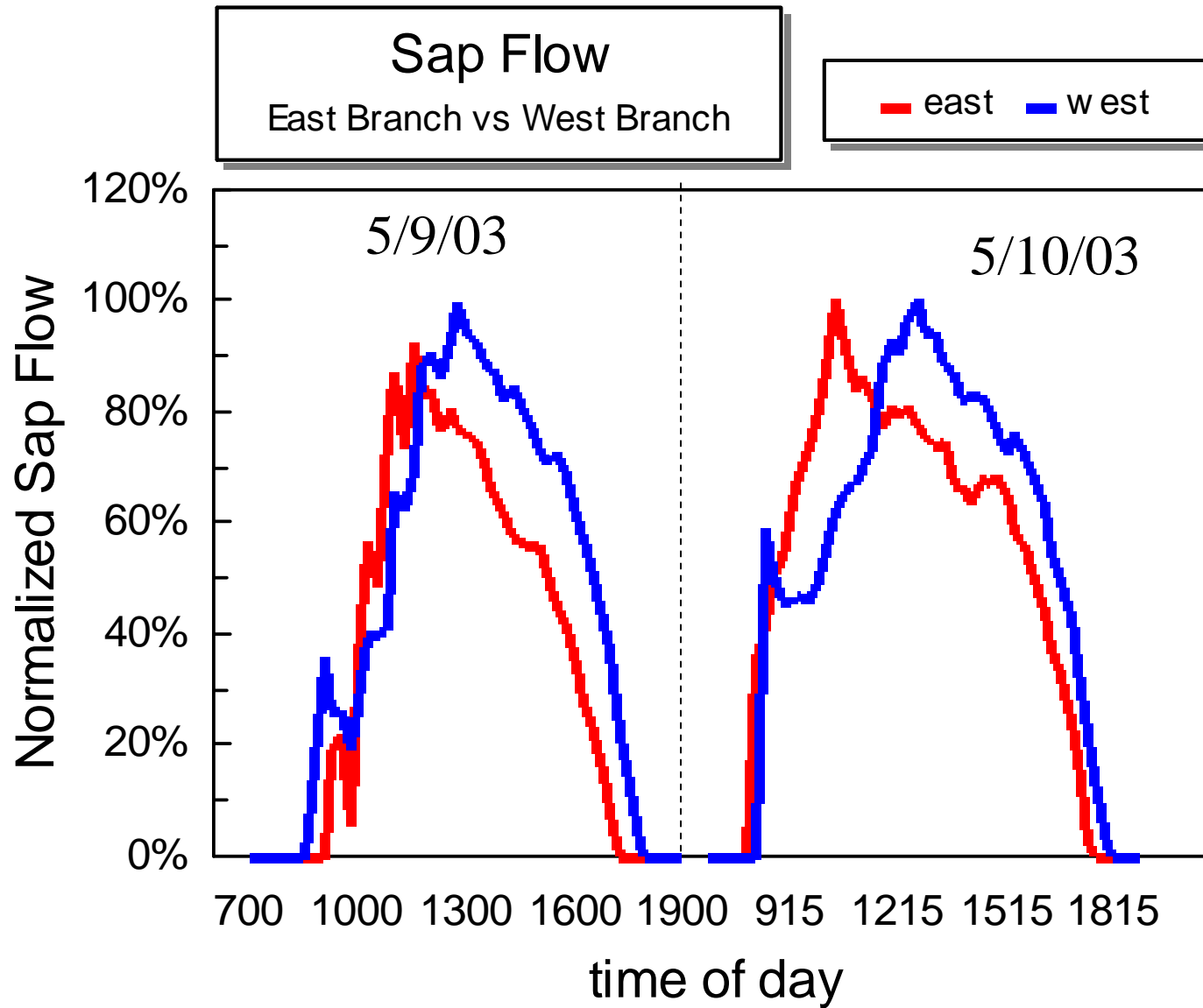
*Goal is highest photosynthetic rate (dependent upon light intensity) but also upon flow of  $CO_2$*

# Water

Leaf water stress reduces photosynthesis.



# Water Flow



# *Canopy Management/Pruning*



*May have an effect on fruit quality*

*Aim at fruit requirements not wood*

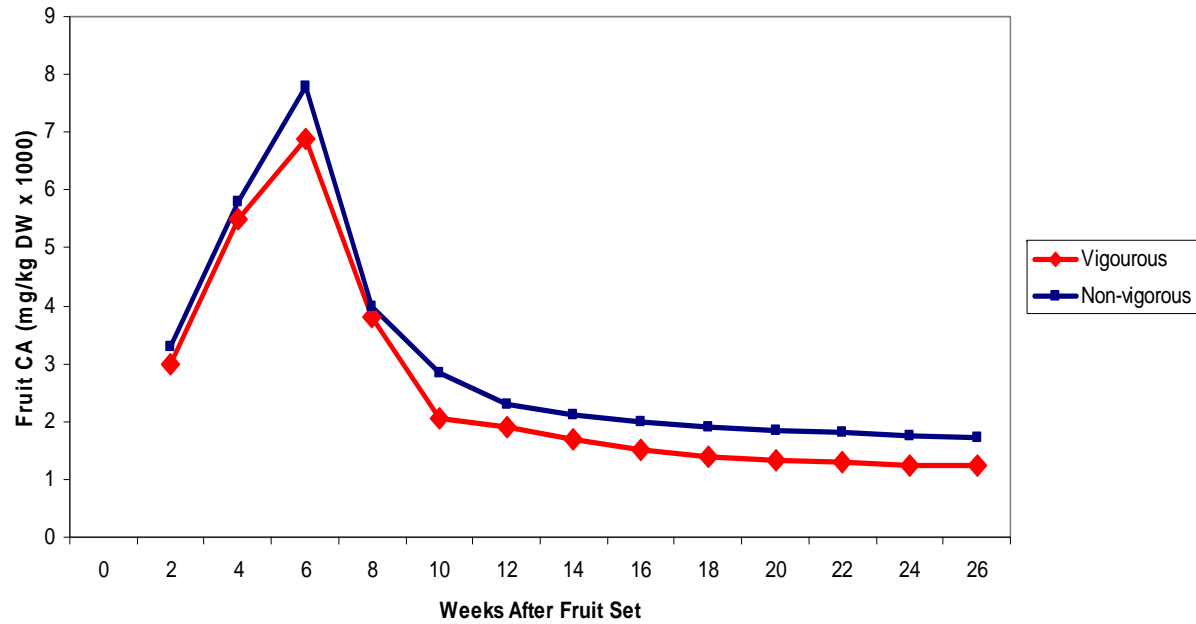
## *Effects of tree vigor on fruit quality*

Individual tree yield records were maintained

Based on overall tree yield and storage quality the following observations were made:

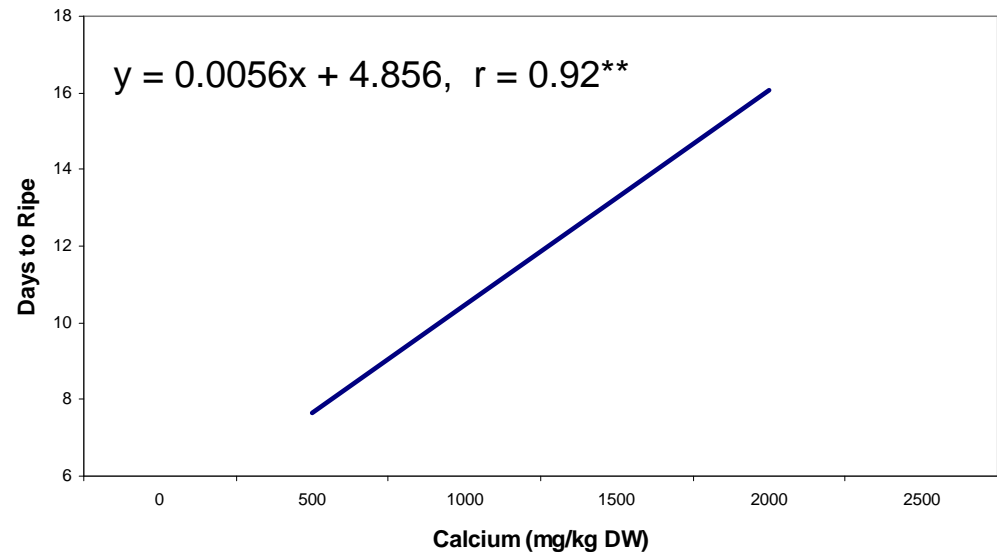
In vigorous, low yielding trees all forms of chilling injury were observed in higher amounts following 28 days at 5.5C

Low yielding trees had lower pulp calcium, zinc and manganese



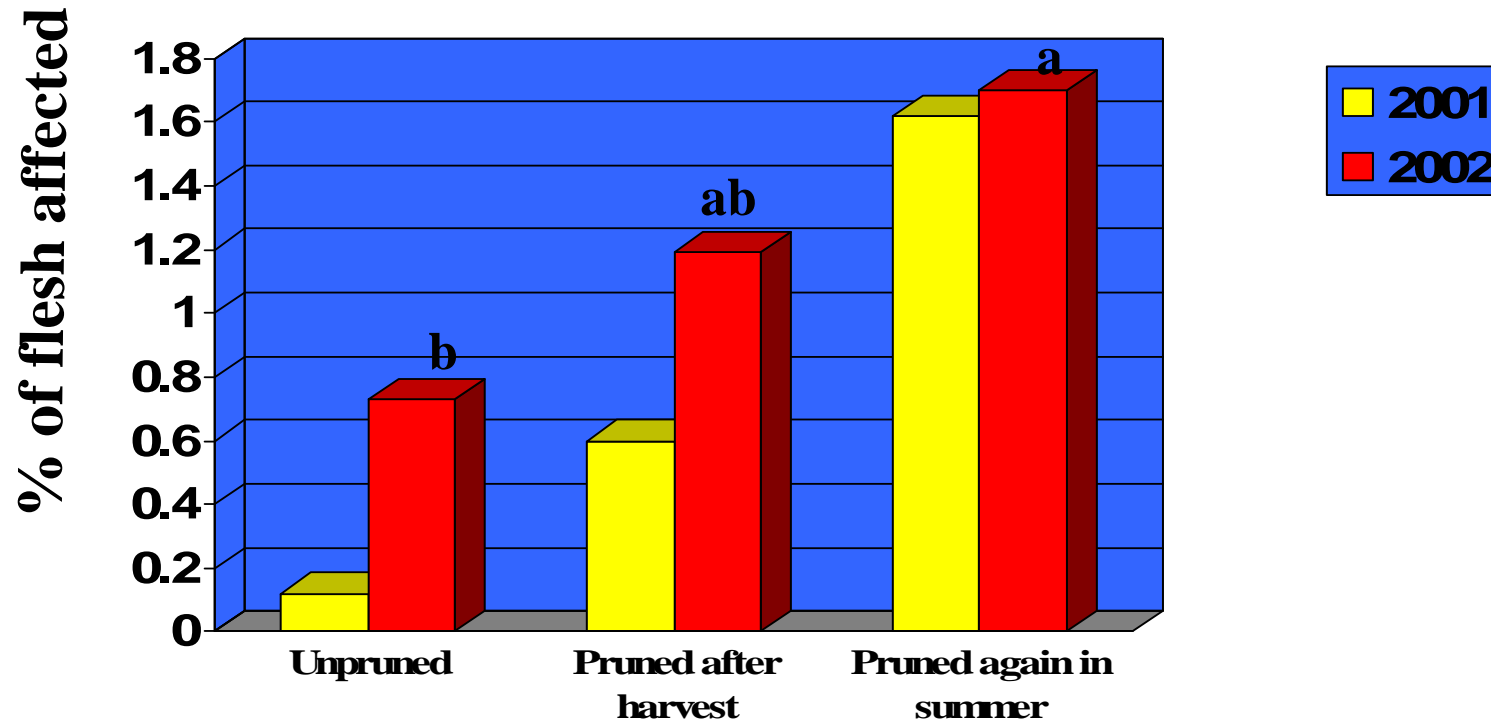
Tree vigor influences calcium levels in the fruit

Calcium affects the rate of ripening



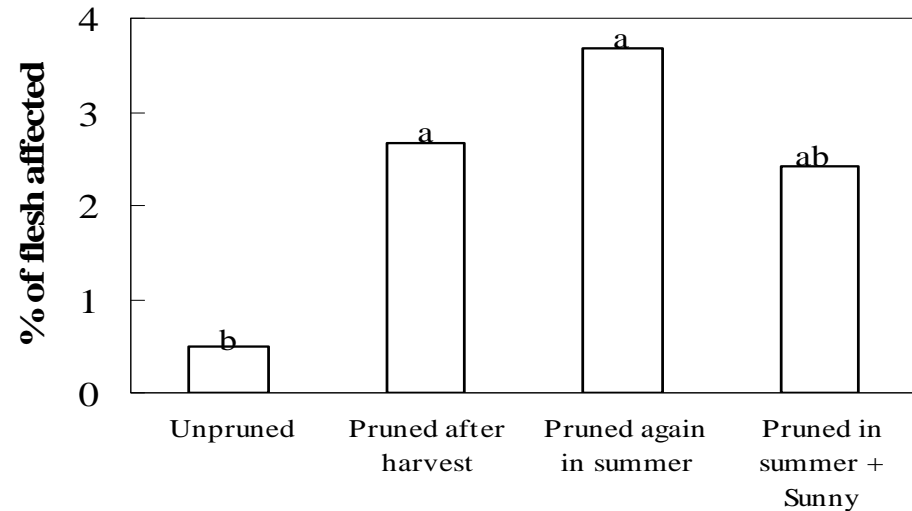
Witney et al, 1991





Increased vegetative vigor from pruning can result in increased decay and physiological disorders

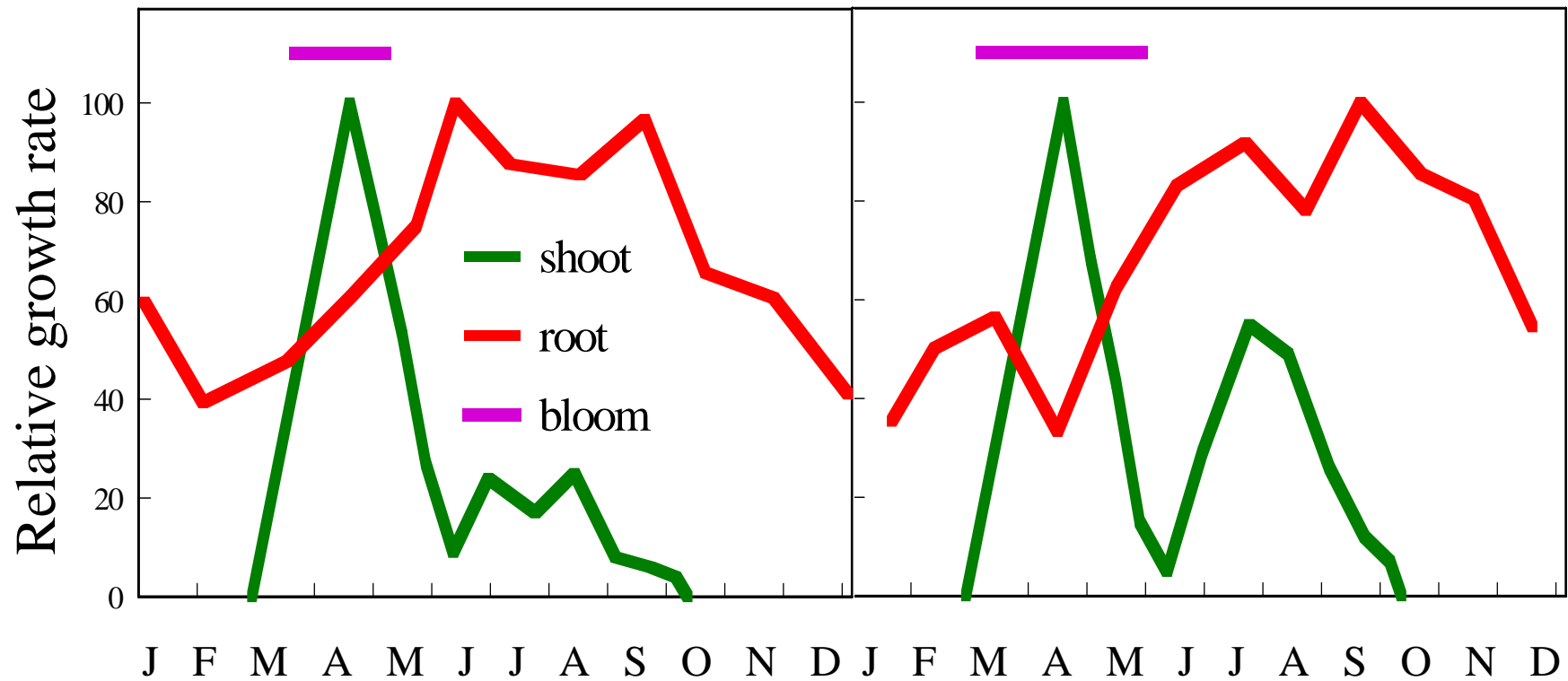
Diffuse discoloration



# Phenology model

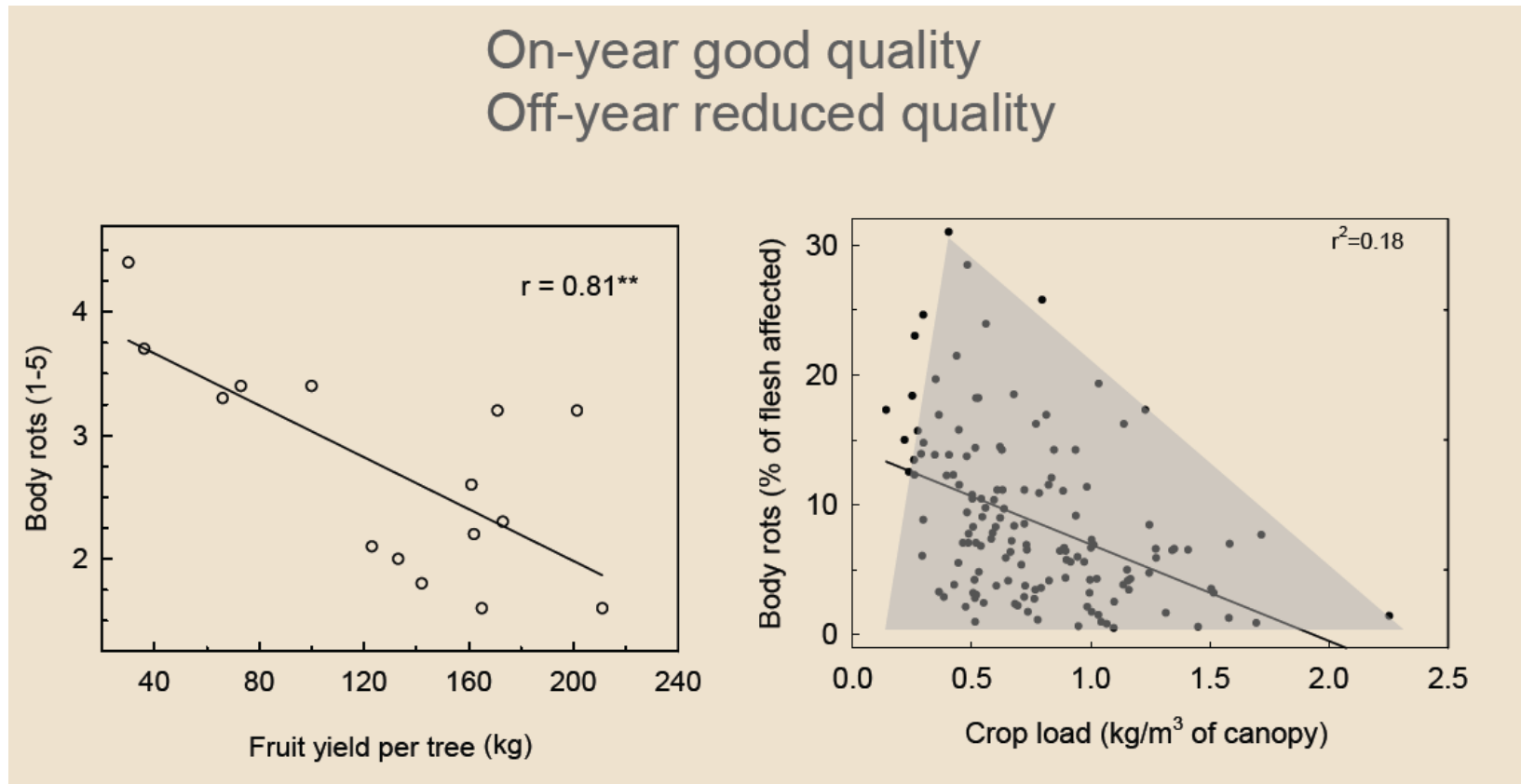
“On” year = heavy crop load

“Off” year = light crop load



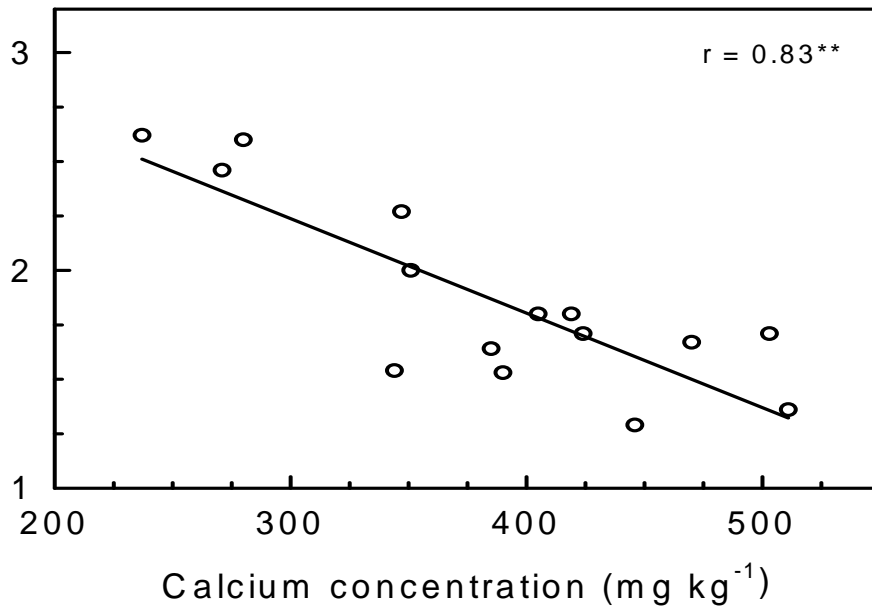
Hass on clonal rootstocks at UC South Coast REC, Irvine, CA

# Crop Load and PH Decay

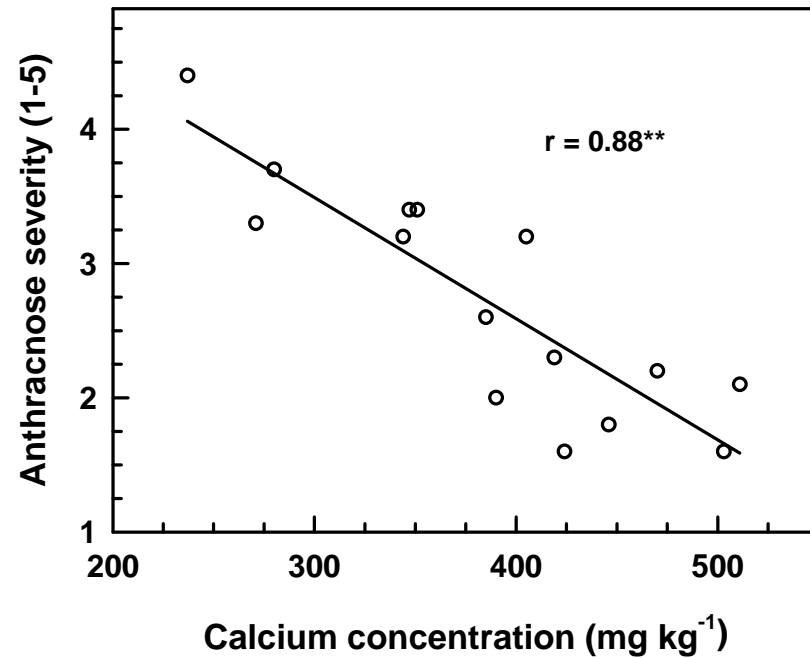


Associated with smaller fruit and higher fruit Calcium

### Diffuse discoloration (1-5)



Calcium fruit levels  
influences susceptibility  
to physiological problems  
and decay



# Crop cycling and leaf analysis

On/off cycles influences several elements:

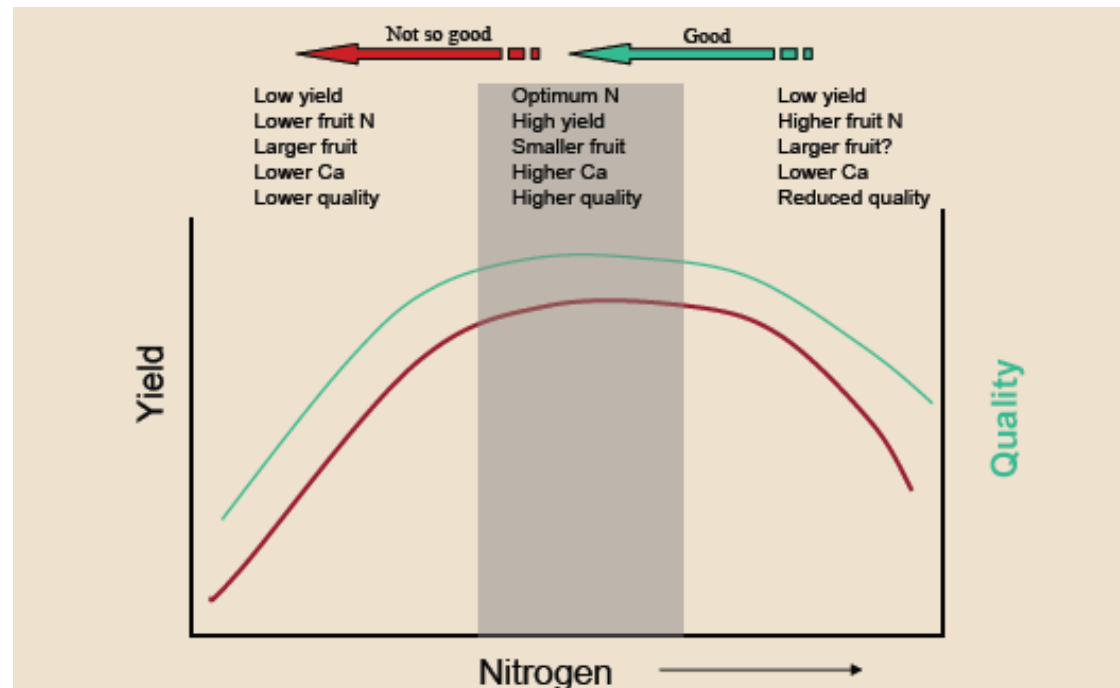
- **Lower** in “On” crop: P, S, Ca, B, Zn, Cu
- **Higher** in “On” Crop: N, Na, Cl, Mn, Fe
- No difference: K, Mg

From: Clonal Rootstock Trial with no *P. cinnamomi* in Irvine, CA.

Data collected over 6 year period for 'Hass' on 10 rootstocks

# NITROGEN

- High levels may result in EXCESSIVE Vigor
- High levels may influence other nutrients



# Nitrogen

- Comparing fruit from high/low N sites
  - N strongly related to quality (van Rooyen and Bower 2003; Kruger et al, 2004)
- Recommendations for fruit N in fruit (Kruger et al, 2004)
  - <1.7% in December and <1% during February
- Increased N applications
  - Indications of increased decay (Willingham et al 2003)

## The link between plant nutrition and postharvest problems - Pinkerton

....differences in quality were noted between fruit from different origins.

Excessive nitrogen concentrations were found to have the most significant role in determining the severity of mesocarp discolouration. In addition, decreasing copper, manganese and boron concentrations during the season also appeared to contribute to the development of the disorder.

The results of this study indicate that interactions between minerals could be more important in determining quality than evaluating individual elements.

Van Rooyen and Bower, 2005

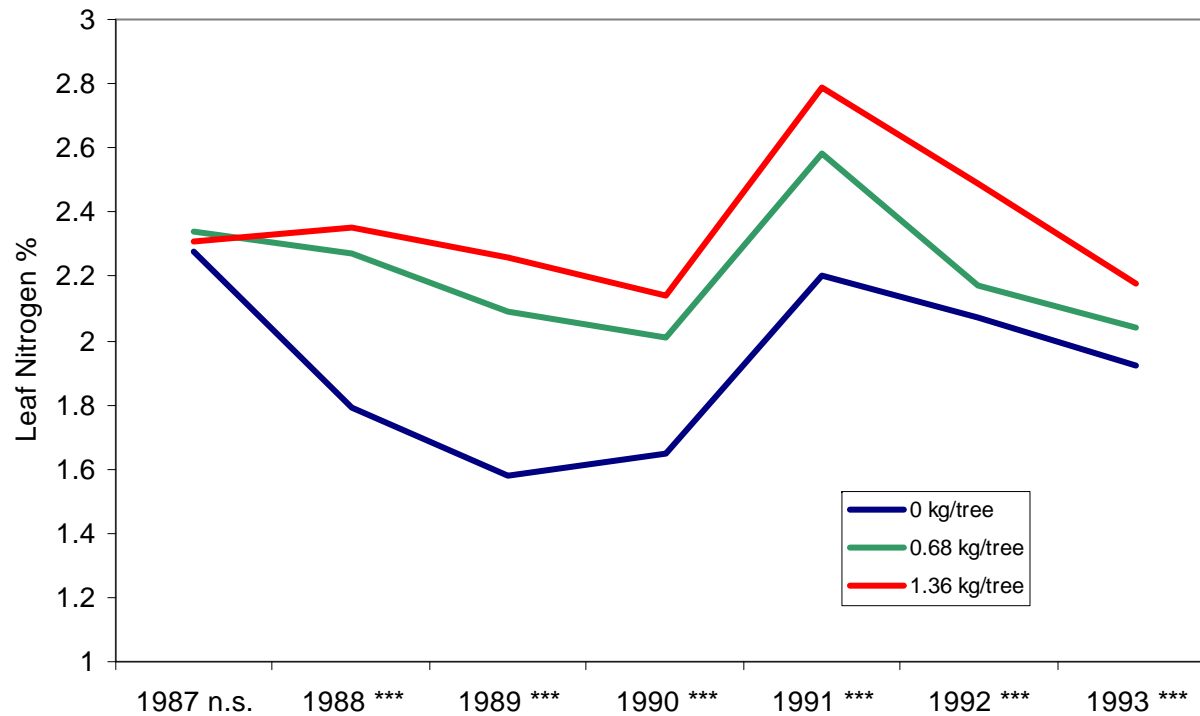


# Trial in San Diego Count, CA

## Long term N management

Ran for several years (split application)

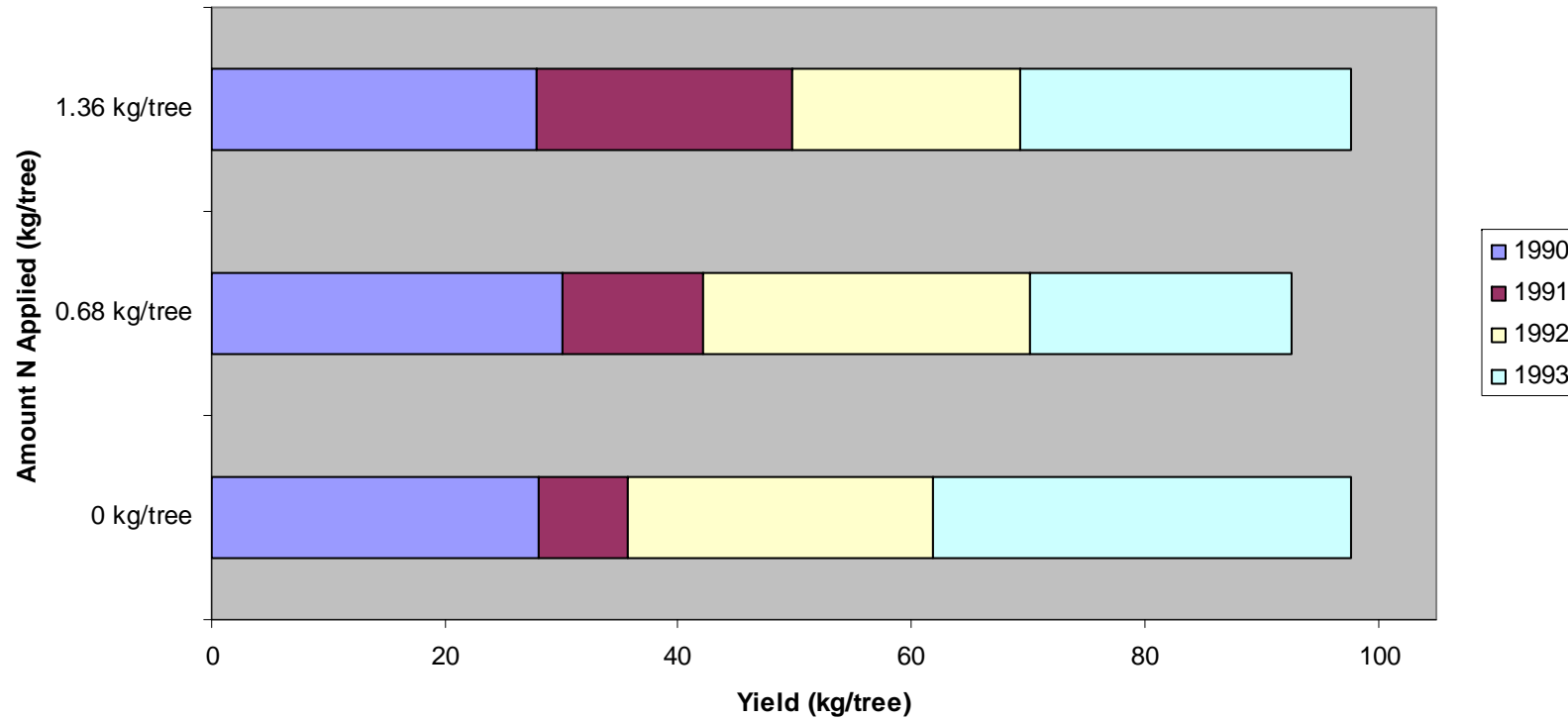
Monitored several factors including leaf analysis



# Yield

## Long term N management

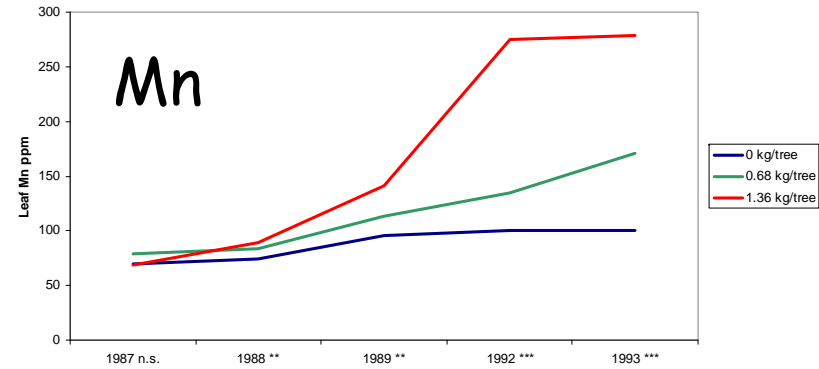
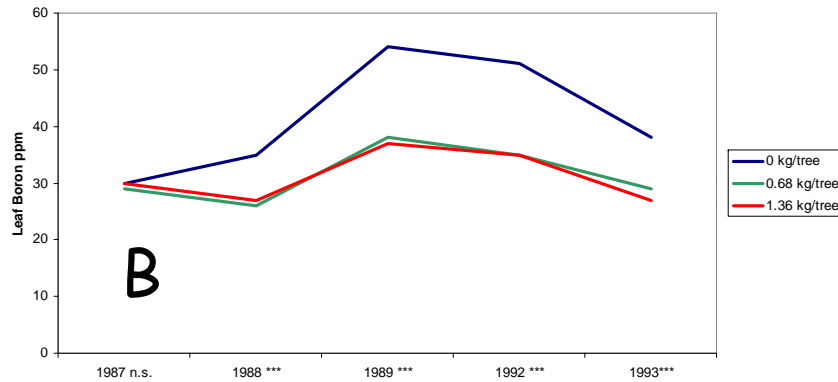
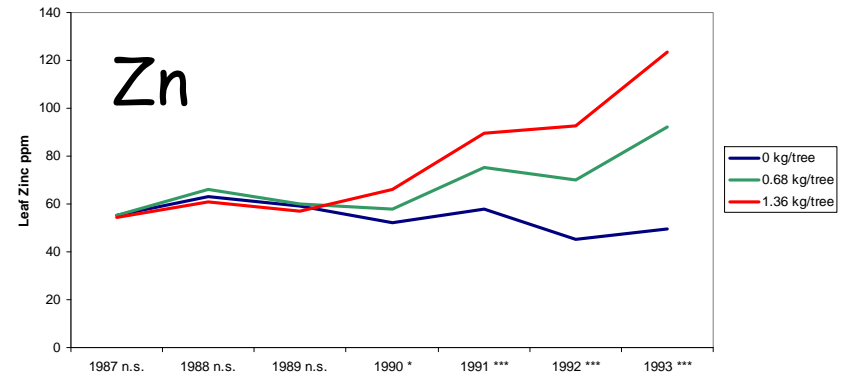
Observed no large differences in spite of differential application amounts

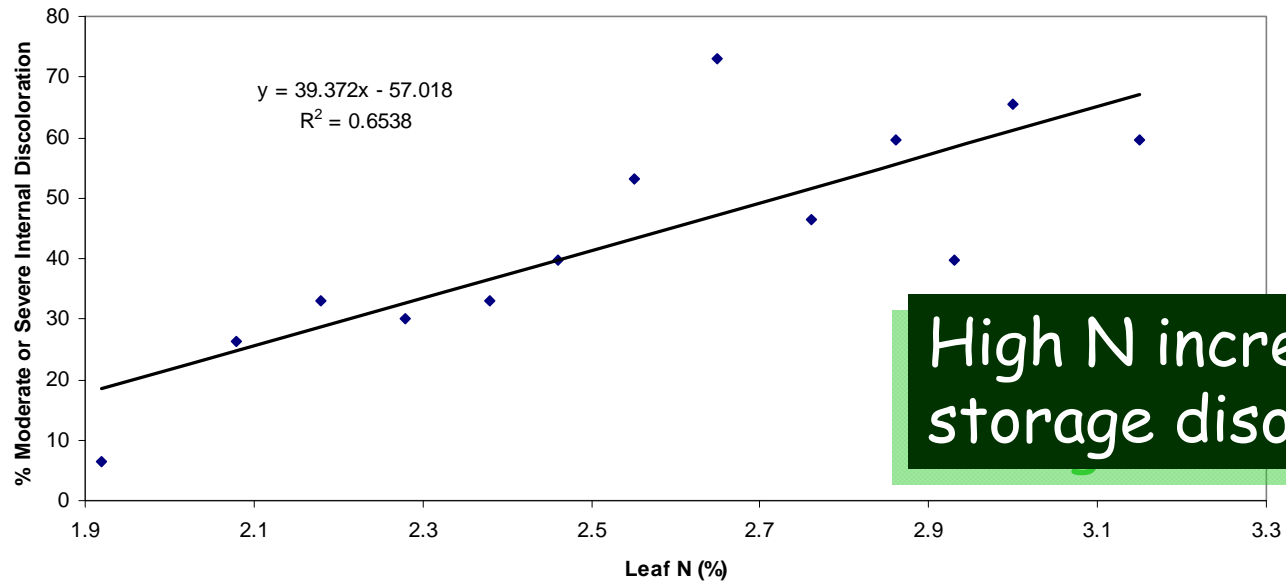


# Long term N management – Leaf Analysis

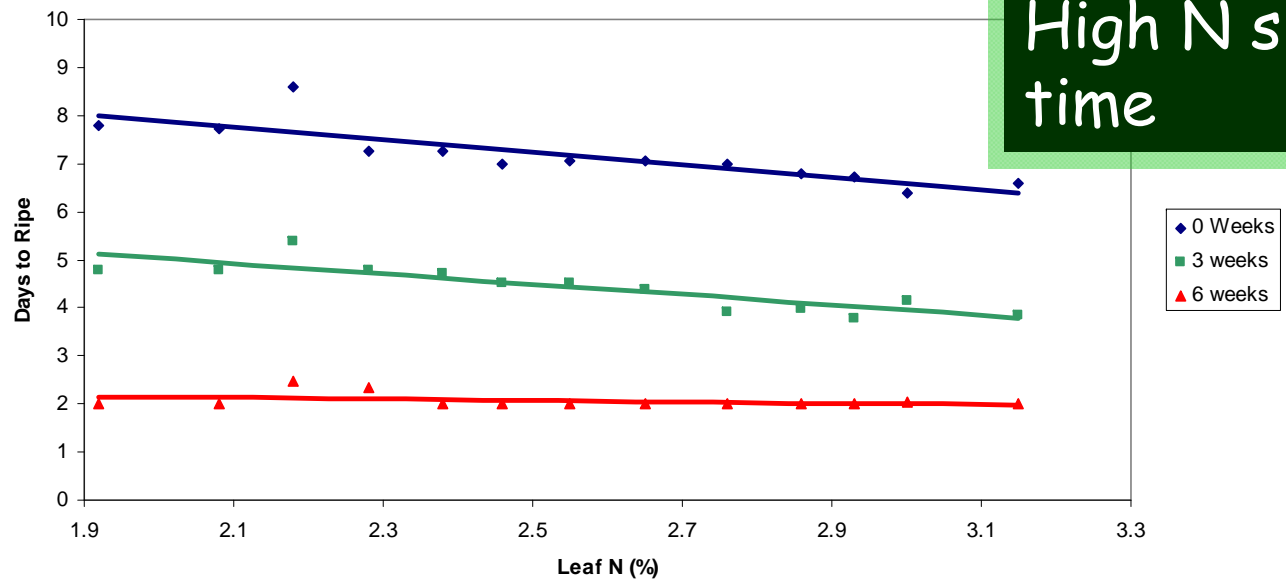
## High N treatments

- Increased Zn, Mn and Fe
- Decreased B





High N increases severity of storage disorders



High N shortens ripening time

# Clonal Rootstocks

Can they make a difference?



## *Rootstocks can influence many scion characteristics*

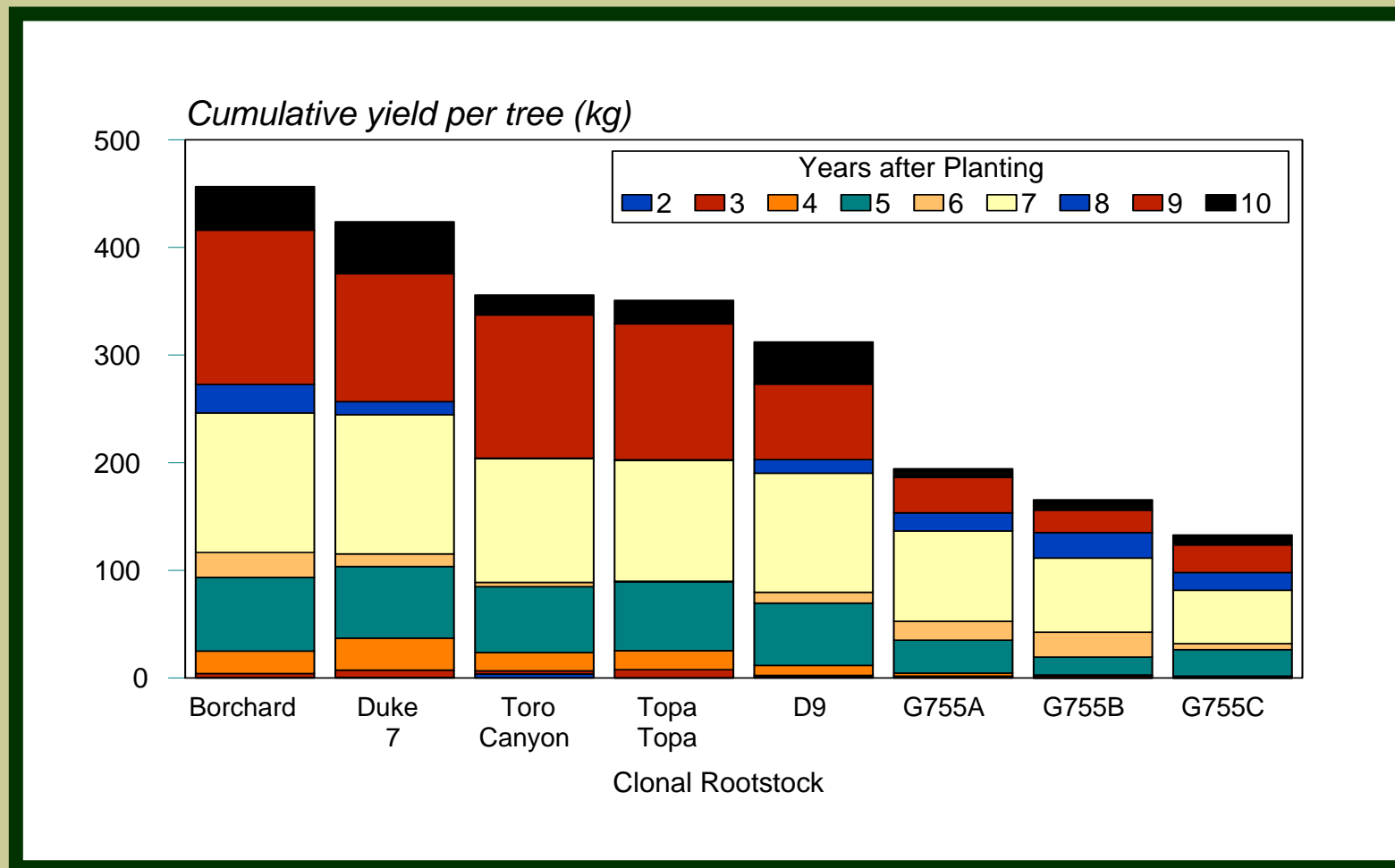
- *Yield*
- *Tree size/vigor*
- *Yield efficiency*
- *Leaf nutrient status*
- *Tolerance to environmental stresses*

### *Use of clonal rootstocks relatively new*

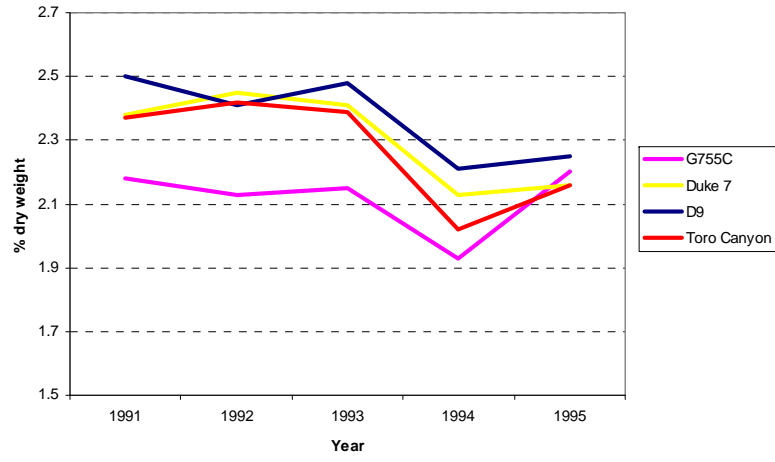
- *Potential for future improvements high*
- *Significant differences due exist*
- *More uniform tree performance possible*

# Clonal Rootstocks

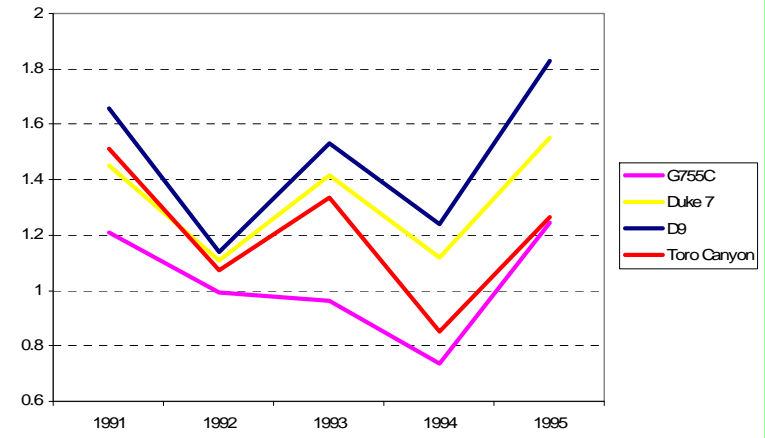
- Enhanced yield possible
- Control of root rot and other soil related issues



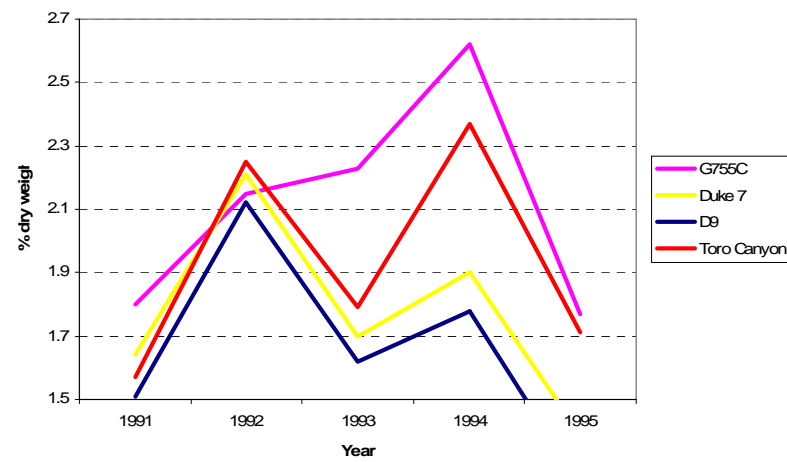
## Nitrogen



## Nitrogen:Calcium Ratio



## Calcium

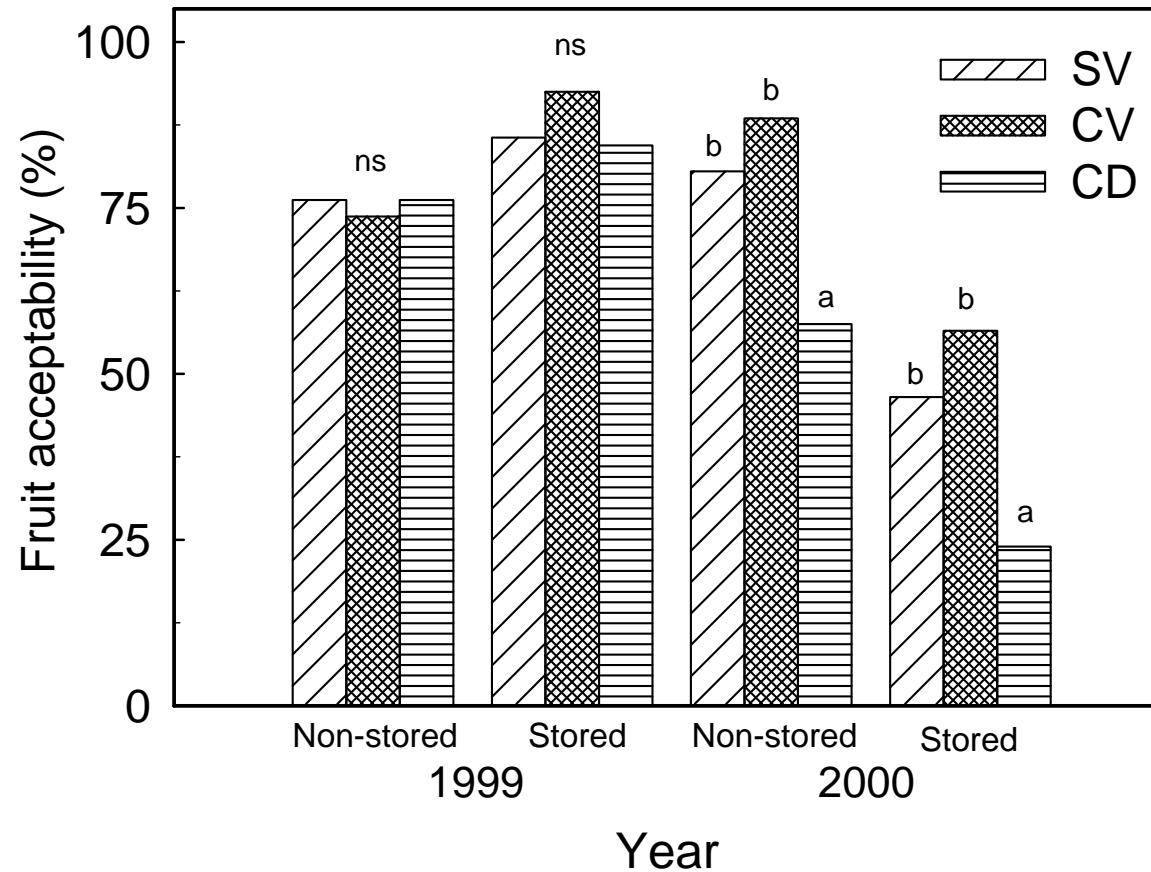


Rootstock can influence nutrient composition

Leaf analysis results

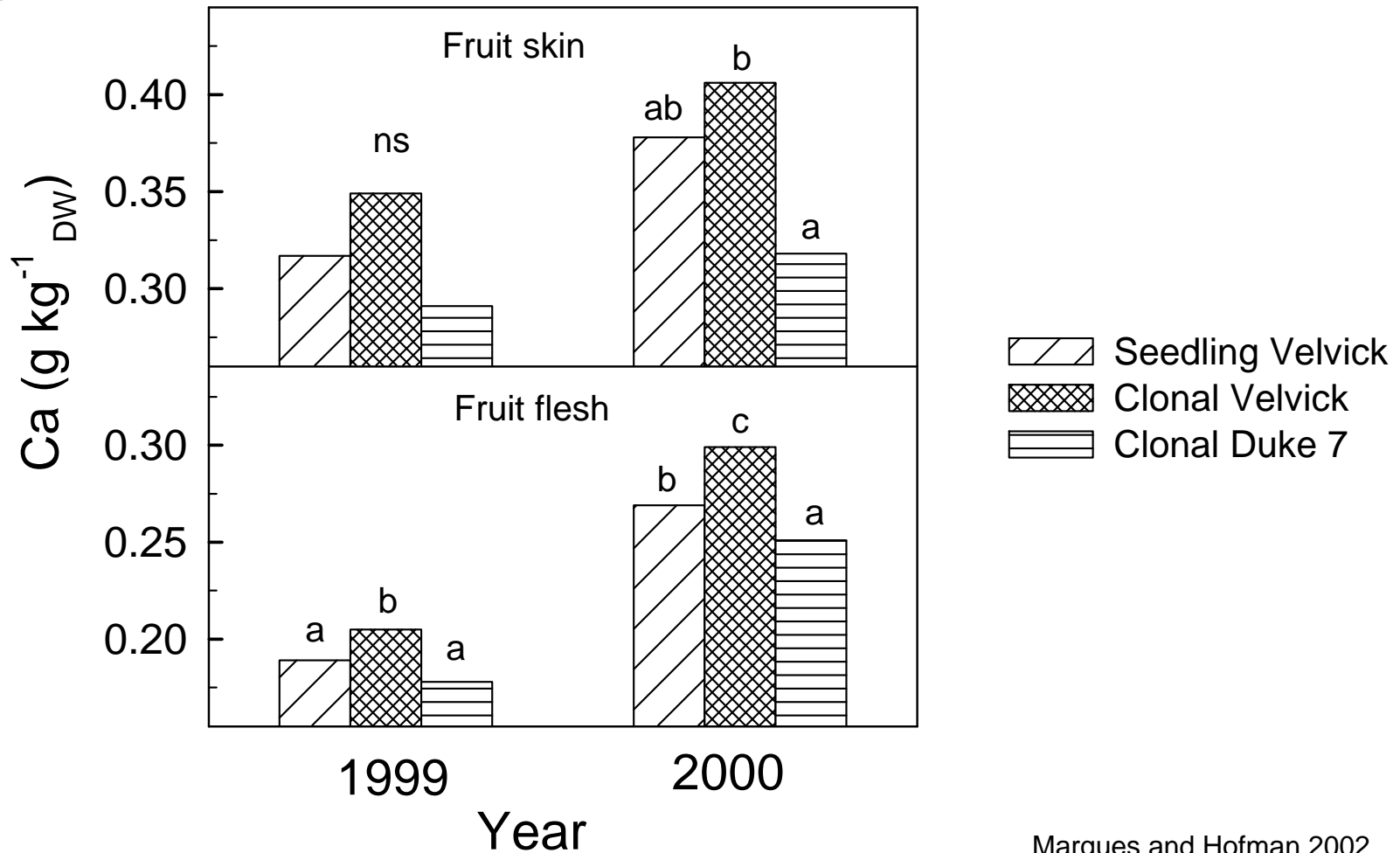


# Rootstock affects body rots



Marques and Hofman 2002

# Rootstocks affect fruit minerals

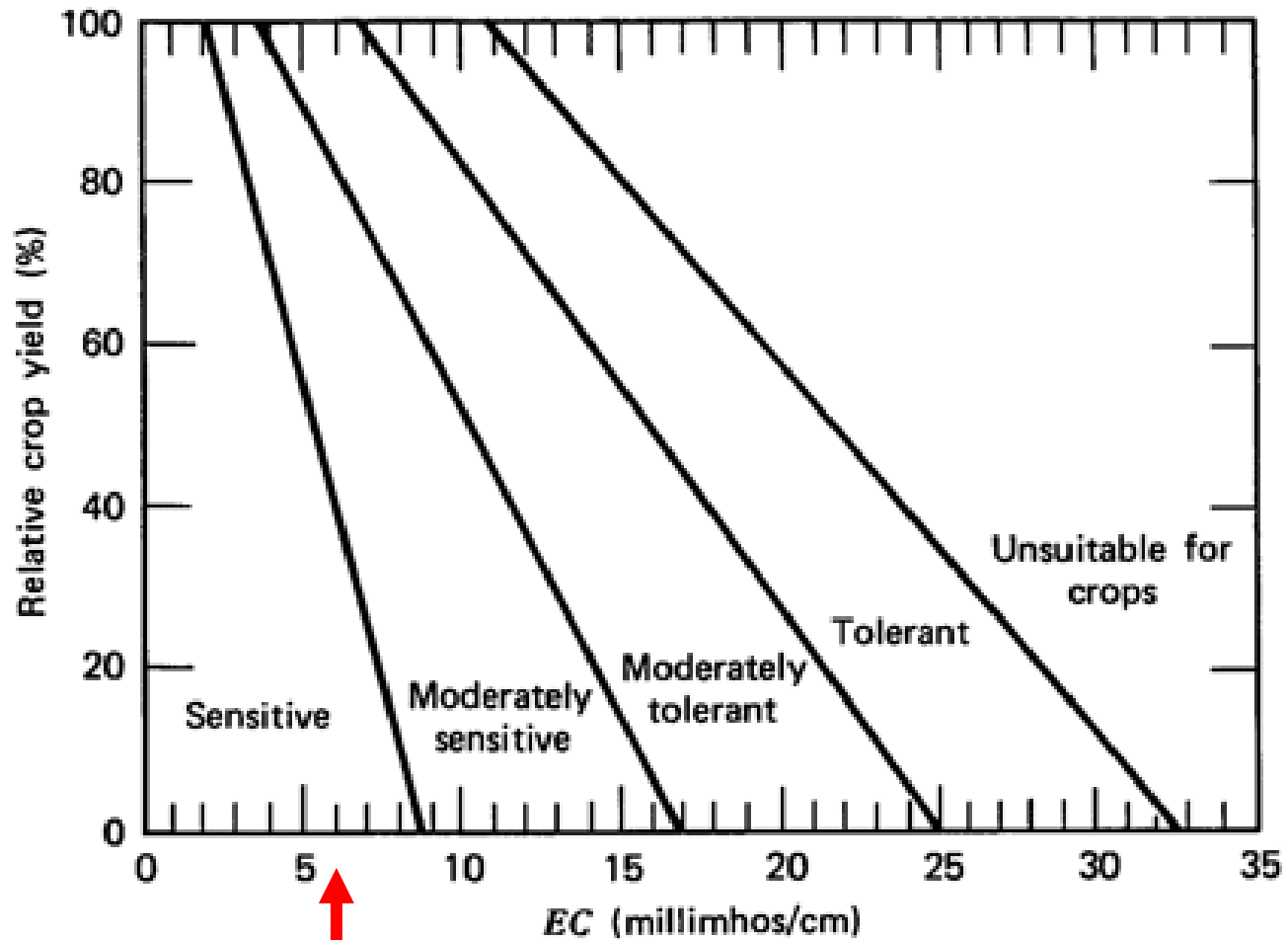


Marques and Hofman 2002

## Salinity – Impact on Avocados



Avocado is one of the most saline sensitive crops, and is subject to yield reduction when irrigated with saline irrigation water. This is due to a combined effect of dissolved solids (EC) and chloride toxicities. Threshold (Oster et al., 2007) = 0.06 dS/M or EC = 6.



avocado

USDA Handbook 60

## Differential Root Growth of West Indian and Mexican Rootstocks After Inarch Grafting to 'Hass'

(Source: Kadman ca. 1970, [www.avocadosource.com](http://www.avocadosource.com))



Note that MX side of tree has more leaf burn and reduced root mass

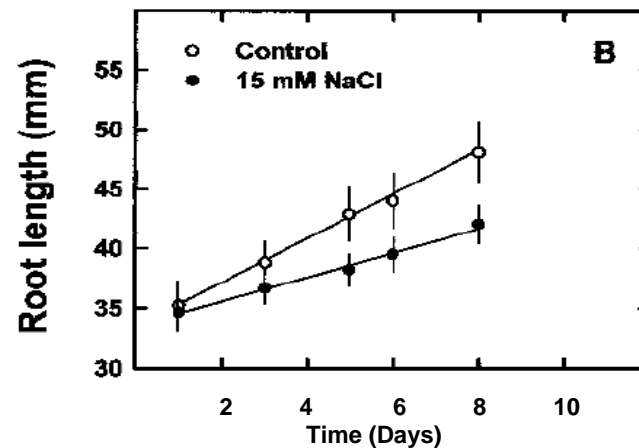
# Root Growth of Avocado is More Sensitive to Salinity than Shoot Growth

N. Bernstein<sup>1</sup> and A. Meiri

*Institute of Soil, Water and Environmental Sciences, Volcani Center, PO Box 6, Bet Dagan 50250, Israel*

M. Zilberstaine

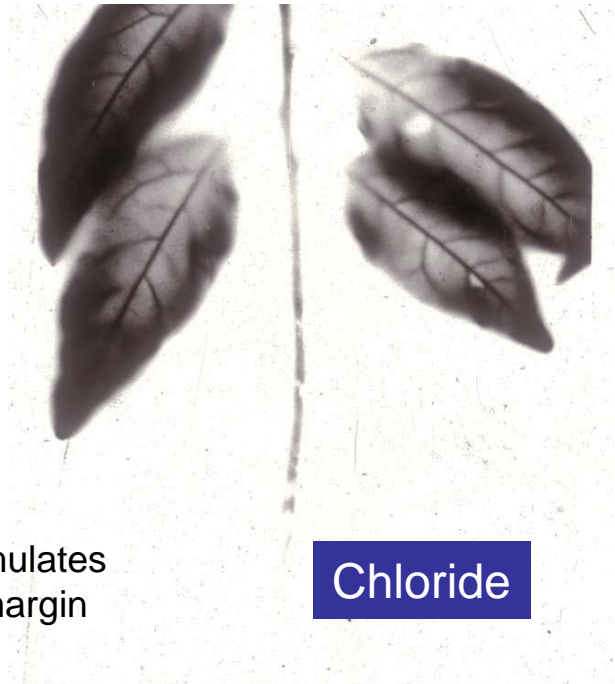
*Ministry of Agriculture Extension Service, Bet-Dagan, 50250, Israel*



WI Degania 117 seedlings

- The threshold NaCl concentration that causes root and shoot growth reduction occurs between 5 and 15 mM.
- A concentration of 15 mM NaCl decreased leaf biomass production by 10%, but induced a 43% reduction in the rate of root elongation and decreased the root volumetric growth rate by 33%.

# Uptake and Distribution of Radiolabeled Chloride and Sodium



Cl accumulates on leaf margin

**Chloride**



**Sodium**

Na accumulates in the leaf veins



(Kadman ca 1960s, slides from Platt, [www.avocadosource.com](http://www.avocadosource.com))

## Salinity impacts on growth and photosynthesis

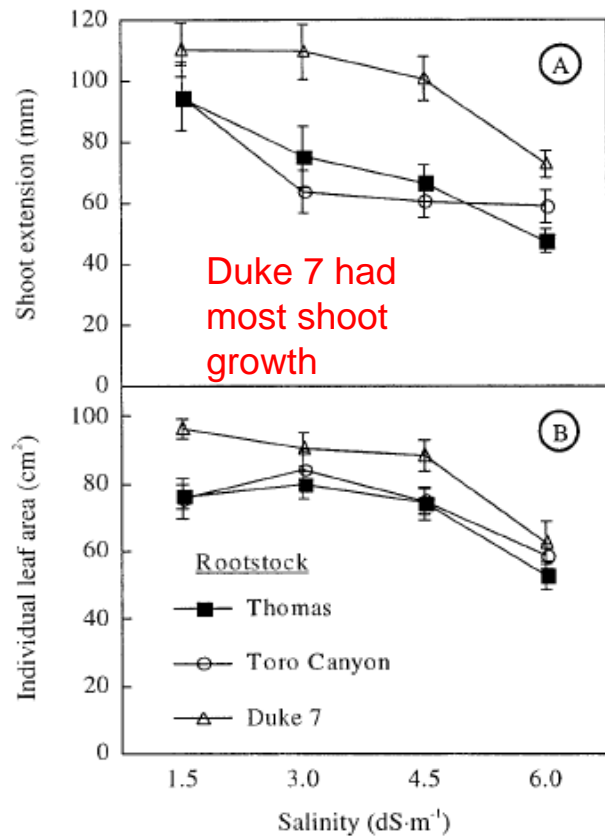


Fig. 4. (A) Shoot extension and (B) individual leaf area of F2 leaves of 'Hass' avocado trees on 'Thomas', 'Toro Canyon', or 'Duke 7' rootstocks exposed to one of four salinity levels [1.5 (control), 3.0, 4.5 or 6.0 dS·m<sup>-1</sup>] for 72 d. Each symbol represents the mean of five replications and five subsamples per replication (shoot extension) or four replications and two subsamples per replication (leaf area). Vertical bars represent SE values.

Photosynthesis declines with increasing salinity; Thomas declines the most

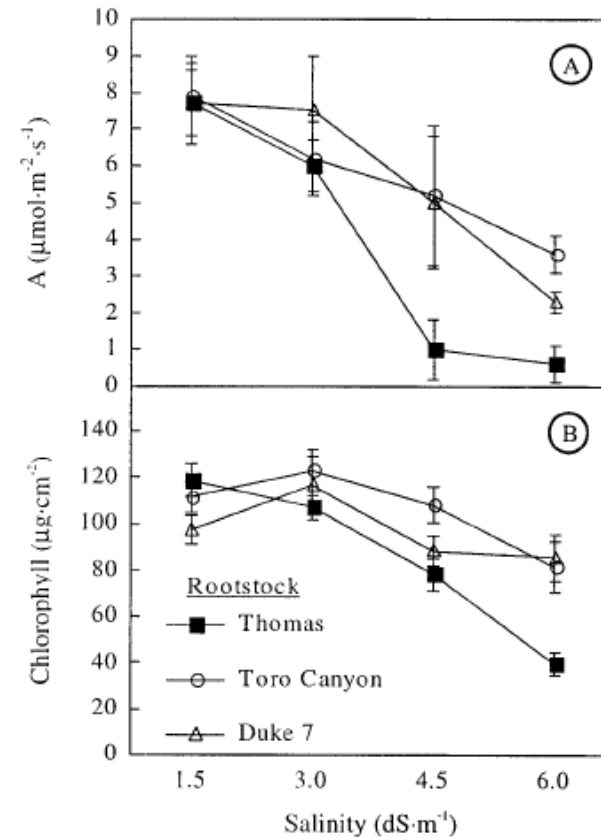


Fig. 6. (A) Net CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation (A) and (B) chlorophyll concentrations of F2 leaves of 'Hass' avocado trees on 'Thomas', 'Toro Canyon', or 'Duke 7' rootstocks exposed to one of four salinity levels [1.5 (control), 3.0, 4.5 or 6.0 dS·m<sup>-1</sup>] for (A) 66 or (B) 73 d. Each symbol represents the mean of five (shoot extension) or four (leaf area) replications and two subsamples per replication. Vertical bars represent SE values.



Thomas showed the highest accumulation of both Na and Cl regardless of leaf age

## Cl and leaf necrosis

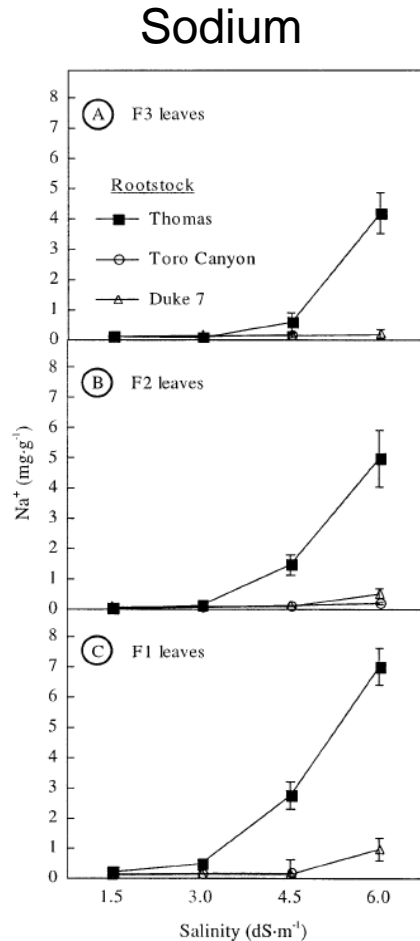


Fig. 1. Sodium ion concentrations of (A) F3, (B) F2, and (C) F1 leaves of 'Hass' avocado trees on 'Thomas', 'Toro Canyon', or 'Duke 7' rootstocks exposed to one of four salinity levels [1.5 (control), 3.0, 4.5 or 6.0 dS·m<sup>-1</sup>] for 80 d. Each symbol represents the mean of five replications and two subsamples per replication. Vertical bars represent SE values. Samples for F1 and F3 leaves of trees on 'Toro Canyon' were too small for accurate measurements of Na<sup>+</sup> concentrations and are therefore not presented.

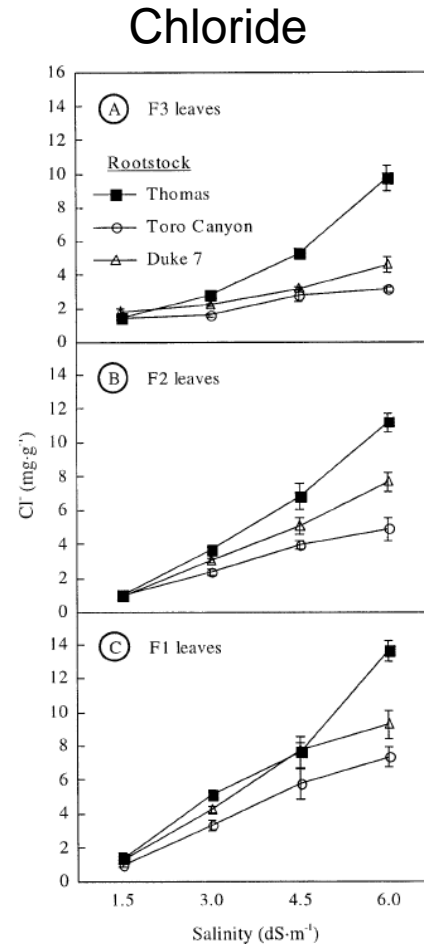


Fig. 2. Chloride ion concentrations of (A) F3, (B) F2, and (C) F1 leaves of 'Hass' avocado trees on 'Thomas', 'Toro Canyon', or 'Duke 7' rootstocks exposed to one of four salinity levels [1.5 (control), 3.0, 4.5 or 6.0 dS·m<sup>-1</sup>] for 80 d. Each symbol represents the mean of five replications and two subsamples per replication. Vertical bars represent SE values.

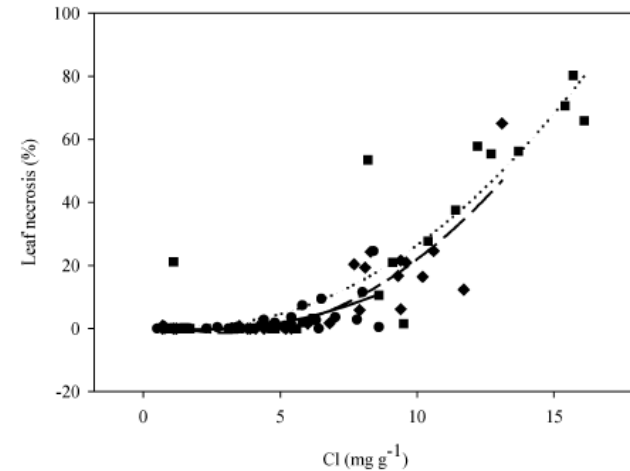


Figure 6. Relationship between Cl concentrations and necrosis in oldest (F1) leaves of trees on 'Duke 7' (◆, dashed line), 'Toro Canyon' (●, solid line), or 'Thomas' (■, dotted line) rootstocks.

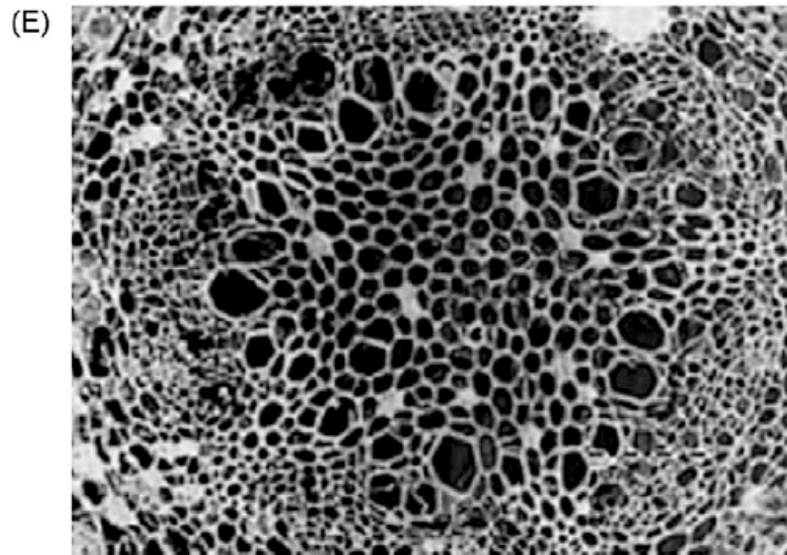
Salinity also influenced Mg, Ca, K distribution in the tree  
 There were RS affects: Thomas the worse and Toro Canyon the most tolerant

Mickelbart, Arpaia – 2002  
 Mickelbart et al – 2007

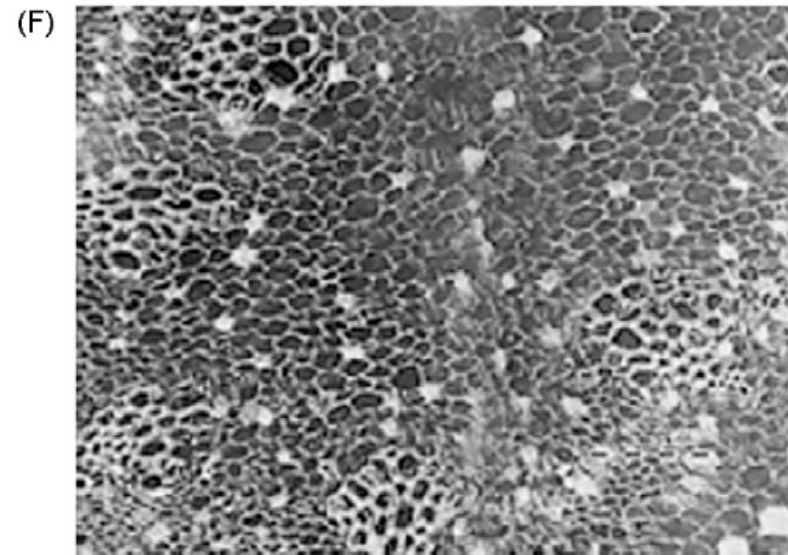
# Rootstocks and Water Uptake

Work of Fassio et al, 2009

Compared Duke 7 and Toro Canyon clonal rootstocks



Duke 7



Toro Canyon

# Rootstocks and Water Uptake

- Demonstrated that root structure varies between rootstocks
- Water flow (as measured with sap flow) varied with rootstock and may be related to root structure

*Implications for salinity/nutrient management*

Fassio et al, 2009

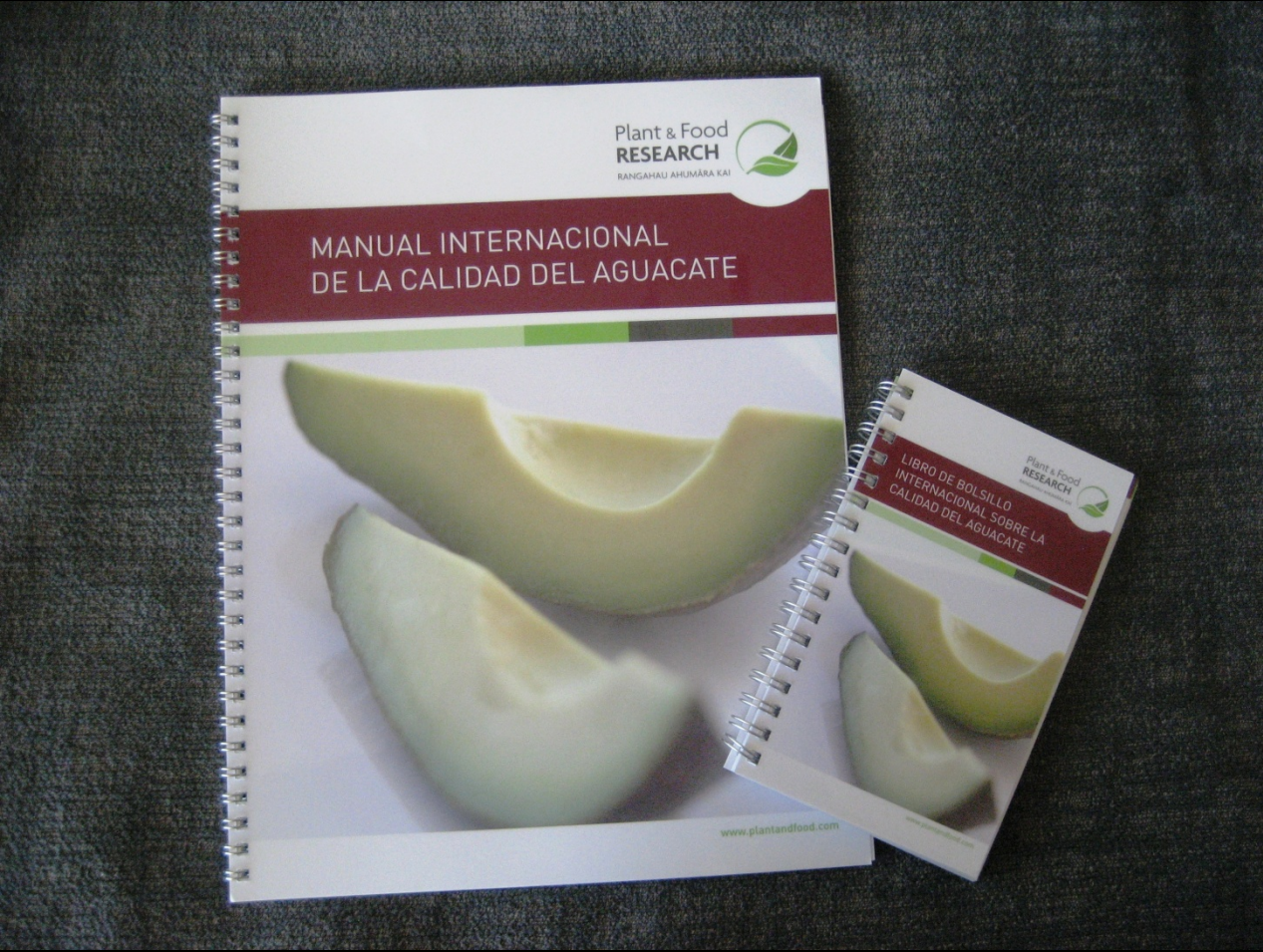
*For more information visit*

**[www.avocadosource.com](http://www.avocadosource.com)**

*the avocado world at your fingertips*



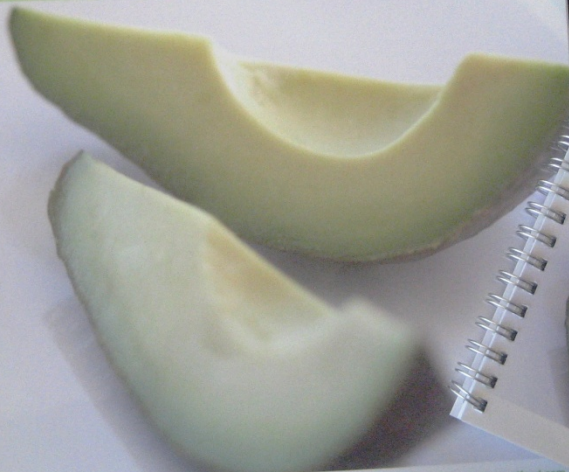
*The information on this website is free and includes downloadable information from around the world on all aspects of avocado production.*



Plant & Food  
**RESEARCH**  
RANGAHAU AHUMARA KAI



**MANUAL INTERNACIONAL  
DE LA CALIDAD DEL AGUACATE**



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**LIBRO DE BOLSILLO  
INTERNACIONAL SOBRE LA  
CALIDAD DEL AGUACATE**



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A scenic view of a valley with mountains in the background and a dirt road in the foreground. The foreground shows a dirt road winding through lush green trees. The middle ground features a valley with fields and a few buildings. The background consists of rolling mountains under a clear sky.

*Quiero dar gracias por la oportunidad de compartir  
información con ustedes hoy día*

*Muchas gracias*