

# Citrus Canker? What went wrong last season?

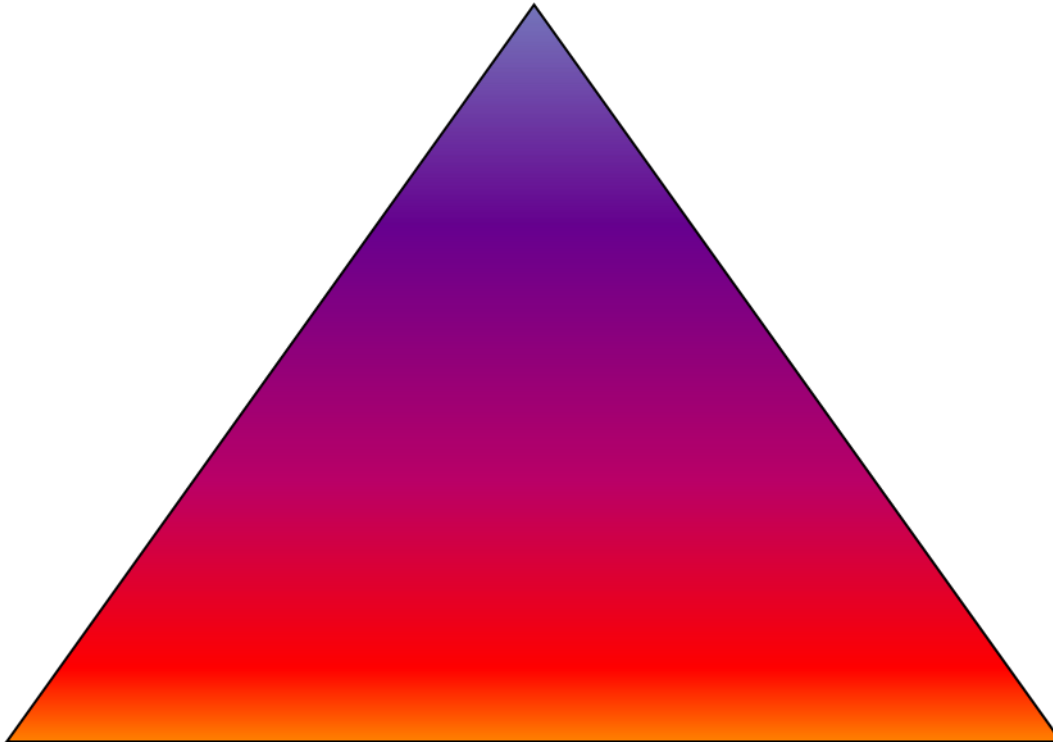
Pamela D Roberts  
Southwest Florida REC  
Immokalee  
April 10, 2012

# Disease Triangle

ENVIRONMENT

PATHOGEN

HOST



# Disease Triangle



ENVIRONMENT

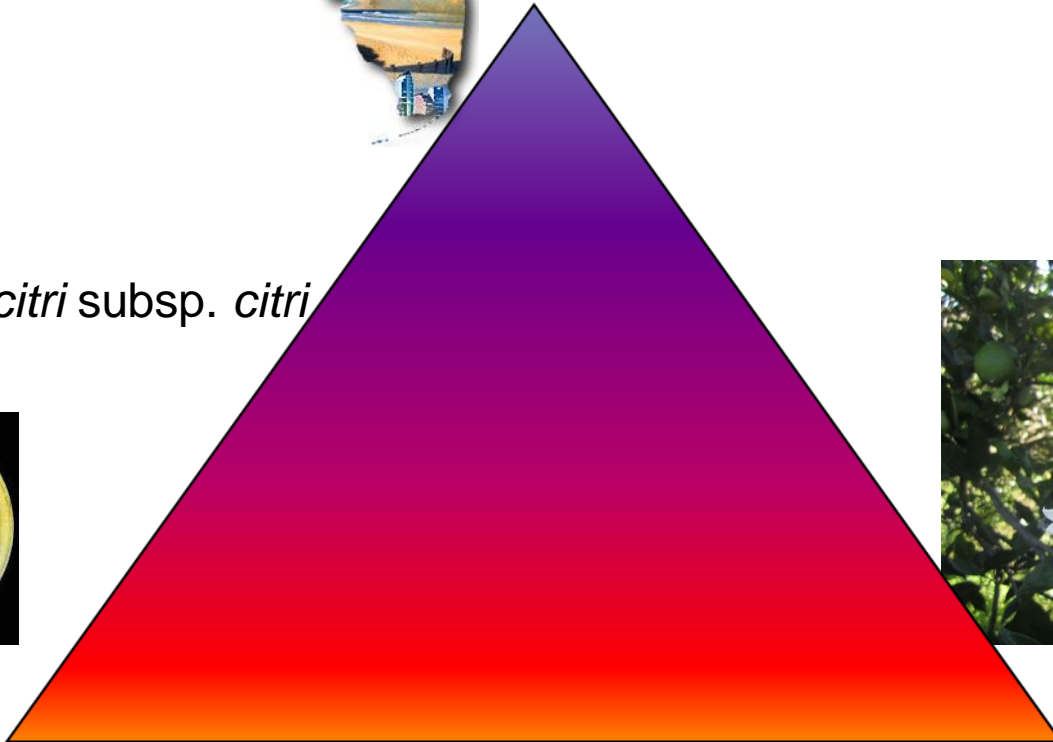
*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*

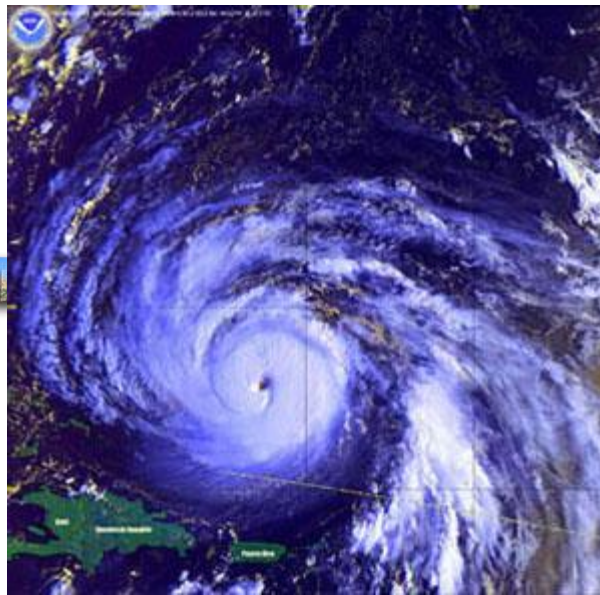


PATHOGEN



HOST





triangle

ENVIRONMENT

*Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*



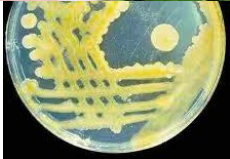
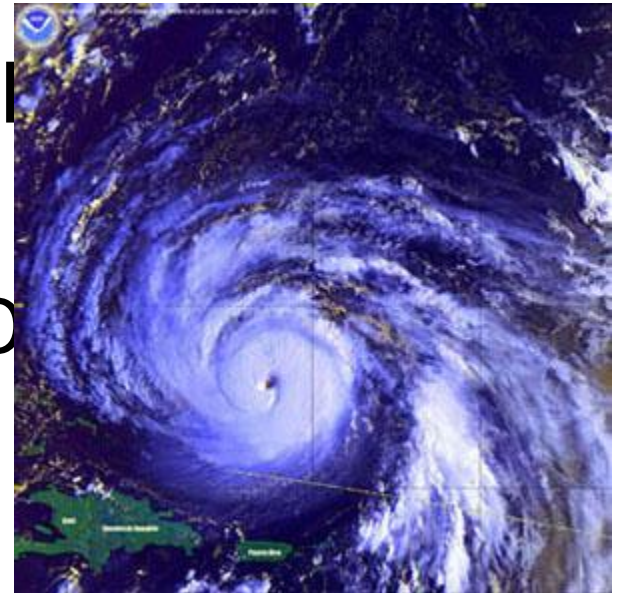
PATHOGEN



HOST

# Disease Triangle

ENVIRO



PATHOGEN



CITRUS LEAF MINER



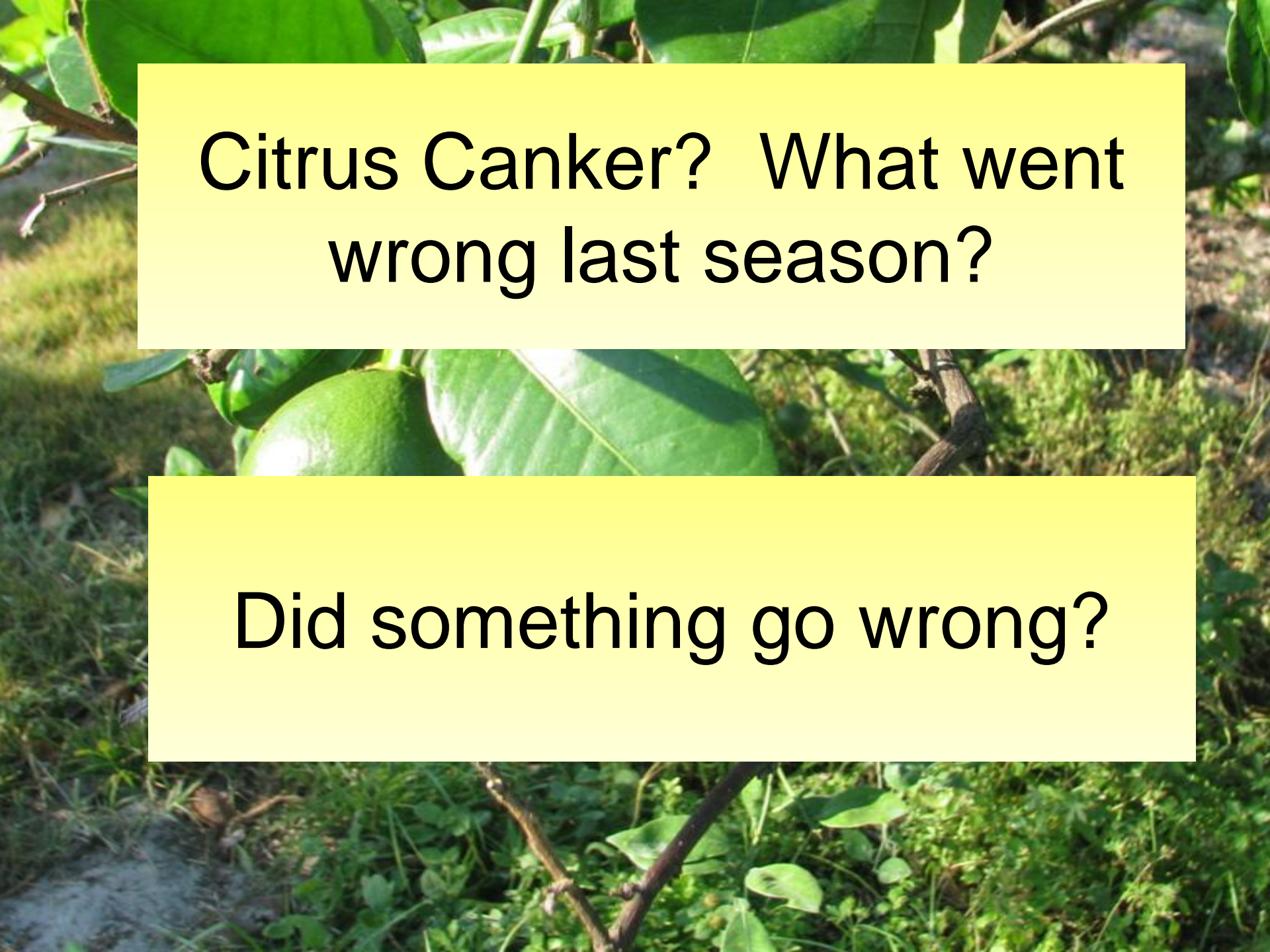
HOST

# Disease Tri



PATHOGEN

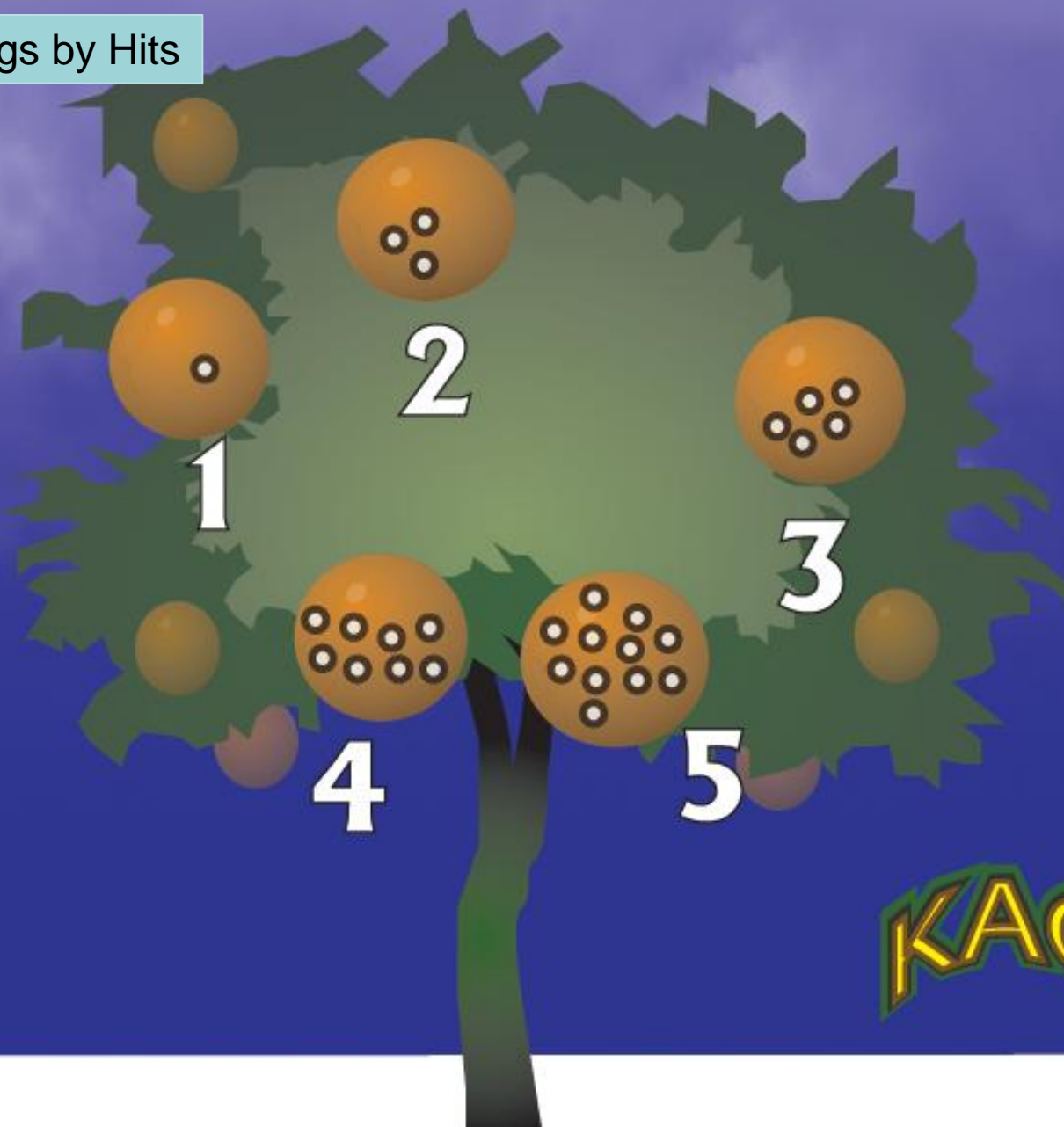
HOST



**Citrus Canker? What went  
wrong last season?**

**Did something go wrong?**

# Canker Ratings by Hits



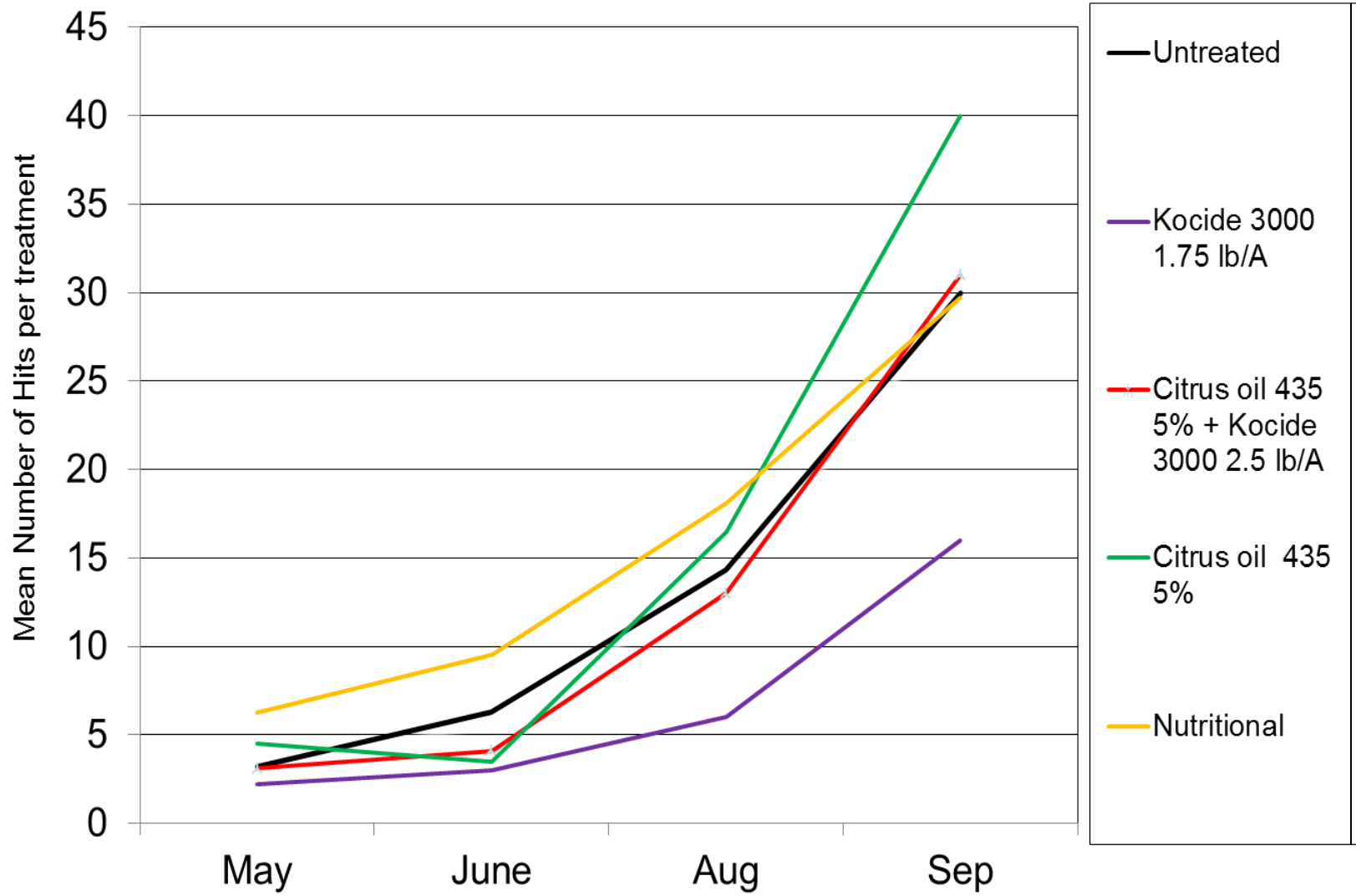
KAC



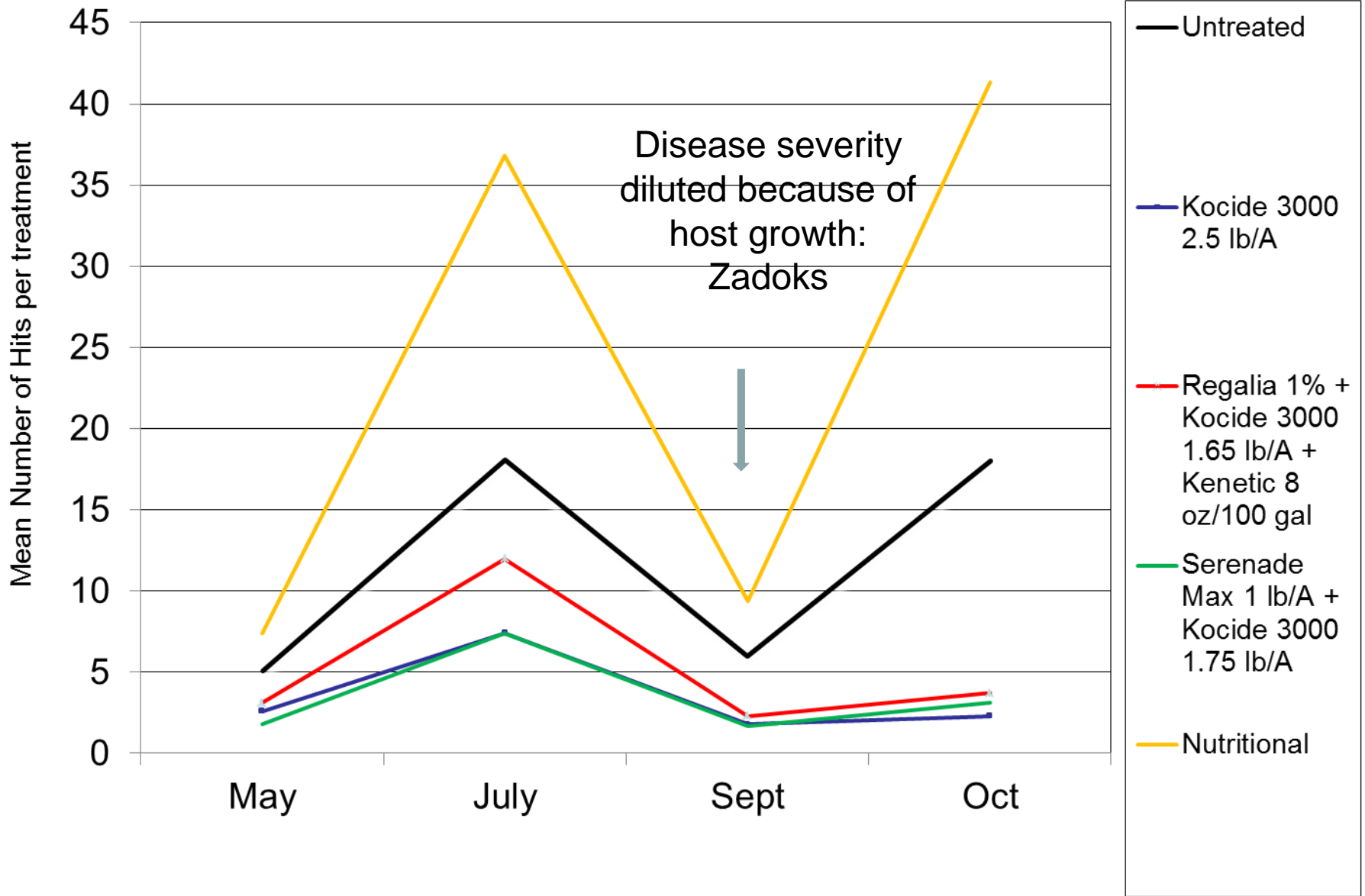


HIT

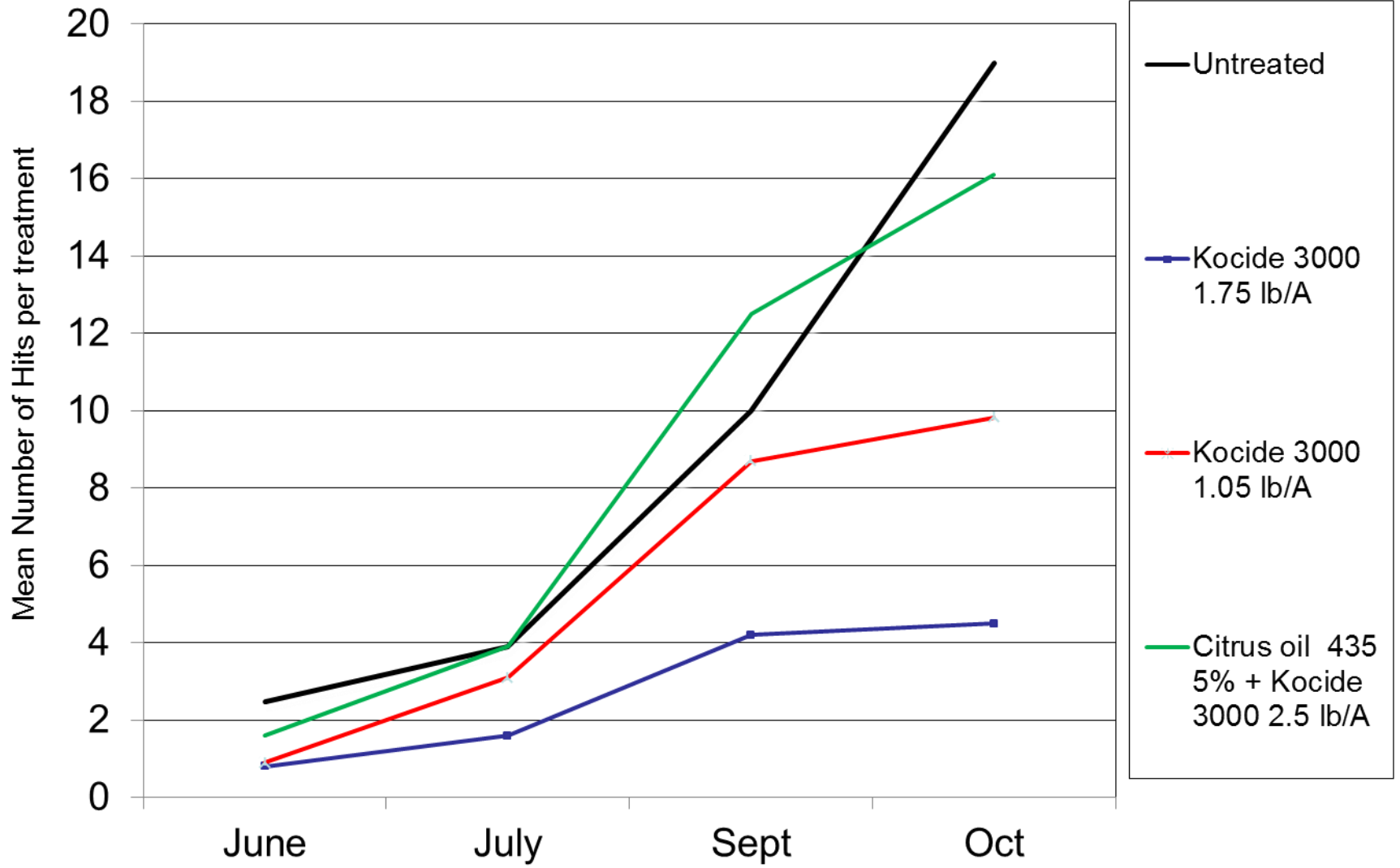
# Citrus Canker Disease Progress, Valencia 2008



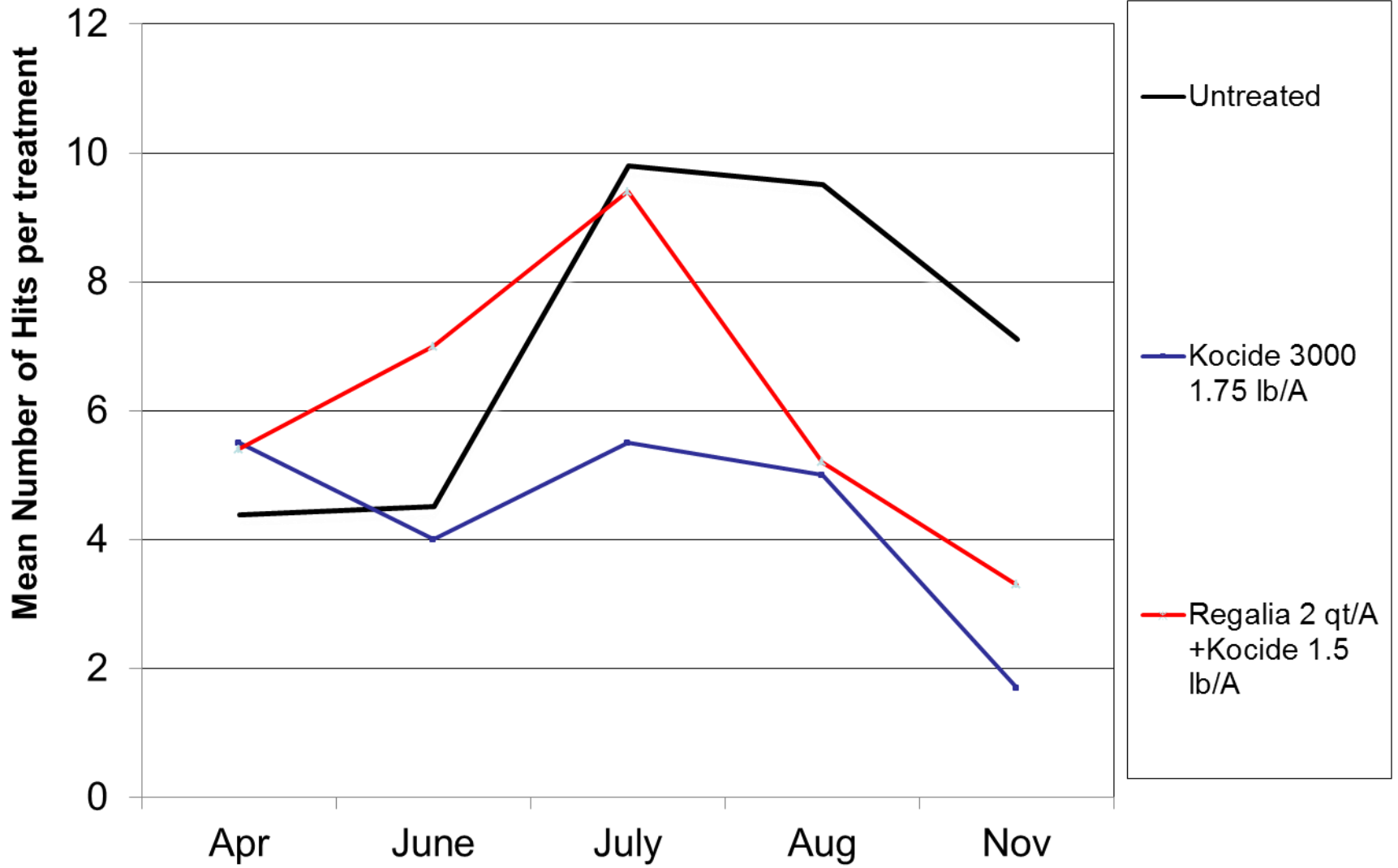
# Citrus Canker Disease Progress, Valencia 2009



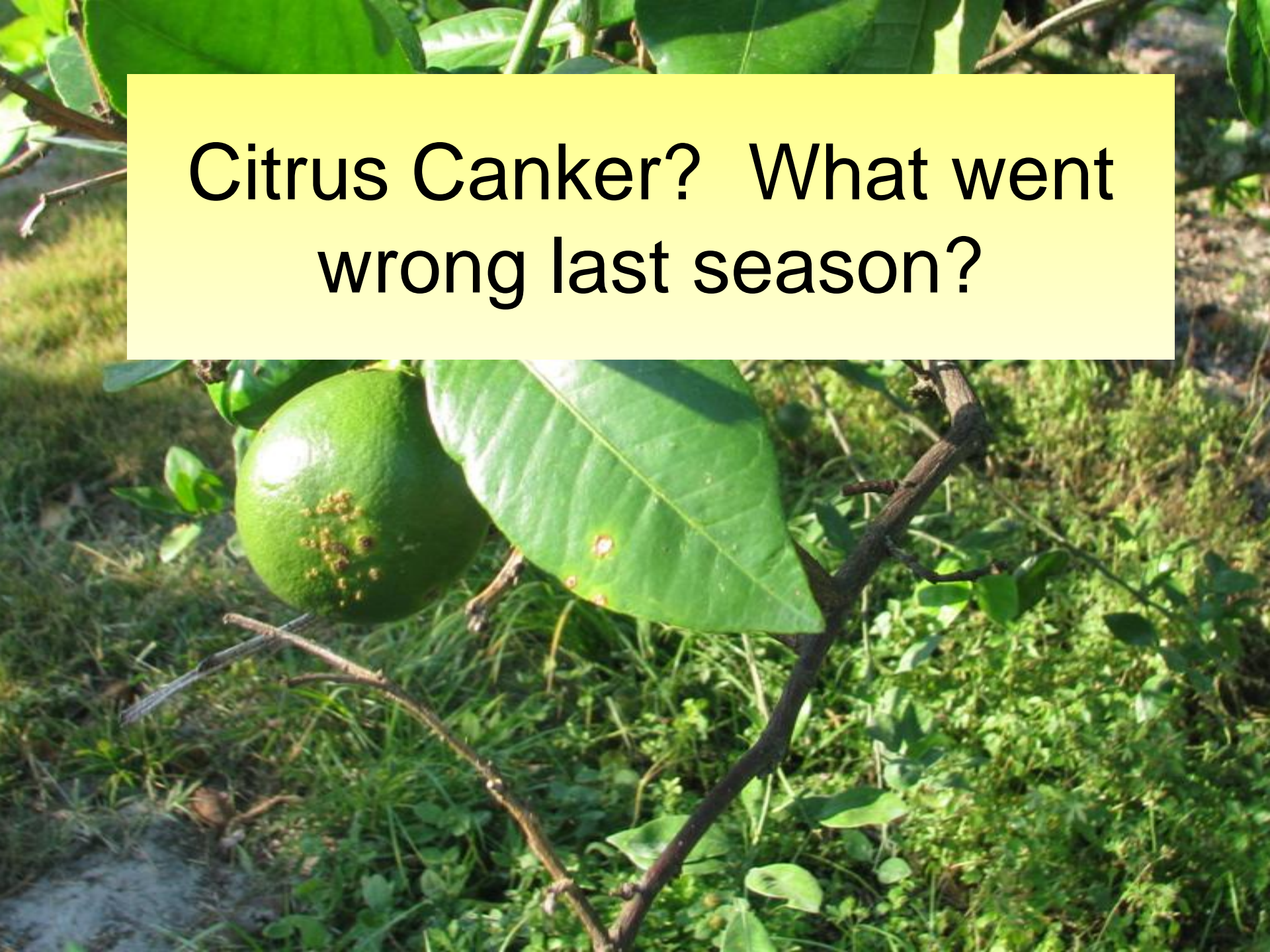
# Citrus Canker Disease Progress, Valencia 2010



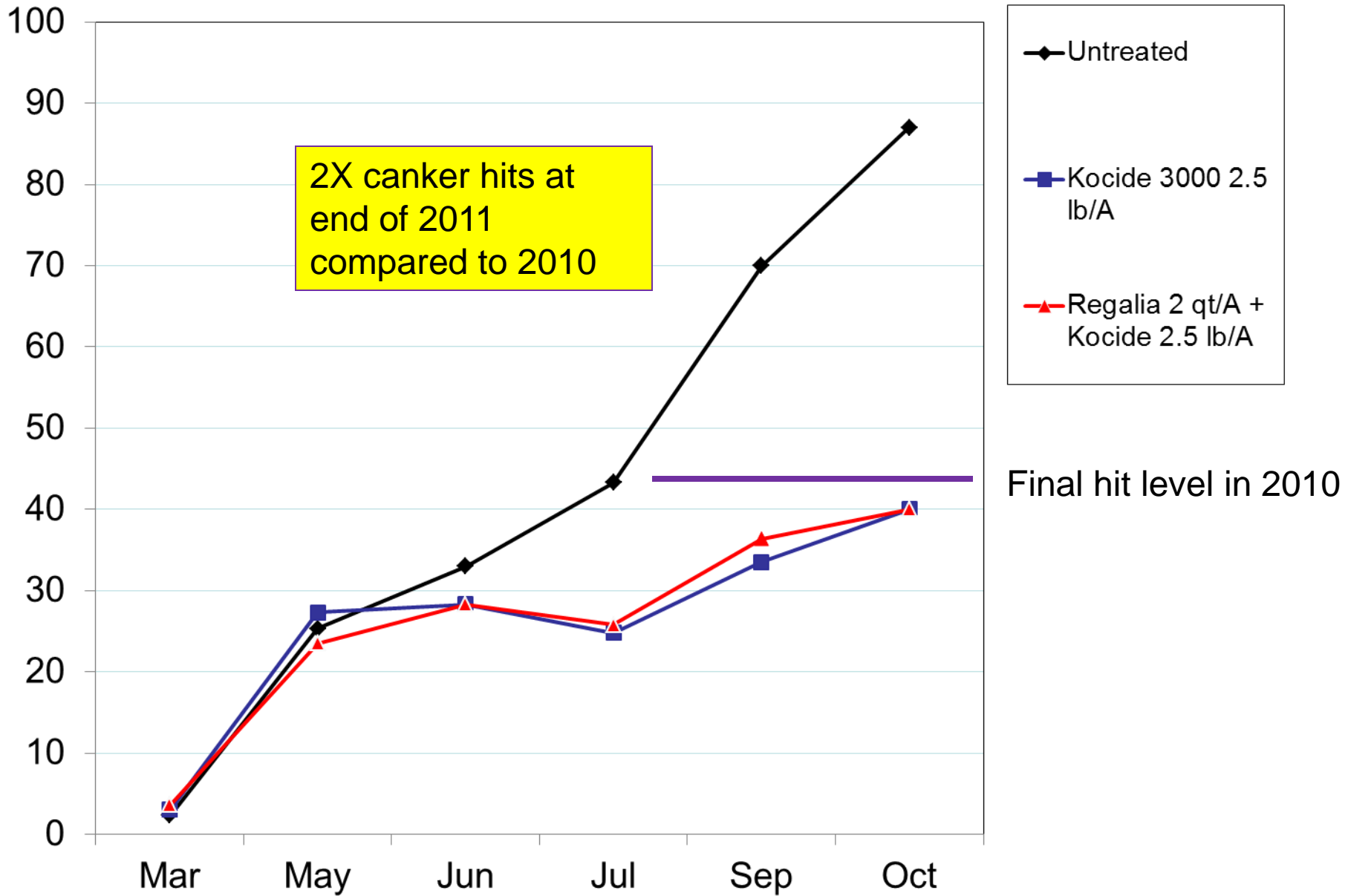
# Citrus Canker Disease Progress, Valencia 2011



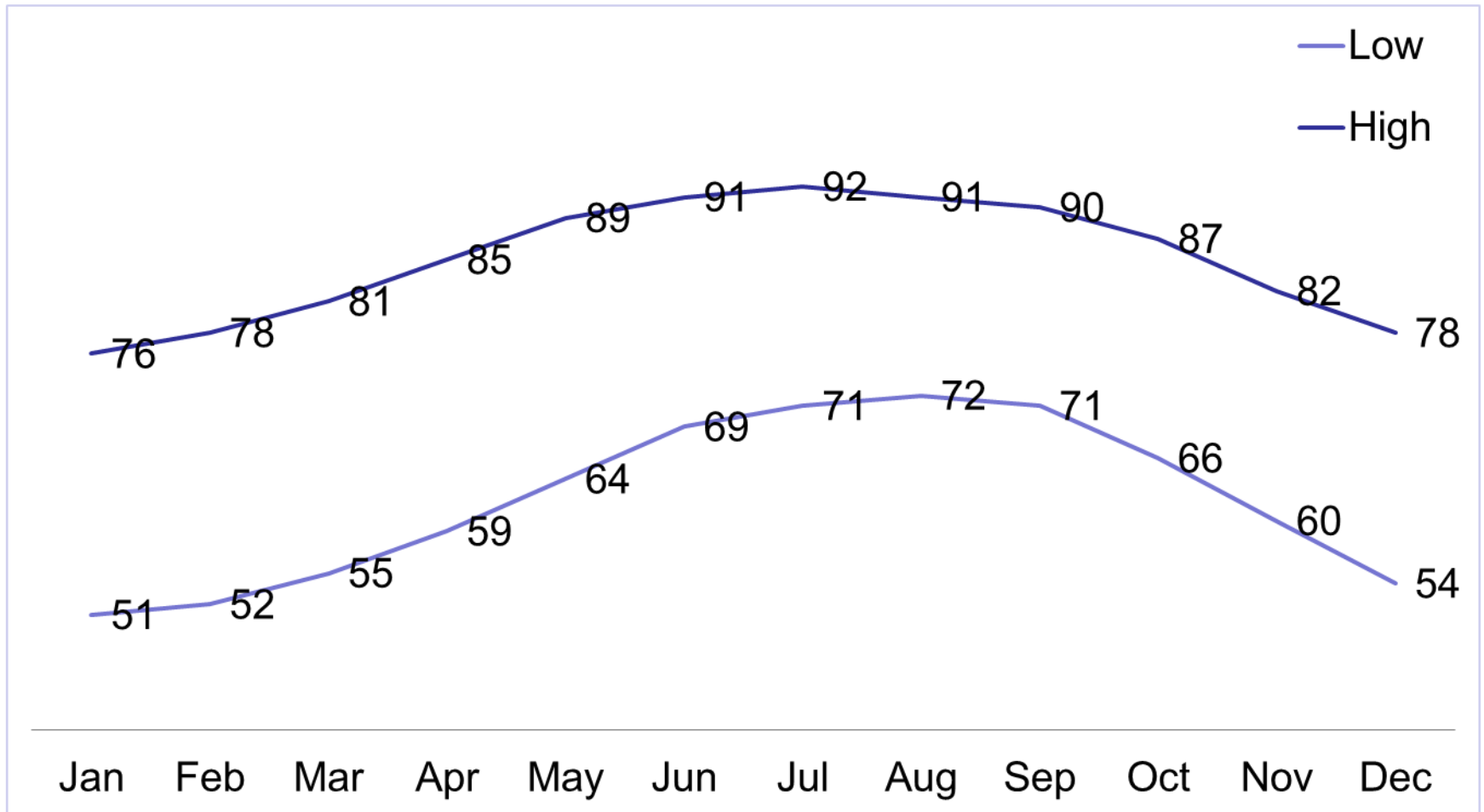
**Citrus Canker? What went wrong last season?**



# Citrus Canker Disease Progress by Hits on Grapefruit, 2011

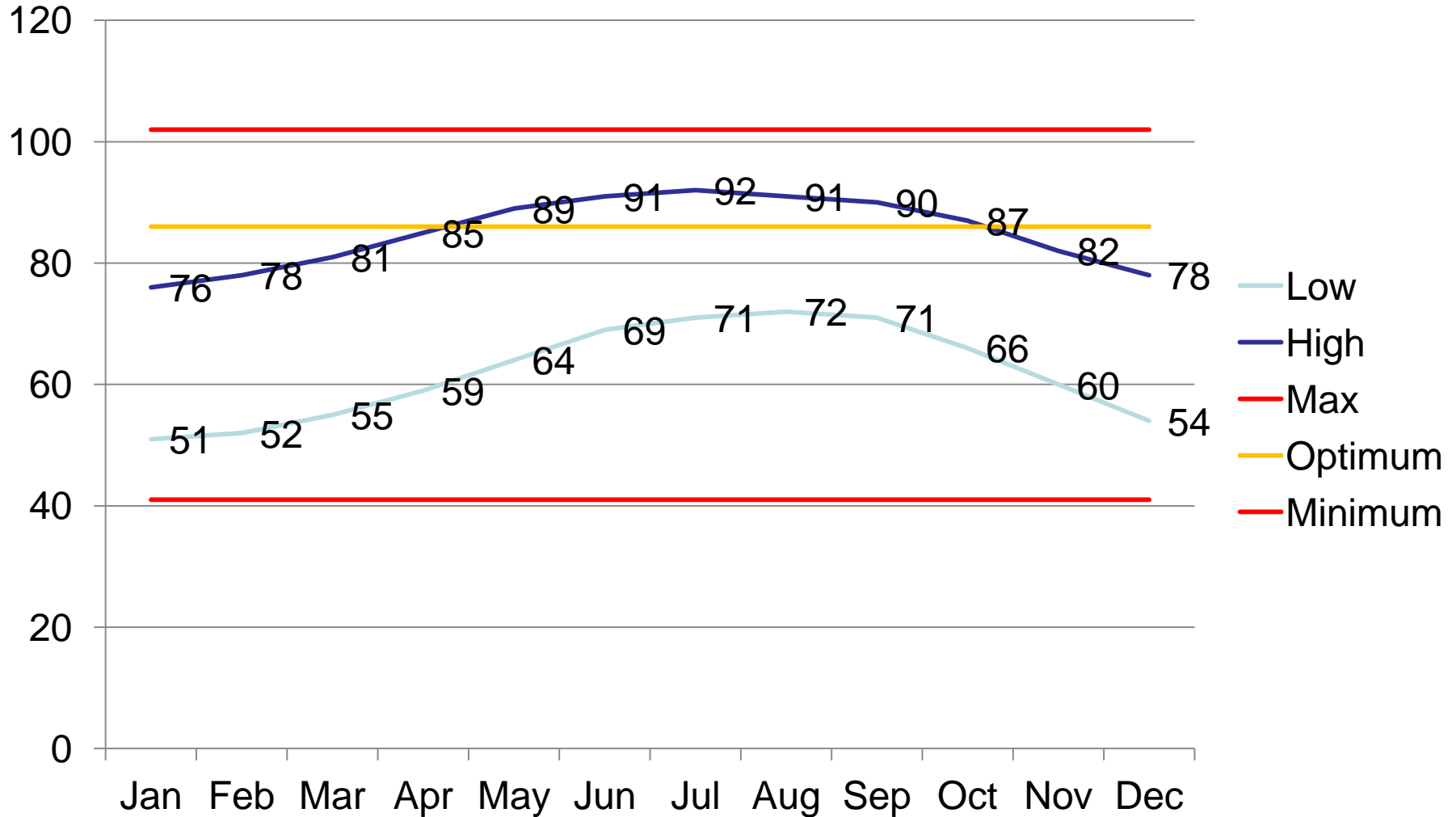


# 30-year average high and low temperatures (F) for Immokalee

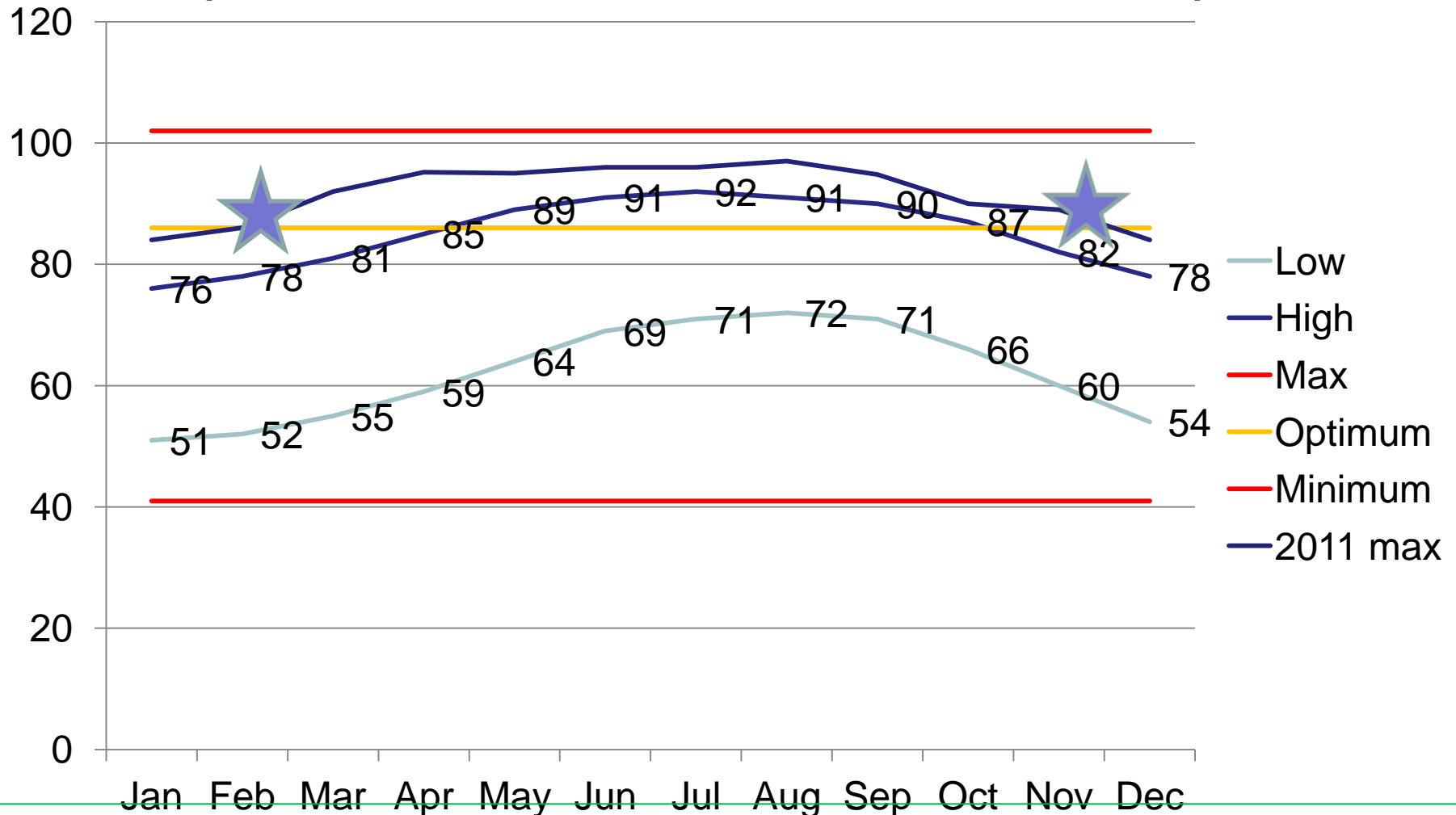




# 30-year average high and low temperatures (F) for Immokalee and Maximum, Optimum and Minimum Temperatures for *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*



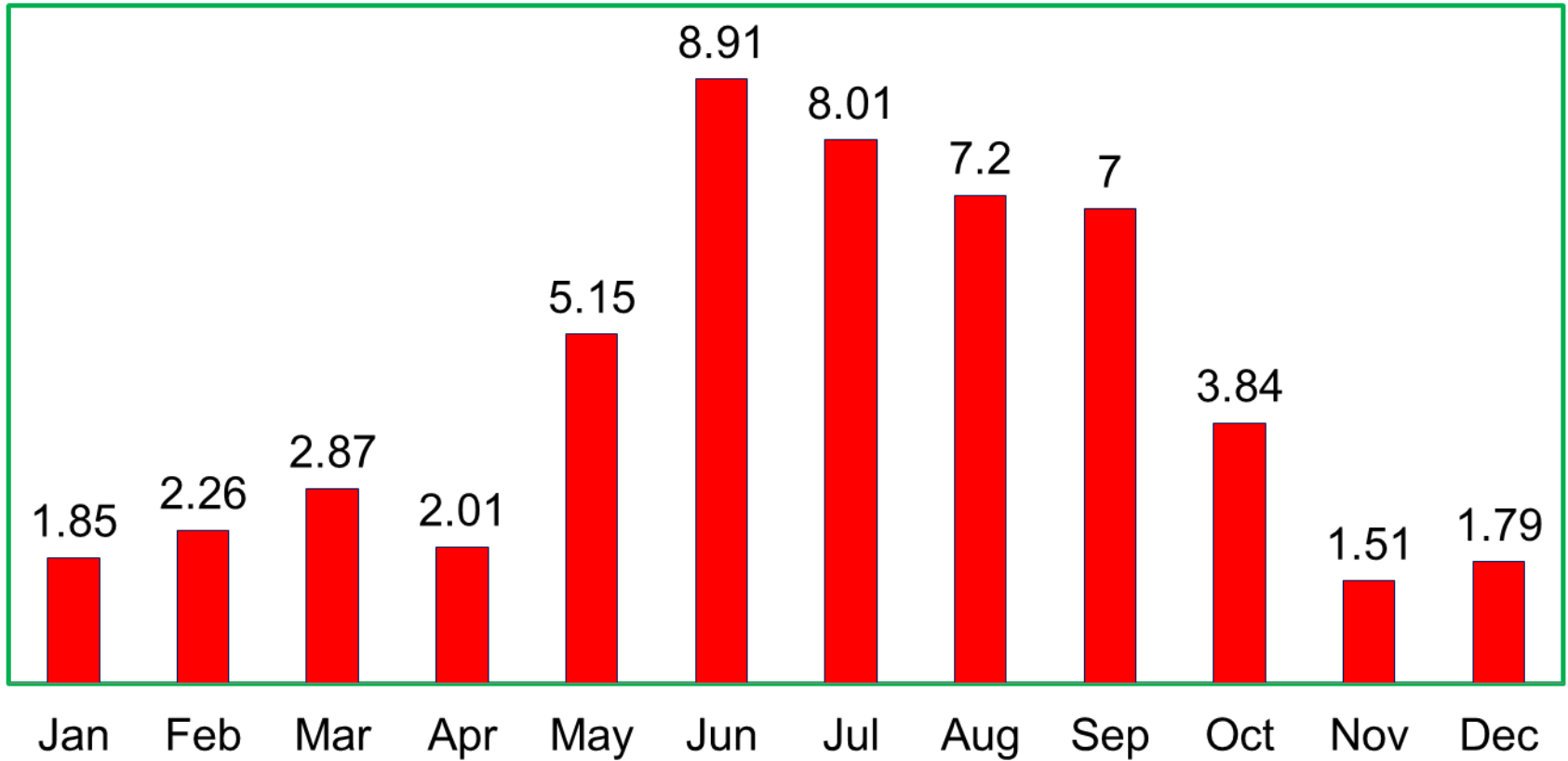
# 30-year average high and low temperatures (F) for Immokalee and Maximum, Optimum and Minimum Temperatures for *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri*



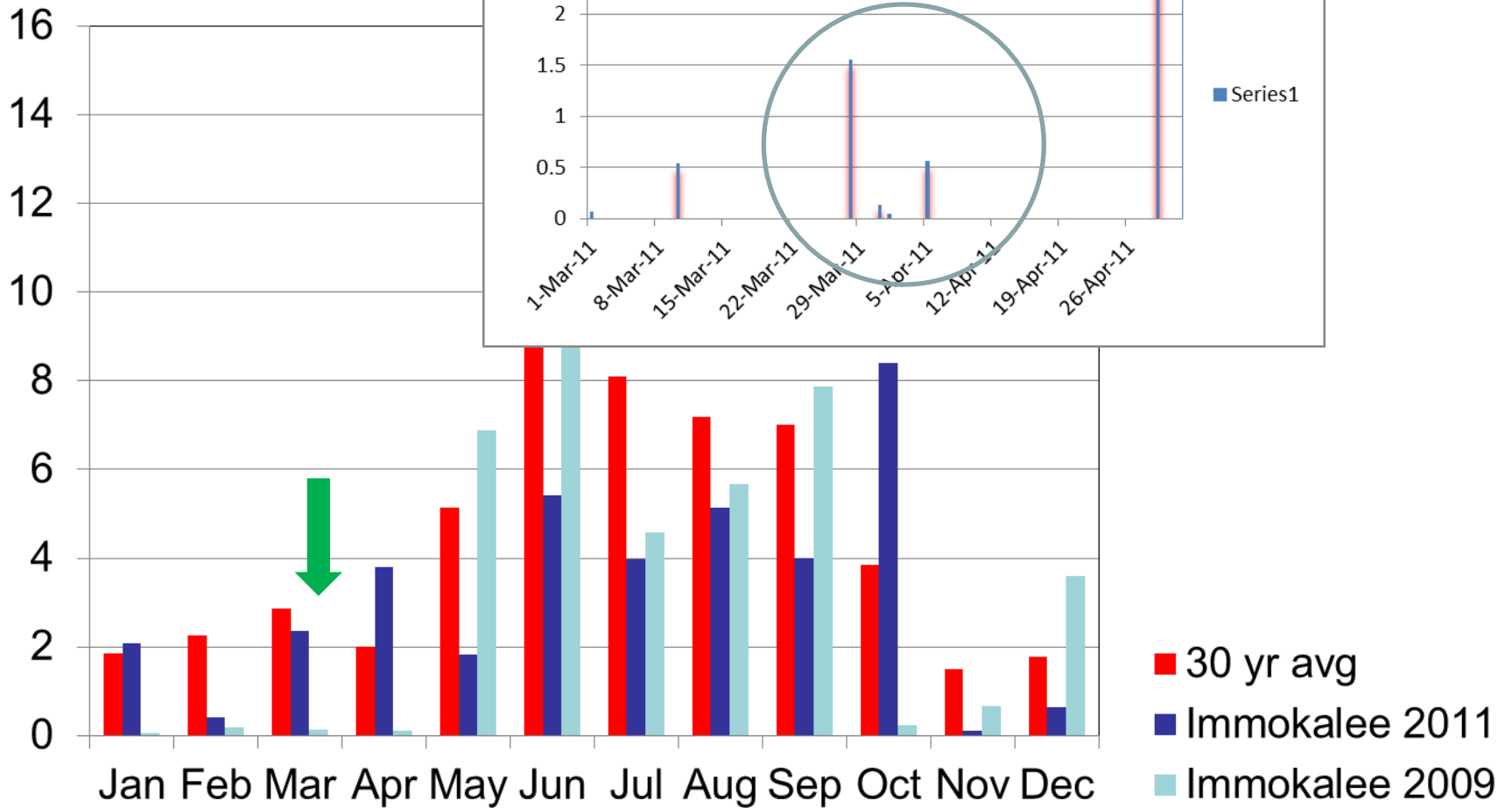
Optimum temperature for *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri* started in Feb and ended in Dec

# 30-year Average

## Rainfall (in)



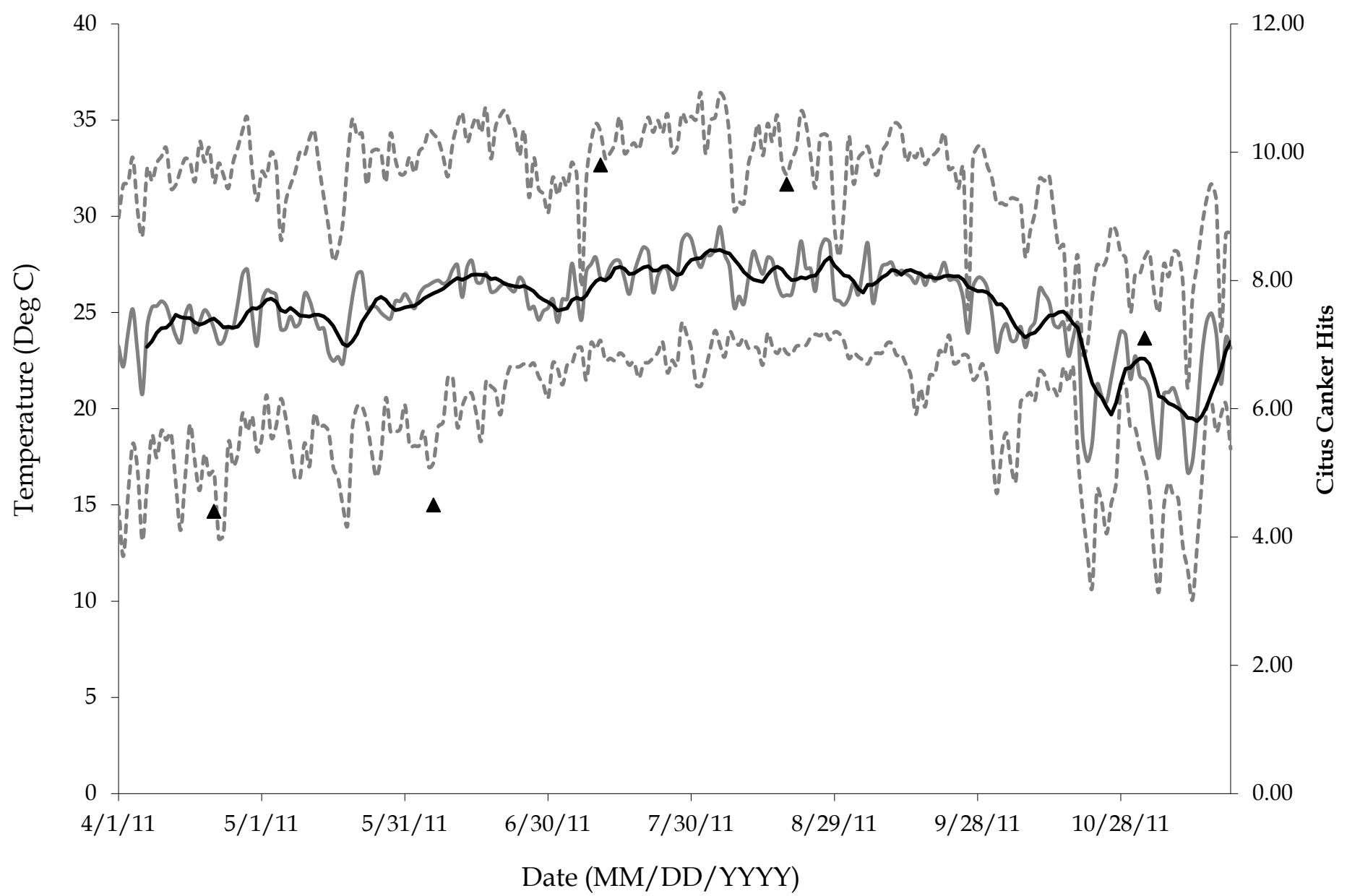
# Price Collapsion



Rainfall and Temperature:  
significant?

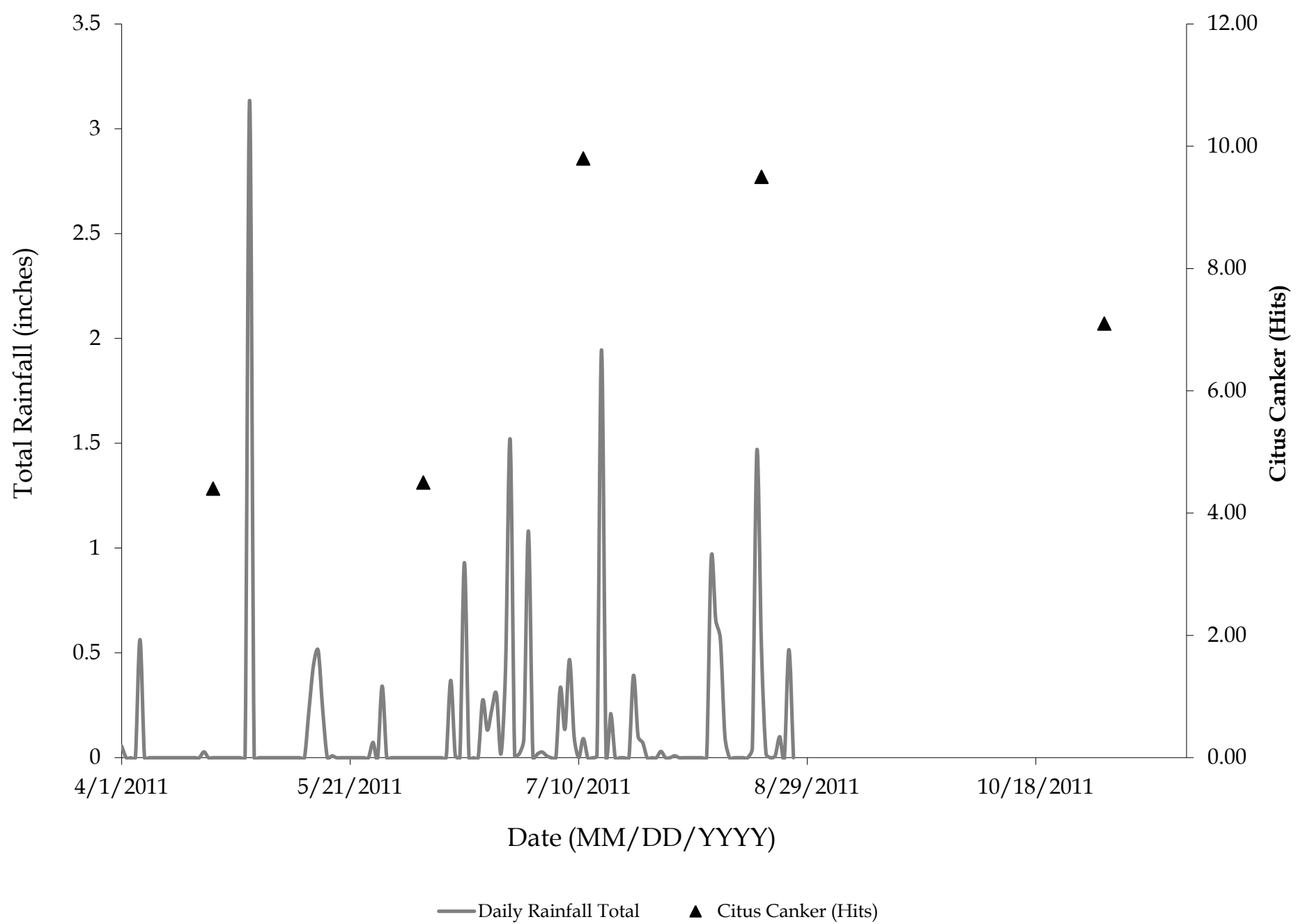
- Canker Trials 2011
  - Canker on Valencia
    - Air Temperature Plot (Min, Avg, Max and 7 Day moving Average).
    - Rainfall Totals
    - Dew point temperature Plot (Min, Avg, Max and 7 Day moving Average).
    - Regression Plots
      - Moving average (7 days) air temperature and moving average interpolated canker hits (7 days).
      - Moving total rainfall (7 days) and moving average interpolated canker hits (7 days).
      - Moving average (7 days) dew point temperature and moving average interpolated canker hits (7 days).

# Valencia 2011 Trial



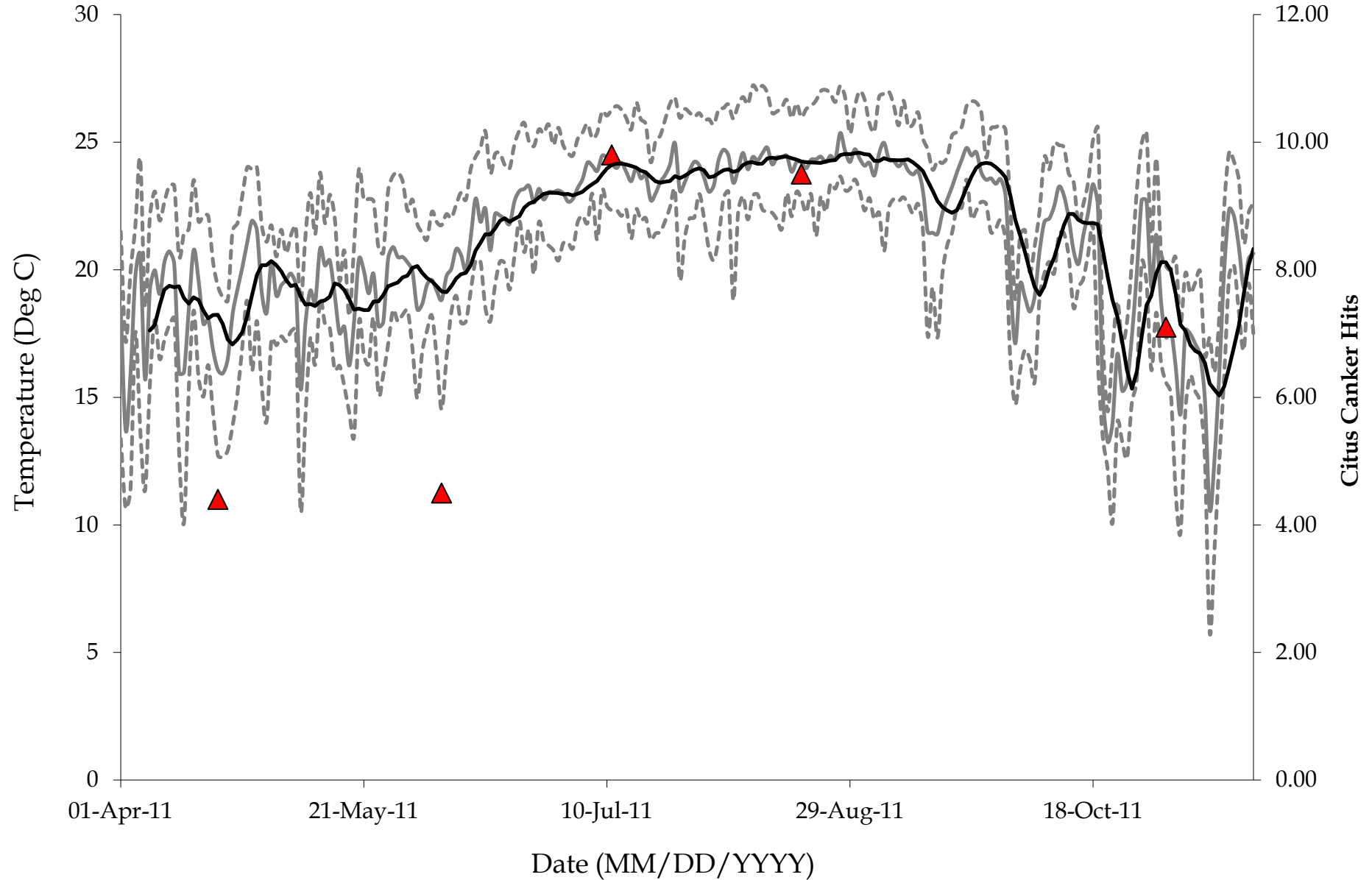
----- Min Air Temp    ——— Mean Air Temp    ..... Max Air Temp    ▲ Citrus Canker (Hits)    ——— 7 Day Moving Average

# Valencia 2011 Trial



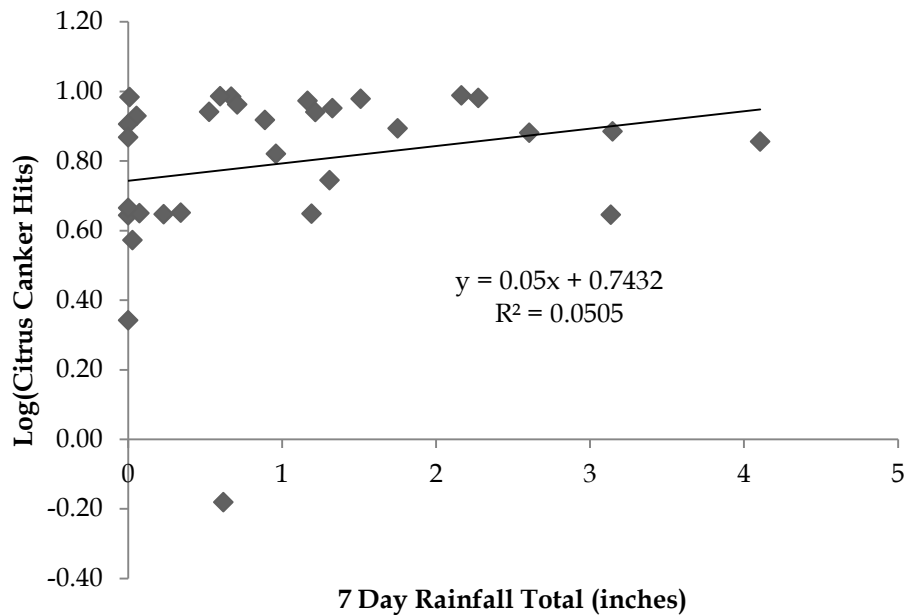


# Valencia 2011 Trial

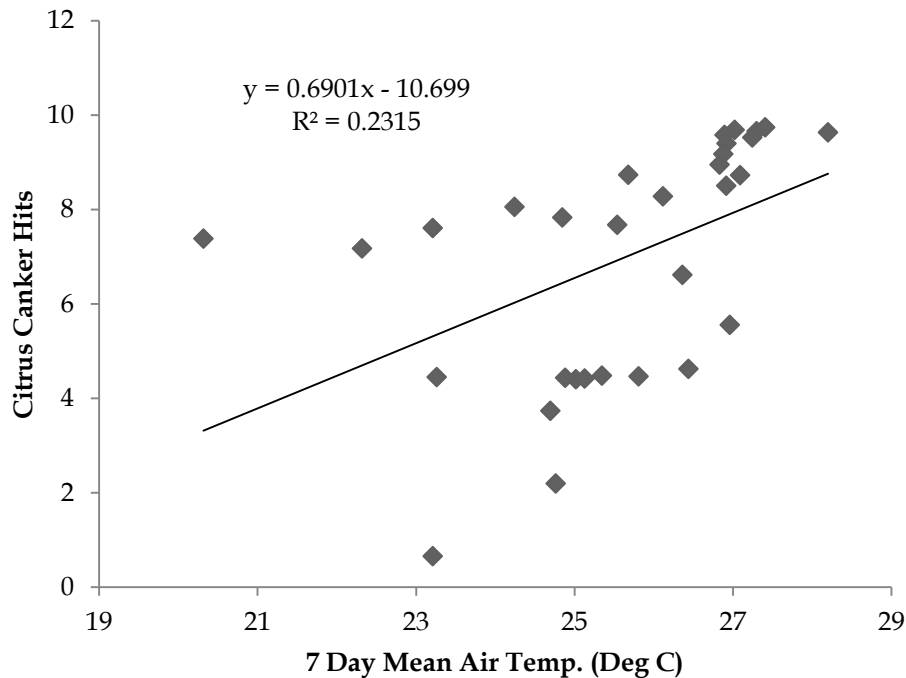


----- Min DP Temp      ——— Mean DP Temp      ----- Max DP Temp      ▲ Citus Canker (Hits)      ——— 7 Day Moving Average

# Valencia 2011 Trial

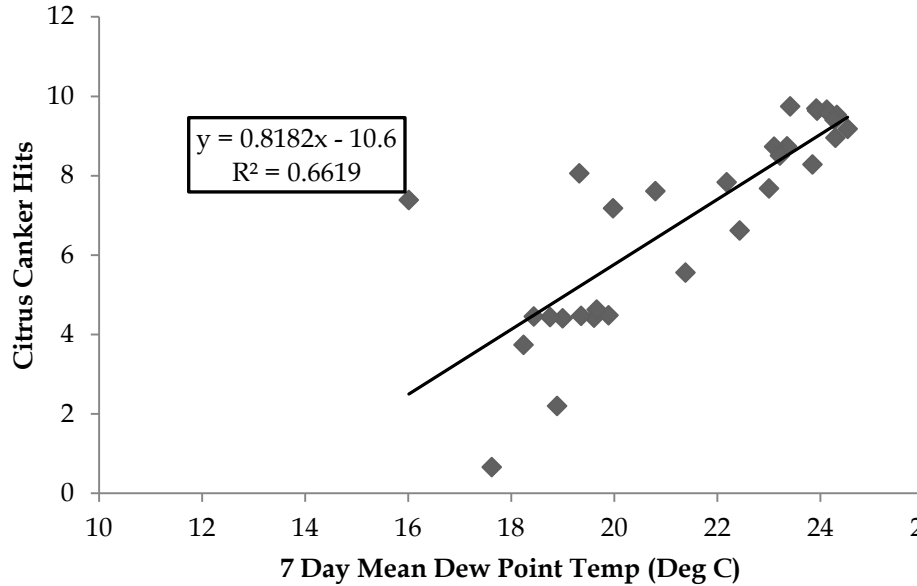


- No statistically significant relationship exists for 7 day rainfall totals verse Log(Canker Hits)
  - DF= 29, F Ratio=1.541,  $\rho=0.224$
  - Low  $R^2$  (0.050) and only improved slightly with non-log transformed data (0.051).



- A statistically significant relationship between 7 day mean air temp and canker hits (non-log transformed) is apparent.
  - DF=29, F Ratio=6.368,  $\rho=0.017$
  - However the relationship has a low  $R^2$  value of 0.232.

# Valencia 2011 Trial



- A statistically significant relationship between 7 day mean dew point temp and canker hits (non-log transformed) is apparent.
  - DF=29, F Ratio=56.772,  $\rho=0.001$
  - The relationship has a mid range  $R^2$  value of 0.6619.
  - The relationship did not improve significantly with log transformation canker hits ( $R^2= 0.4831$ ).

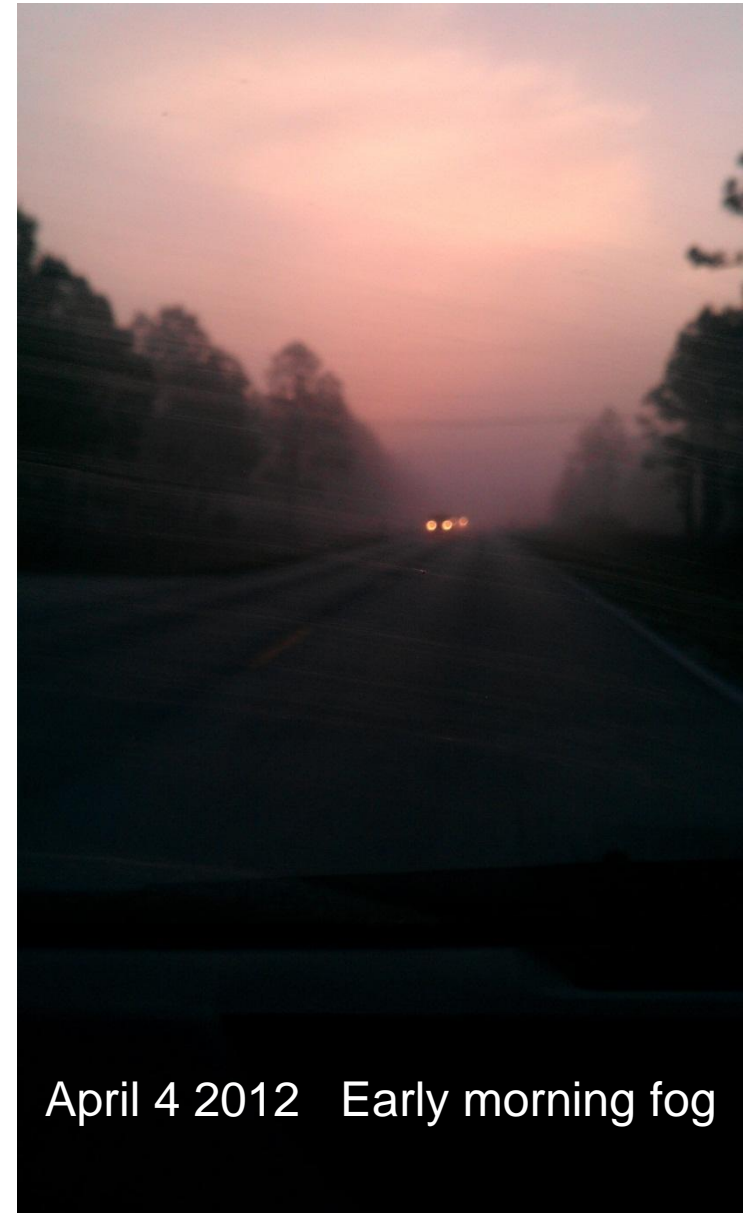
Conclusion: Did something go wrong?

In Immokalee:

2011: Intense rains occurred from late March through October

2011: Temperature was conducive for bacteria growth early in the season and throughout

Mean dew point temperature at which the air becomes saturated seemed to be related to canker in 2011



April 4 2012 Early morning fog

2012

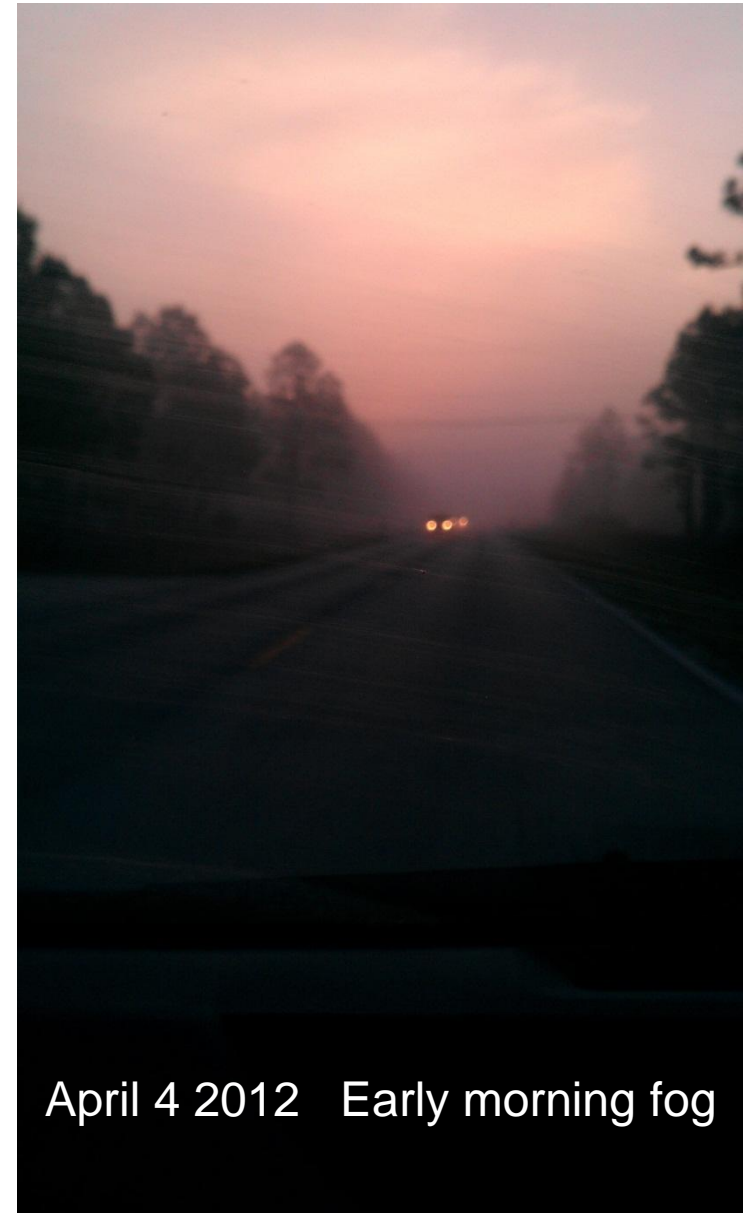
Is this year a repeat of 2011?

Warm weather

Isolated rainfall

Dew

Canker lesions developing for several weeks now in south Florida



April 4 2012 Early morning fog

# Trials to suppress citrus canker in Immokalee

# Background

Trials began in 2007 at the request of a local producer to test claims made by various companies

Test various products and programs to suppress citrus canker

Not timing trials- 21 day calendar

Not to compare different copper materials

# Product selection criteria

Trials were initiated in response to grower asking for independent verification of claims

Grower interest

IR-4 program

Other Researchers

My non-citrus trials

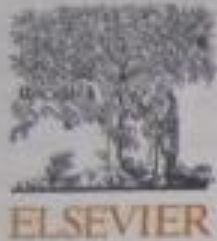
- Agrichemical companies



# Goals

1. Identify **efficacious** materials to **integrate** into **sustainable management programs**
2. Three applications per year for canker control

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



# Crop Protection

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cropro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cropro)



Examples of other programs in used in other crops

## Evaluation of spray programs containing famoxadone plus cymoxanil, acibenzolar-*S*-methyl, and *Bacillus subtilis* compared to copper sprays for management of bacterial spot on tomato

P.D. Roberts<sup>a,\*</sup>, M.T. Momol<sup>b,1</sup>, L. Ritchie<sup>b</sup>, S.M. Olson<sup>b</sup>, J.B. Jones<sup>c</sup>, B. Balogh<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Plant Pathology Department, University of Florida – IFAS, 2686 SR 29 N, Immokalee, FL 34142-9515, USA

<sup>b</sup> North Florida Research and Education Center, Plant Pathology Department, University of Florida – IFAS, 155 Research Road, Quincy, FL 32351-5677, USA

<sup>c</sup> University of Florida, 1453 Fifield Hall, Plant Pathology Department, Gainesville, FL 32611-0680, USA

<sup>d</sup> Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT 06504, USA

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 12 October 2007

Received in revised form 16 June 2008

Accepted 17 June 2008

#### Keywords:

Reduced copper sprays

Induced resistance

*Xanthomonas*

Biological control

### ABSTRACT

Bacterial spot caused by *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* Jones et al. and *Xanthomonas perforans* Jones et al. is a major disease on fresh market commercial tomato in Florida. Fourteen field trials were conducted between 1999 and 2005 (10 in south Florida and four in north Florida) testing famoxadone plus cymoxanil (Tanos 50DF<sup>®</sup>, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, DE), *Bacillus subtilis* strain QST 713 (*B. subtilis*) (Serenade WPO<sup>®</sup> or Serenade Max<sup>®</sup>, AgraQuest, Inc., Davis, CA), and acibenzolar-*S*-methyl (ASM) (Actigard 50WG<sup>®</sup>, Syngenta Crop Protection, Greensboro, NC) at different rates and in various application programs that were combined and rotated with copper hydroxide and mancozeb for management of bacterial spot. In field applied spray treatments containing famoxadone as a component, all of the programs significantly reduced bacterial spot severity on plants compared to the untreated control. Disease suppression conferred by the

## Control of Citrus Canker and Citrus Bacterial Spot with Bacteriophages

**Botond Balogh**, University of Florida, Plant Pathology Department, 1453 Fifield Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611, and The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06504; **B. I. Canteros**, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria Estación Experimental Agropecuaria, Bella Vista, Corrientes, Argentina; and **R. E. Stall** and **J. B. Jones**, University of Florida, Plant Pathology Department, 1453 Fifield Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611

---

### ABSTRACT

Balogh, B., Canteros, B. I., Stall, R. E., and Jones, J. B. 2008. Control of citrus canker and citrus bacterial spot with bacteriophages. *Plant Dis.* 92:1048-1052.

Bacteriophages, alone or in combination with copper bactericides, were evaluated for managing Asiatic citrus canker and citrus bacterial spot incited by *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pathovars *citri* and *citrumelo*, respectively. In a set of five greenhouse experiments, phage treatment provided consistent control of citrus canker, causing an average of 59% reduction in disease severity. However, treatment with phage was ineffective if applied with skim milk, a protective formulation, which increases phage residual activity. In nursery settings, phage treatment also reduced disease but was less effective than copper-mancozeb, a chemical bactericide. The integration of phage and copper-mancozeb resulted in equal or less control than copper-mancozeb application alone. Phage treatments were evaluated in a commercial citrus nursery for reducing citrus bacterial spot caused by natural inoculum. Phage treatment provided significant disease reduction on moderately sensitive Valencia oranges in two trials (48 and 35%); however, on the highly susceptible grapefruit host it was ineffective. In an experimental citrus nursery, phage treatment provided significant control of citrus bacterial spot caused by a phage-sensitive strain, but was equally or less effective than copper-mancozeb. The combination of phage and copper-mancozeb did not increase control compared with copper-mancozeb alone.

*Additional keywords:* biocontrol, biological control

---

eral diseases caused by species of *Xanthomonas*, including bacterial spot of peach, caused by *X. campestris* pv. *pruni* (8,27), geranium bacterial blight, caused by *X. campestris* pv. *pelargonii* (9), tomato bacterial spot, caused by *X. euvesicatoria* and *X. perforans*, and xanthomonas leaf blight of onion, caused by *X. axonopodis* pv. *allii* (3,10,19,24,25).

Recently, a considerable amount of research has been conducted on understanding problems associated with phage treatment of bacterial plant diseases and improving its efficacy. The short residual activity of phage, caused mainly by the detrimental effects of sunlight UV irradiation, was identified as a major hindrance to effective disease control (3,14). Strategies that increased phage longevity, such as the use of formulations that attenuate sunlight damage or evening applications to minimize UV irradiation, resulted in enhanced control (3). Phage treatment also per-

## Management of Tomato Bacterial Spot in the Field by Foliar Applications of Bacteriophages and SAR Inducers

A. Obradovic and J. B. Jones, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611; M. T. Monol, Plant Pathology Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Quincy 32451; B. Balogh, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Florida, Gainesville; and S. M. Olson, Horticultural Sciences Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Quincy

### ABSTRACT

Obradovic, A., Jones, J. B., Monol, M. T., Balogh, B., and Olson, S. M. 2004. Management of tomato bacterial spot in the field by foliar applications of bacteriophages and SAR inducers. *Plant Dis.* 88:735-740.

Various combinations of the harpin protein, acibenzolar-S-methyl, and bacteriophages were evaluated for controlling tomato bacterial spot in field experiments. Harpin protein and acibenzolar-S-methyl were applied every 14 days beginning 14 days before transplanting and then an additional four applications throughout the season. Formulated bacteriophages were applied prior to insecticide treatments by means of a backpack. A standard bactericide treatment, consisting of copper hydroxide plus mancozeb, was applied once prior to insecticide and then every 7 days while infested plants served as an untreated control. Experiments were conducted in South and central Florida fields during fall 2001, spring 2002, and fall 2002. In three consecutive seasons, acibenzolar-S-methyl applied in combination with bacteriophage or bactericide and harpin significantly reduced bacterial spot compared with the other treatments; however, it did not significantly affect the total yield compared with the standard or untreated control. Application of host-specific bacteriophages was effective against the bacterial spot pathogen in all three experiments, providing better disease control than copper-based or untreated control. When results of the disease severity assessments or harvested yield from the bacteriophage-treated plots were grouped and compared with the results of the corresponding bactericide-based groups, the former provided significantly better disease control and yield of marketable fruit.

Tomato bacterial spot, caused by *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* (Doidge) Dow, remains a constant threat to tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) commercial production (6,19,25). Control strategies are based on a combination of practices such as use of pathogen-free seed and transplants, elimination of volunteer tomato plants, resistant cultivars, and the usual application of a copper and mancozeb mixture (3,19,26). Chemical control has been used extensively for controlling bacterial spot in the 1950s; streptomycin was used, but resistant bacterial strains developed and rendered antibiotics ineffective (39). However, these strategies are of limited use, especially in the tropics and subtropics where weather conditions favor infection (9). Four tomato races (T1 to T4) of *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* have been described (3,31).

However, only two races (T1 and T3) commonly occur in Florida (22,28), whereas T4 has been found recently at a very low incidence (31). In Florida, T3 has become the most prevalent race (12,17). Although resistance genes have been identified and introgressed into tomato and copper genotypes with good horticultural qualities, shifts in race populations of *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* compromise breeders' efforts to provide stable resistance in commercial tomato cultivars (23,25).

Chemical control of bacterial spot relies on multiple applications of copper- or streptomycin-based bactericides (26). However, the occurrence of pathogenic strains tolerant to these compounds reduces their effectiveness significantly (29,36,39). As a result of the build-up in copper-tolerant strains, a mixture of copper and oxytetracycline dihydrochloride was used to control race strains (9,24,29). Although copper-mixture combinations reduced bacterial penetration on tomato leaves (24) and resulted in improved disease control (9,24), the combination was ineffective when weather conditions were optimal for disease development, and positive yield responses rarely were observed in situations where copper-tolerant strains were present (18). Therefore, alternative disease control strategies are needed that

result in improved disease control and yield responses. Alternative strategies that have been tested and which were associated with a reduction in disease severity of bacterial spot and bacterial speck of tomato include activation of natural plant defense mechanisms by systemic acquired resistance (SAR) inducers (28,35,37) and plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) (4,33), and application of antagonistic bacteria (41,42) and bacteriophages (3,10,20).

Although biological control agents have been used successfully for control of crown gall, caused by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (7), and fire blight of pear, caused by *Erwinia amylovora* (27), their application to bacteriophages has been used only in a limited manner. *Bacillus* spp. provided complete control of black rot of cucurbit (1,2). In greenhouse studies, *E. herbicola* and *Bacillus subtilis* suppressed *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* on cucumber and *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* on mung bean (15,16). The only published information on bacterial antagonism by nonpathogenic strains toward the bacterial spot of tomato pathogen, a race of Collier et al. (8), who determined *in vitro* experiments that *Pseudomonas* spp. were antagonistic toward *X. campestris* pv. *vesicatoria*. The same nonpathogenic bacteria, plant-pathogenic bacterial strains have been shown to be antagonistic to strains of closely related bacteria (40). T3 strains were shown to be antagonistic to T1 strains by producing bacteriocin-like compounds. The T3 strains were shown to contain at least three different bacteriocins that were inhibitory to T1 strains. Heat (17) denaturates but two of the bacteriocins were essential for the competitive advantage of T3 strains over T1 strains. The antagonistic nature of the T3 strains (17,2) helps to explain previously published results in which T3 strains were shown to out-compete T1 strains in fields where both strains were present (17).

In order to optimize their benefits in control of tomato bacterial spot, we studied the combined effects of SARs, PGPRs, bacteriophages, and antagonistic bacteria under greenhouse conditions (39). We identified several combinations of SARs and bacteriophages that effectively reduced bacterial spot on tomato. Based on results

## Tech Note

## Sulphur as an Alternative to Copper as a Bactericide

March 2008

Bacterial Canker (*Pseudomonas syringae*) is a serious disease in a number of crops including stone fruit, and affects both the tree health and the fruit.

Bacteria are effectively controlled by low rates of copper. Copper is a useful product in that its application both controls both fungal and bacterial diseases.

Over use of any product is not the best management option. Copper treatments have been a traditional means of bacterial control and hence and it is now time to search for alternative treatments.

Research originally out of NZ points to sulphur in combination with coppers at lower rates is a possible alternative to copper for bacterial control. There are however a few cautionary notes to be observed:

- o Crop sensitivities have not been established
- o Varietal differences/ sensitivities within each crop have not been examined.
- o Hot temperatures. Refer to copper and sulphur labels.

For this reason extreme care ought to be applied if spraying sulphur is considered.

Sulphur is also an essential nutrient for plant growth and some soils are deficient, so foliar applications are useful from both a disease management point of view and that of nutrition.



Corresponding author: A. Obradovic  
E-mail: obrad@ufl.edu

This research was supported by grants from the USDA National Organic IPM and NISDA IPM/NSR programs.

Accepted for publication: 10 March 2004.

Publication no. D-2004-051-01R  
© 2004 The American Phytopathological Society

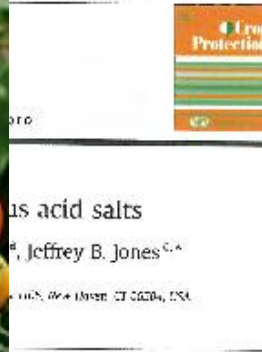




Tomato

*Xanthomonas* causing tomato  
 other states in the Southeast  
 vegetable crop in Florida, acco  
 market production in the south  
 Committee, 2005). However, tom  
 by bacterial spot, which is commo  
 The tomato industry in the south  
 1996; Bauske et al., 1998). Actio  
 gies have been developed rec  
 Jengies and new opportunities to  
 and subtropical environment

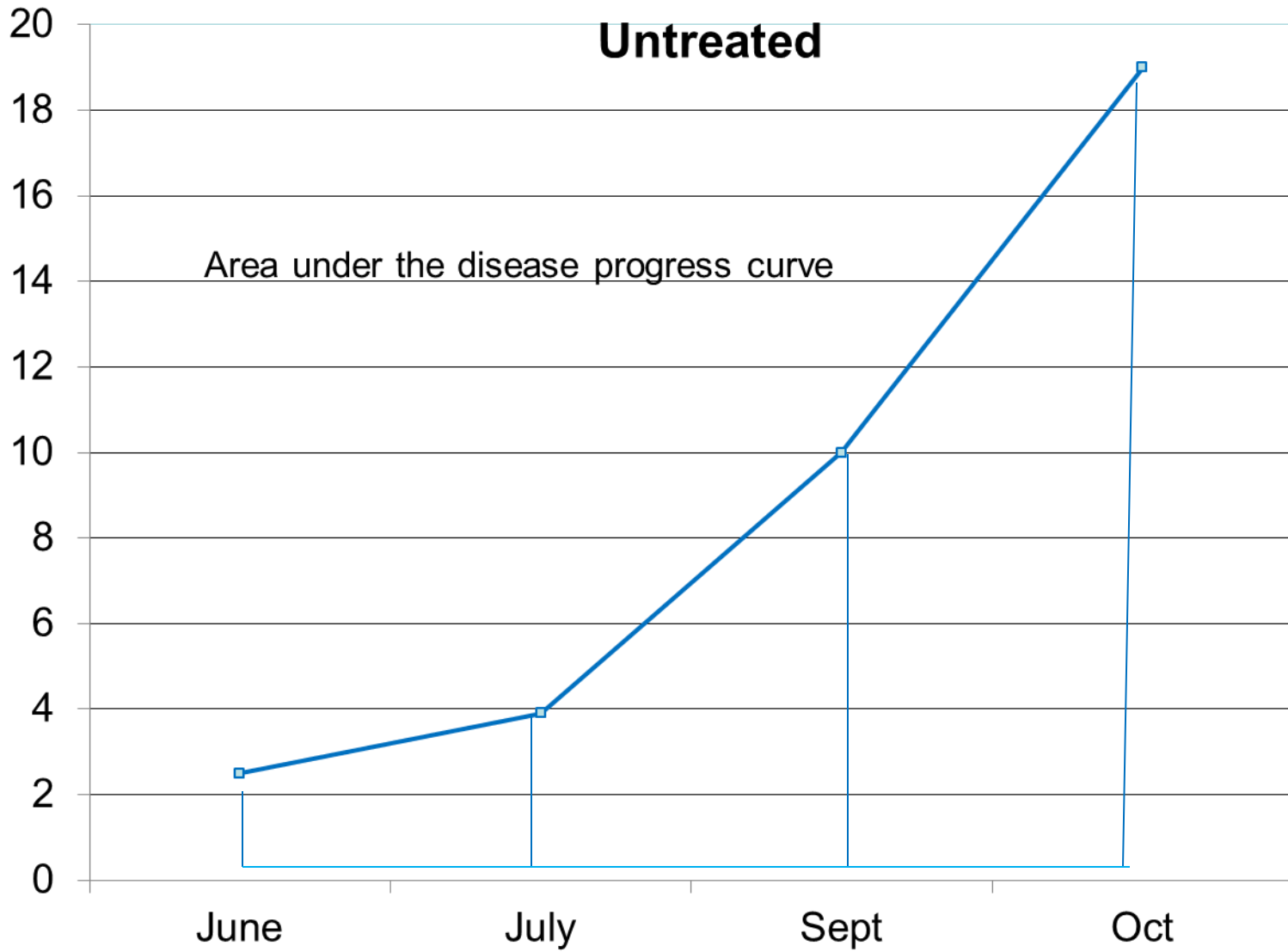
<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author.  
 E-mail address: a.soriano@ufl.edu  
<sup>2</sup> Both authors contributed equally



Citrus

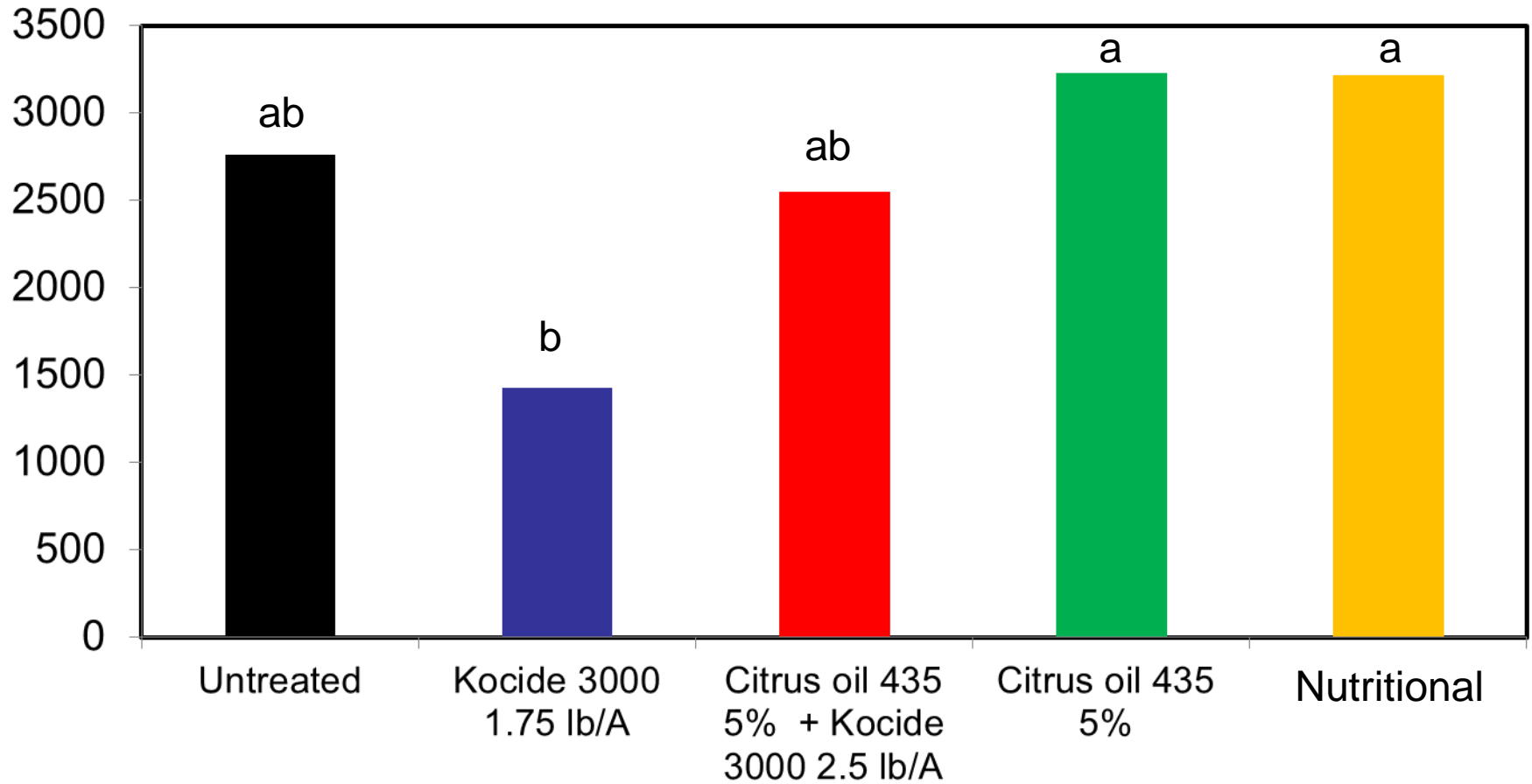


# Untreated



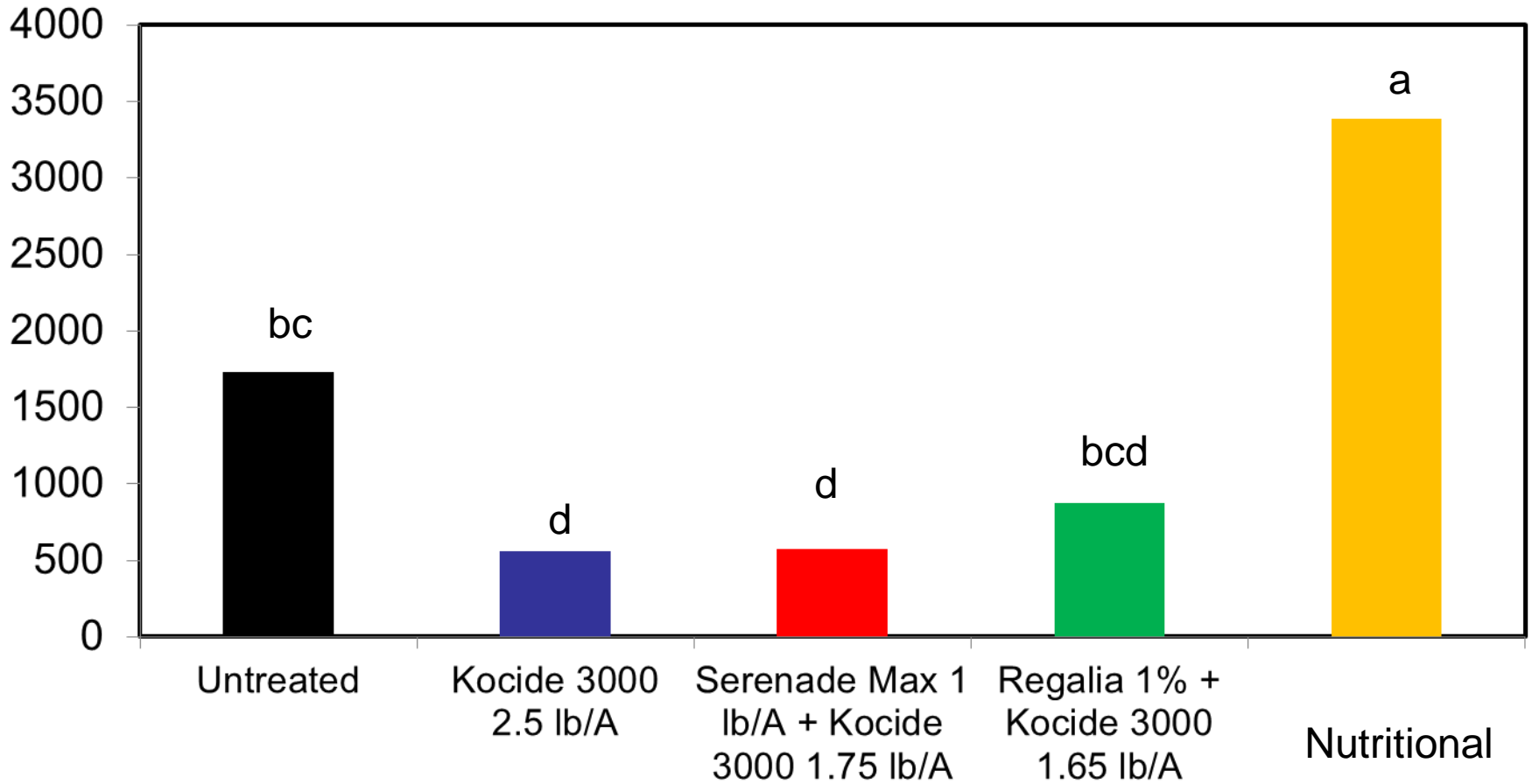
Fungicide	Rate (lb or oz per acre)	% Metallic Equivalent	kg AI/ha	oz AI/A
Kocide 3000	2.5 lb	30	0.841	12.0
Kocide 3000	1.25 lb	30	0.420	6.0
Kocide 3000	0.625 lb	30	0.210	3.0
Magna Bon	64 oz (100 gal prep, 250 ppm)	5	0.234	3.2
Magna Bon	51.2 oz (100 gal prep, 200 ppm)	5	0.187	2.6
Magna Bon	25.6 oz (100 gal prep, 100 ppm)	5	0.094	1.3
Copper Count N	2 lb	8	0.179	2.6
Cueva	256 oz	1.8	0.337	4.6
Badge X2	2.68 lb	28	0.841	12.0

# Area Under the Disease Progress Curve Commercial Site, Valencia, 2008

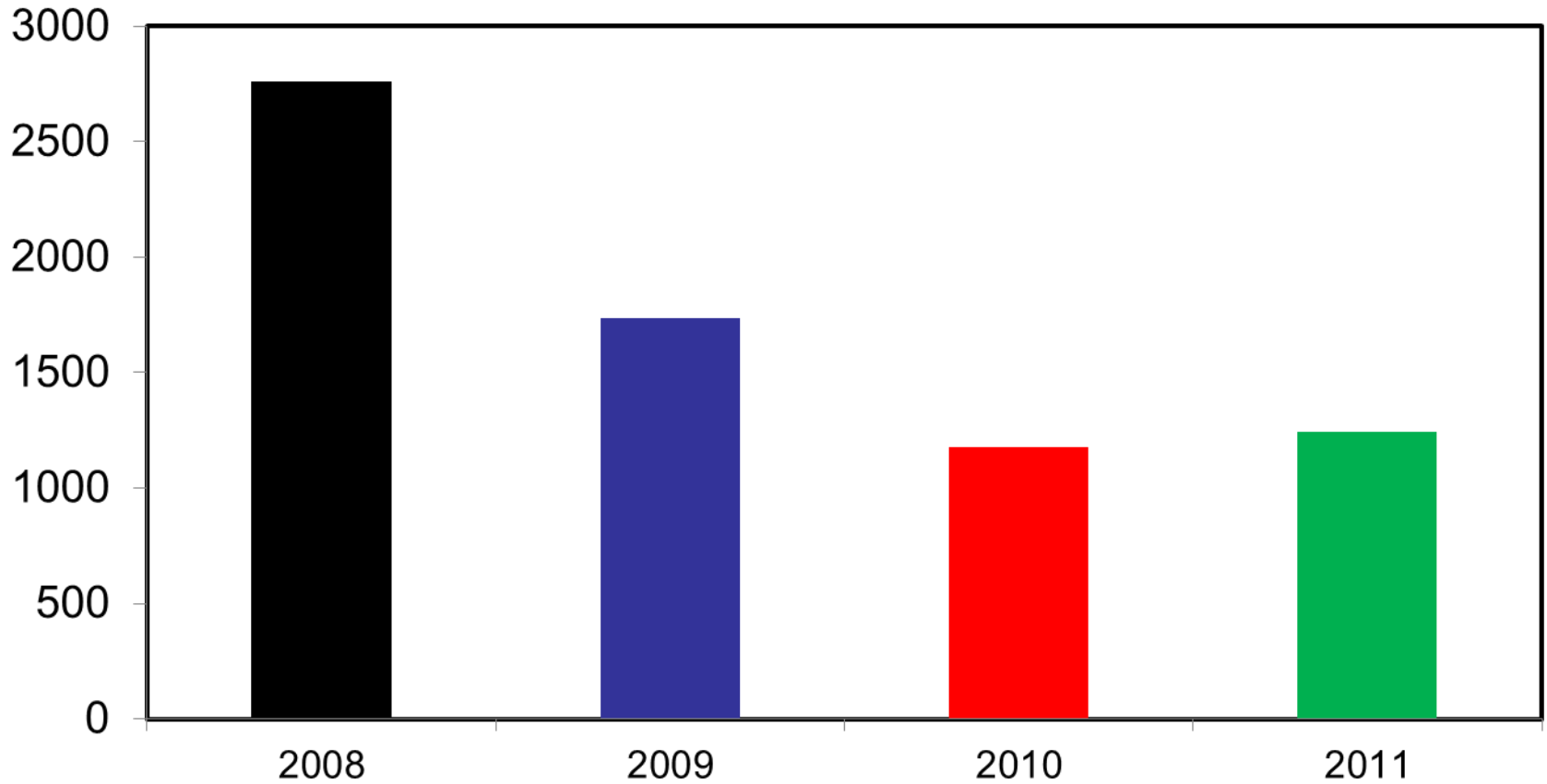




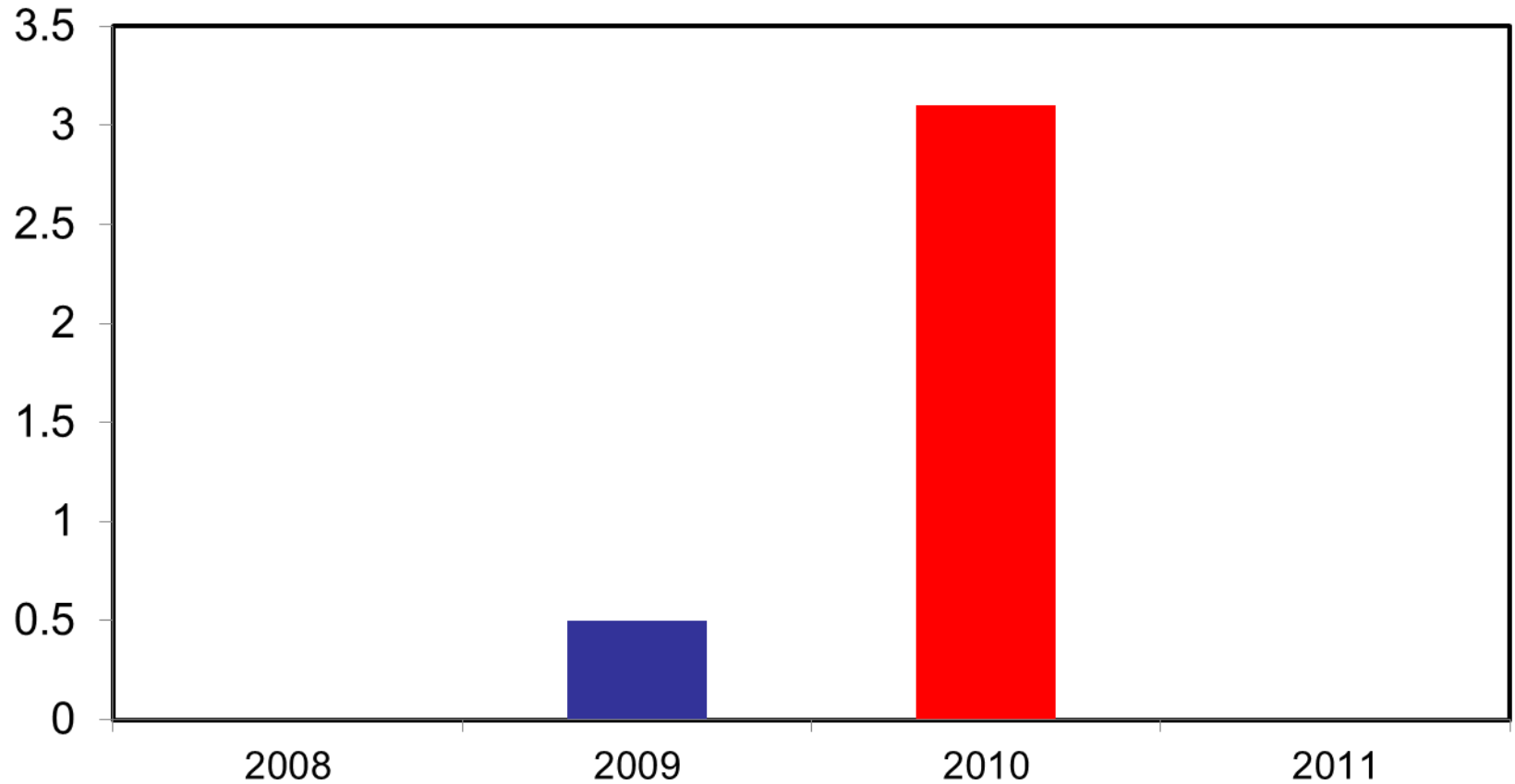
# Area Under the Disease Progress Curve Commercial site, Valencia, 2009



# Area Under the Disease Progress Curve for Untreated Valencia Trees 2008-2011

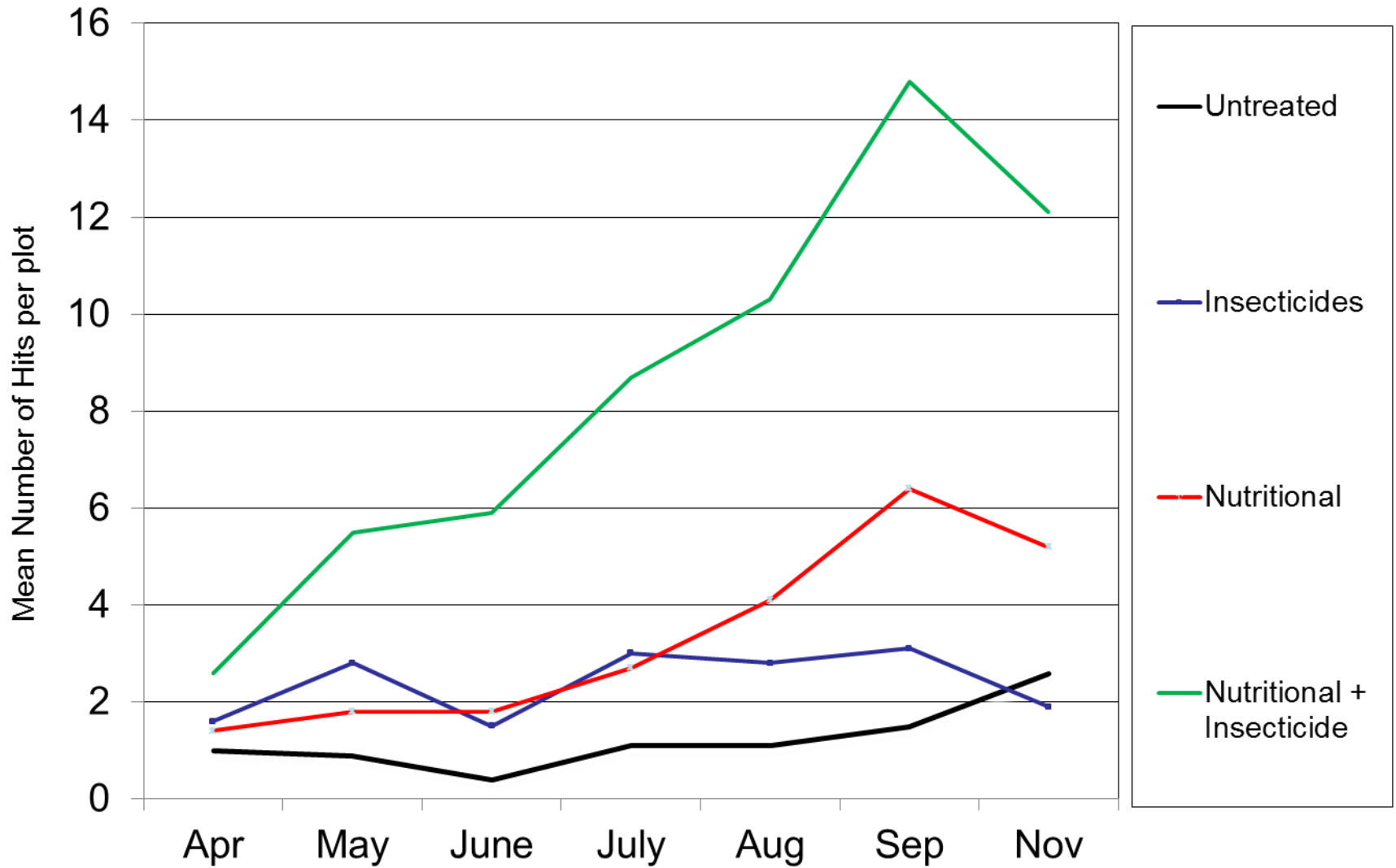


# Greening rating on a scale of 0-9 in untreated plots of canker trial



Greening was interfering with canker development

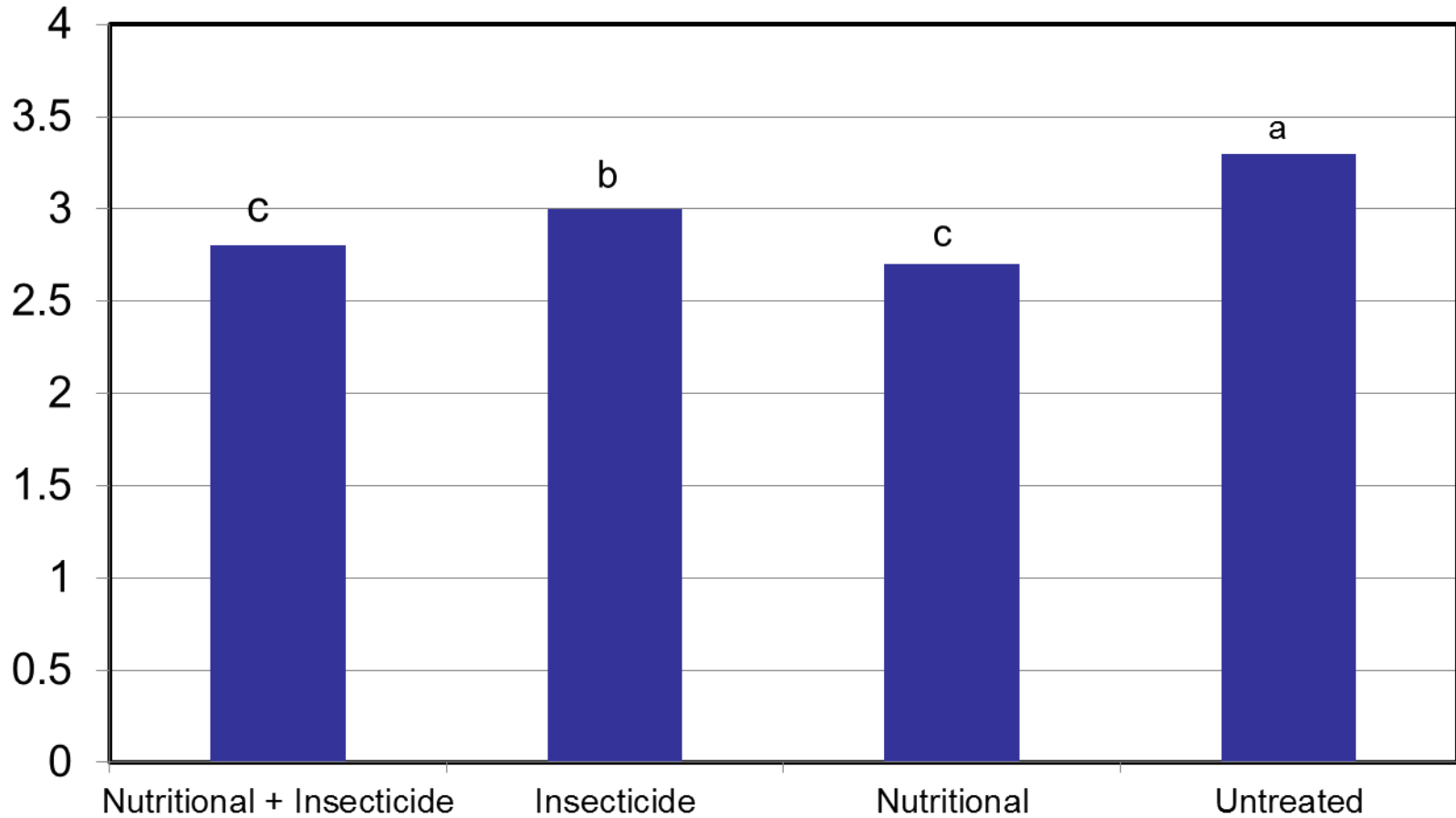
# Citrus Canker Disease Progress, Valencia 2011



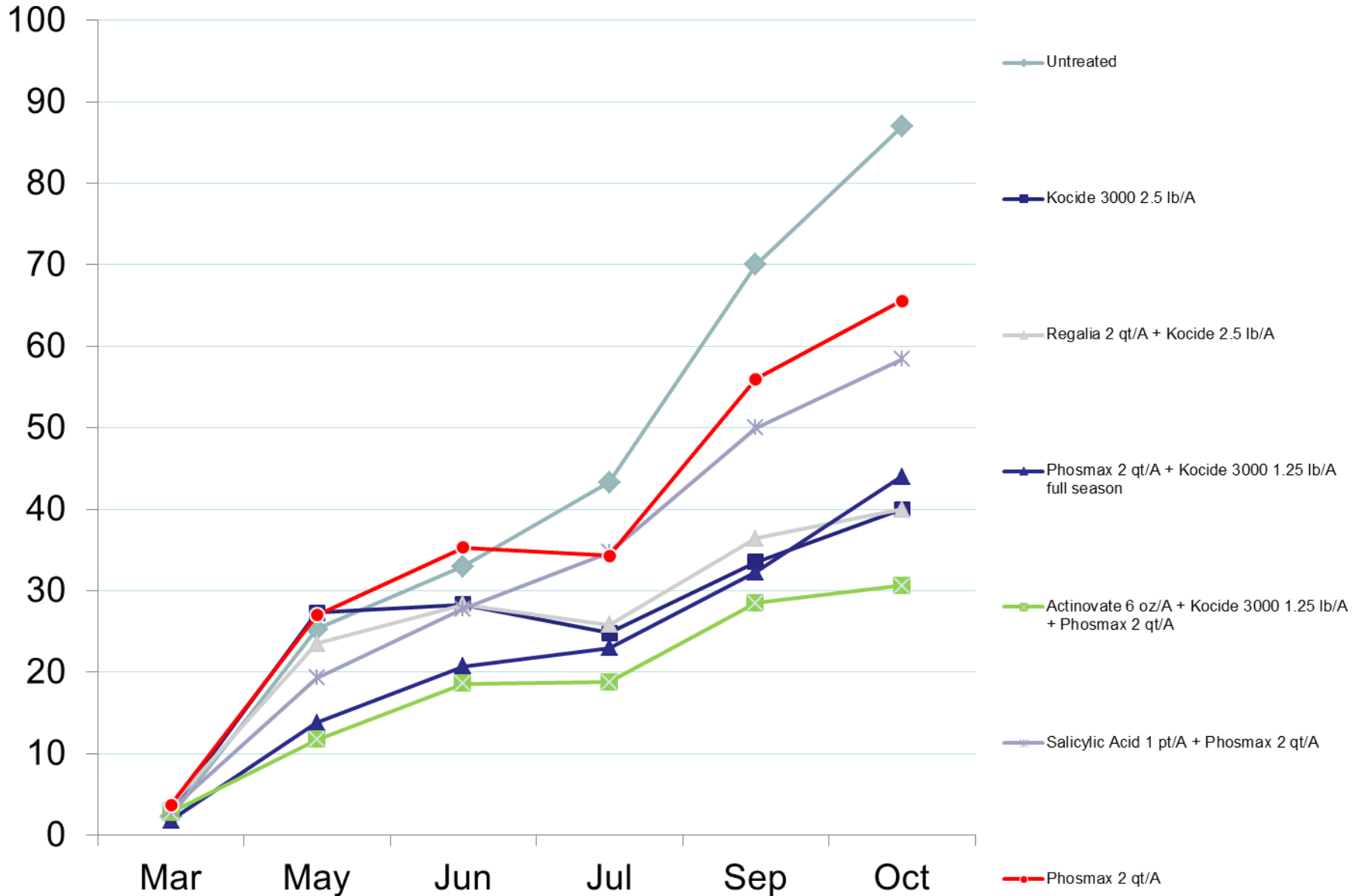
Philip A. Stansly, H. Alejandro Arevalo, Moneen Jones, Katherine Hendricks, Pamela D. Roberts, and Fritz M. Roka

# Greening Severity Ratings

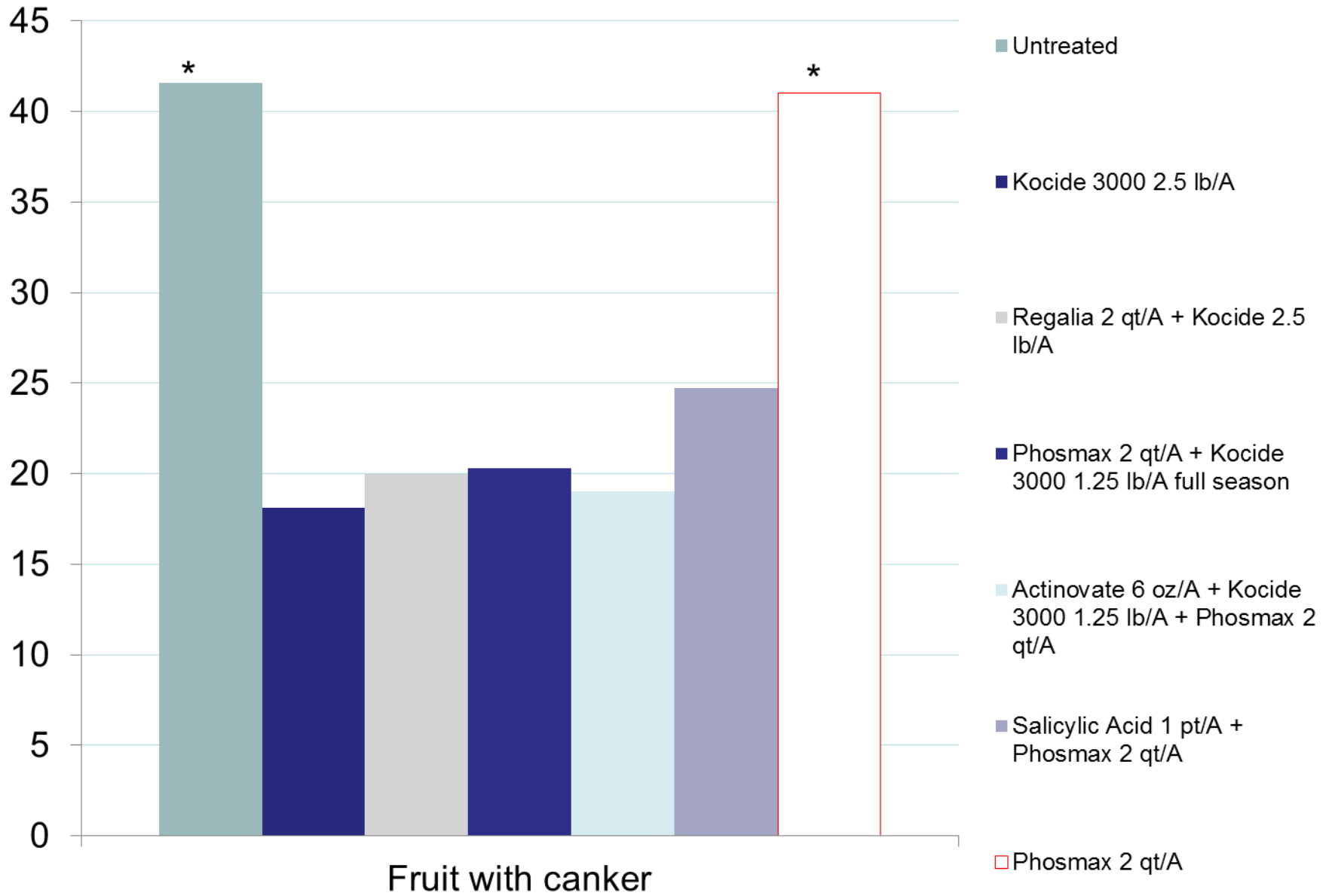
0= no symptoms;9= tree dead



# Citrus Canker Disease Progress by Hits on Grapefruit, 2011



# Grapefruit, 2011



My reason for doing these trials  
to evaluate Products and Programs that  
are being applied to citrus to control  
canker or mitigate HLB

Regalia

Serenade Max

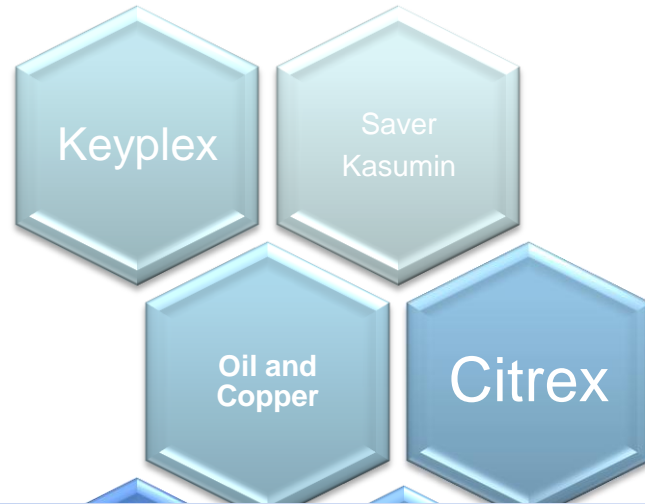
Actinovate AG

Phosphorus acid

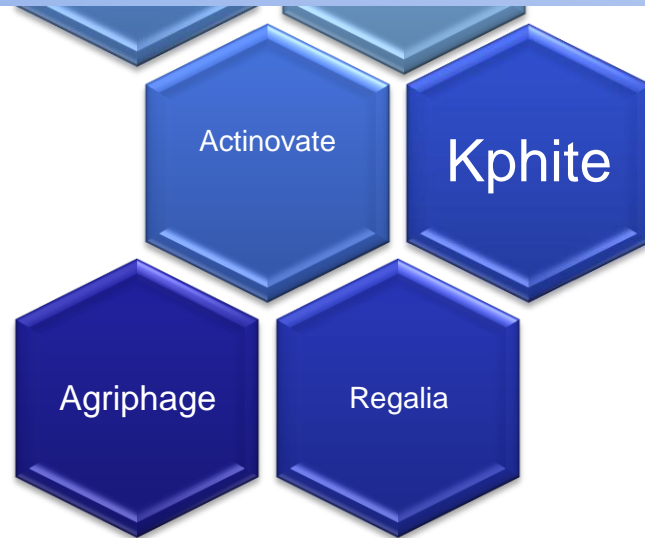
Sulphur

Zinc Oxide





In repeated testing, some of these products could be alternated or combined with 0.6 lb metallic copper or less and still achieve the same level of control statistically at





# Summary

- I think that we all know that canker development is tied very closely to the environment
- However, changes in management programs for HLB will also impact citrus canker control
- Copper compounds are currently the most efficacious for canker but many other products are being used
- [http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/plant\\_path/publications/](http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/plant_path/publications/)

# Many thanks to

Pathology lab members

Shea Teems

Dr. Katherine Hedricks

David Ballesteros

Chad Grannis

Rod Sytsma

Dr. Ryan Donahoo

Jake Collins

Many thanks to  
Entomology lab members

Robert Reifer

Barry Kostyk

Dr. Jawwad Qureshi

Phil Stansly

Mo Jones

Grower cooperators and  
Companies that partially  
supported these studies with  
products or grants