



NEW PERSPECTIVES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Sebastian Saa, *Almond Board of California*

Kenneth Shackel, *UC Davis*

Andrew Mcelrone, *USDA-UC Davis*

Forrest Melton, *NASA*

Isaya Kisekka, *UC Davis*





NEW PERSPECTIVES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Sebastian Saa, *Almond Board of California*



» Agenda

1. Moderators
Sebastian Saa, Associate Director, ABC
Tom Devol, Senior Manager, ABC
2. New Perspectives in Irrigation Management: when to start
Ken Shackel, UC Davis;
kashackel@ucdavis.edu
3. ET based irrigation management for almonds: something old and something new
Andrew J. McElrone, USDA; UC Davis;
ajmcelrone@ucdavis.edu
4. OPEN ET: Filling the Biggest Data Gap in Water Management
Forrest Melton, NASA Ames & CSU Monterey Bay;
forrest.s.melton@nasa.gov
5. Data-Driven Site-specific Irrigation Management
Isaya Kisekka, UC Davis;
ikisekka@ucdavis.edu





NEW PERSPECTIVES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Kenneth Shackel, *UC Davis*



New Perspectives in Irrigation Management: when to start

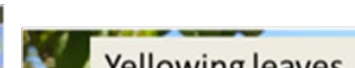
The 'Goldilocks' question:

Am I starting "Too Early," "Too Late," Or "Just Right?"

Ken Shackel, UC Davis
Roger Duncan, UCCE
Luke Milliron, UCCE
Bruce Lampinen, UCCE

Concerns about starting too early in walnuts:

Observation (B. Lampinen): Trees that are consistently too wet (above baseline SWP) in the spring can develop numerous symptoms later in the year, often mistaken for other disorders.



Results in Walnut: severe symptoms have not been observed, but at 2 sites (6 years, 3 years) substantial delays (>1 month) have shown no yield effect but a healthier tree appearance.



Concerns about starting too late in almonds/walnuts/prunes/pistachio

The 'Bank Account' Consideration:

“If I wait too long, trees will use up the deep soil moisture and run out of their bank account at harvest (when I can't irrigate)!”

Late season water stress in
peach (doubled fruit).

(Handley and Johnson, 2000, ASHS
35:771).

(Severe) post harvest stress
and yield reductions in
almond.

(Goldhammer and Viveros, 2000,
Irrigation Sci. 19:125-131)



Example: Nonpareil tree and flower bud development in the regional variety trial at Chico, CA, in 1997 (c/o Joe Connell)

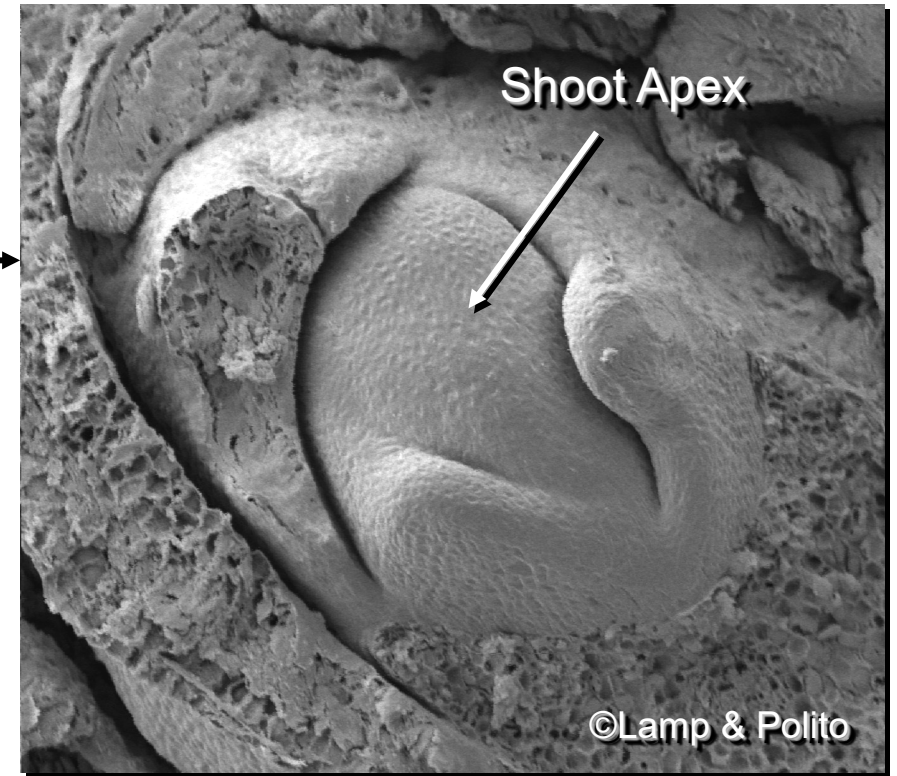
Date	Tree	
Feb. 10-22	Bloom	

cv 'Savana' (photo: Joe Connell)



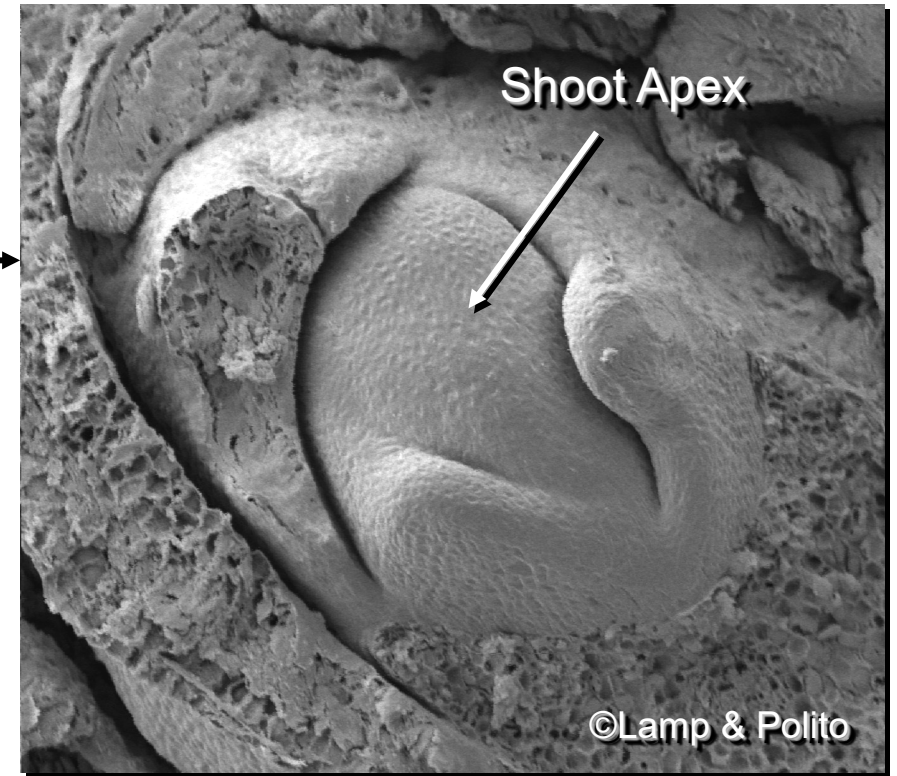
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Date	Tree	Bud (apical meristem)
Feb. 10-22	Bloom	('waking up')
(Spring/Summer)	Growing the crop	(producing leaves and bud scales)



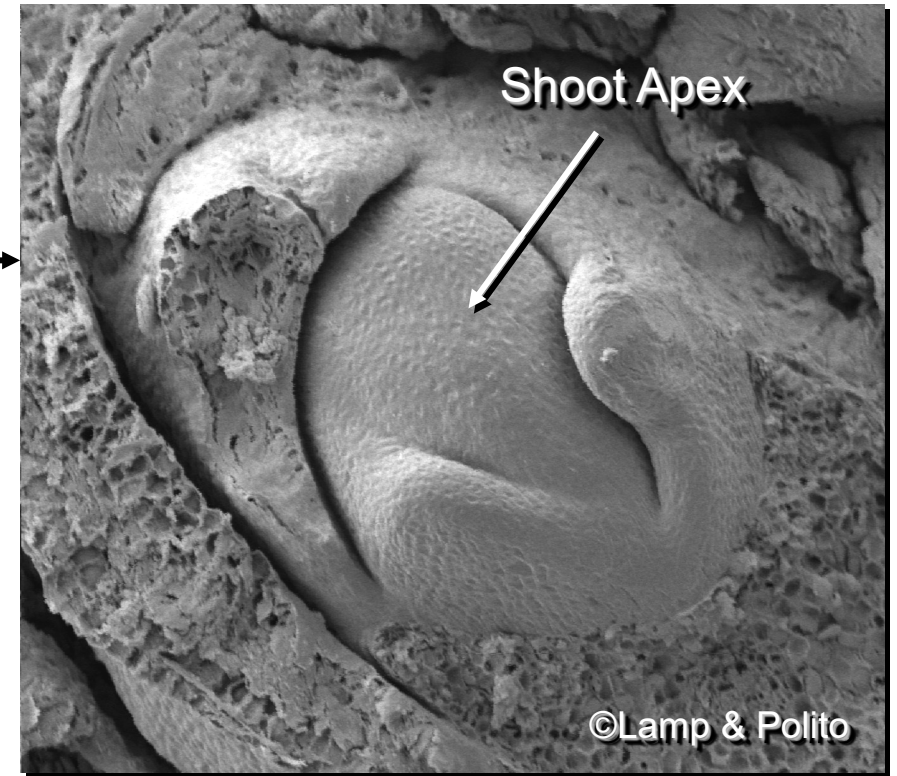
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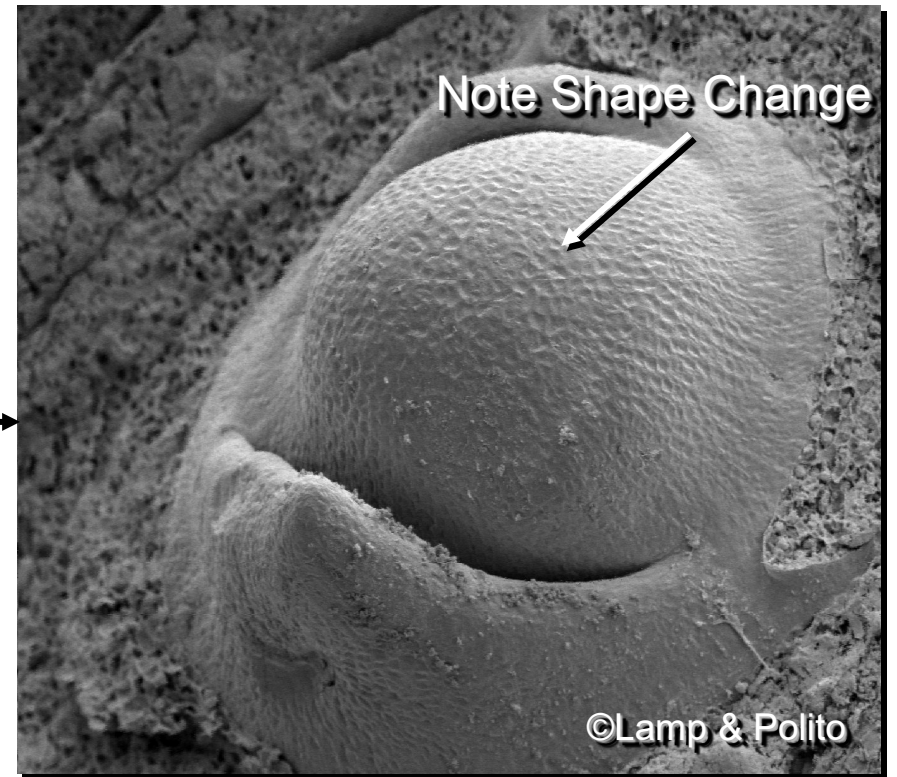
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July 20	Split 1%	



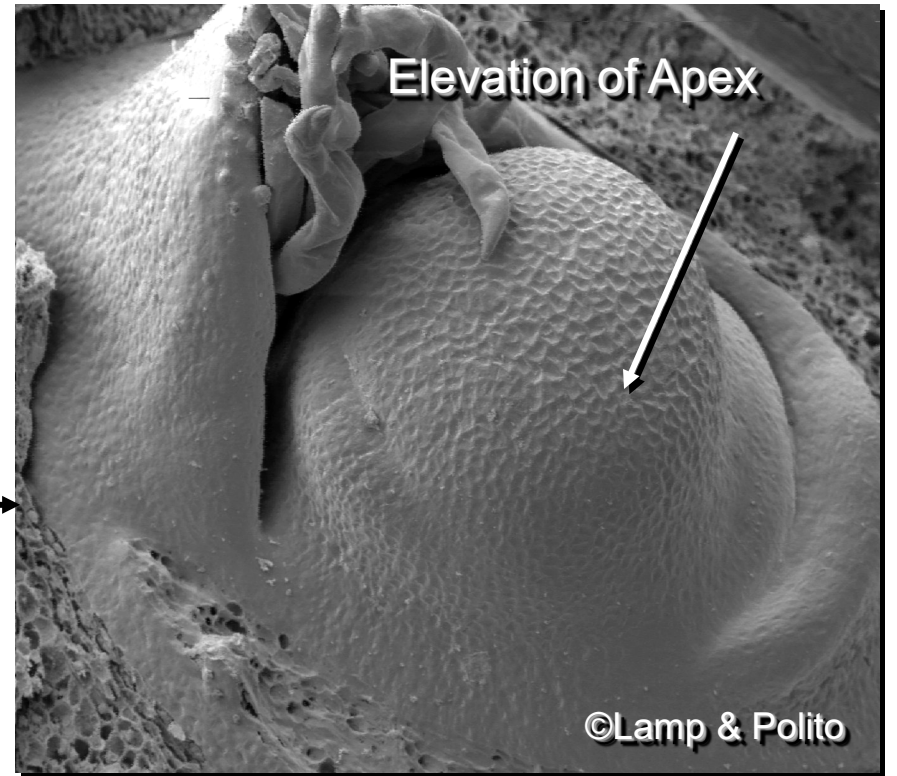
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July 28	Splitting...	Flower stage 1



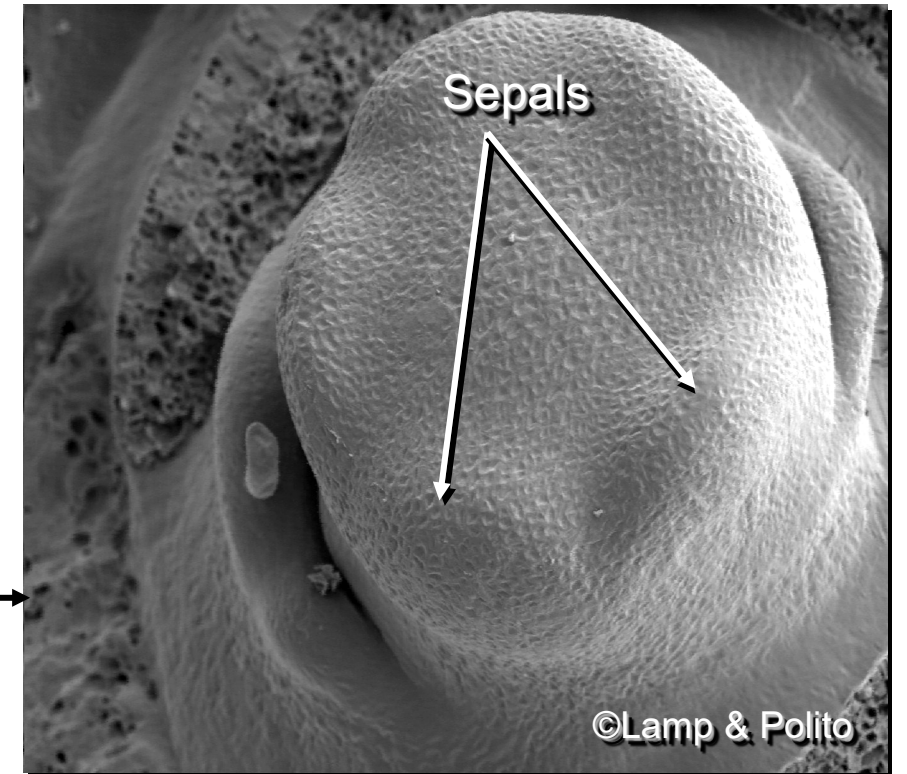
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August 11	Split 100%	Flower stage 2



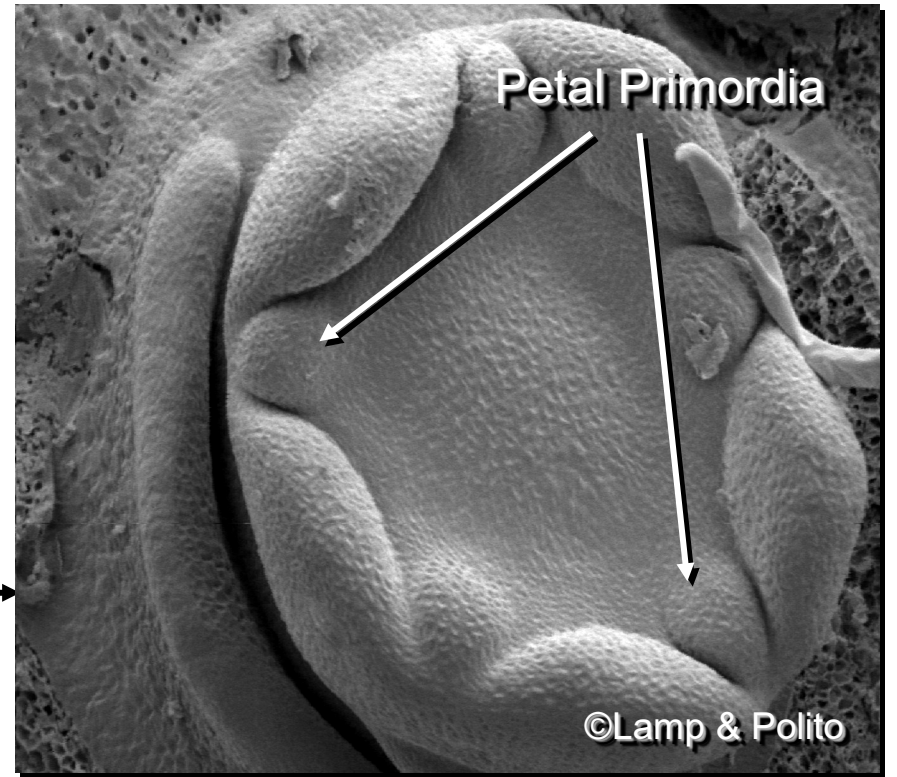
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August 11	Split 100%	Flower stage 2
August 18	Shake	Flower stage <u>3</u> /4



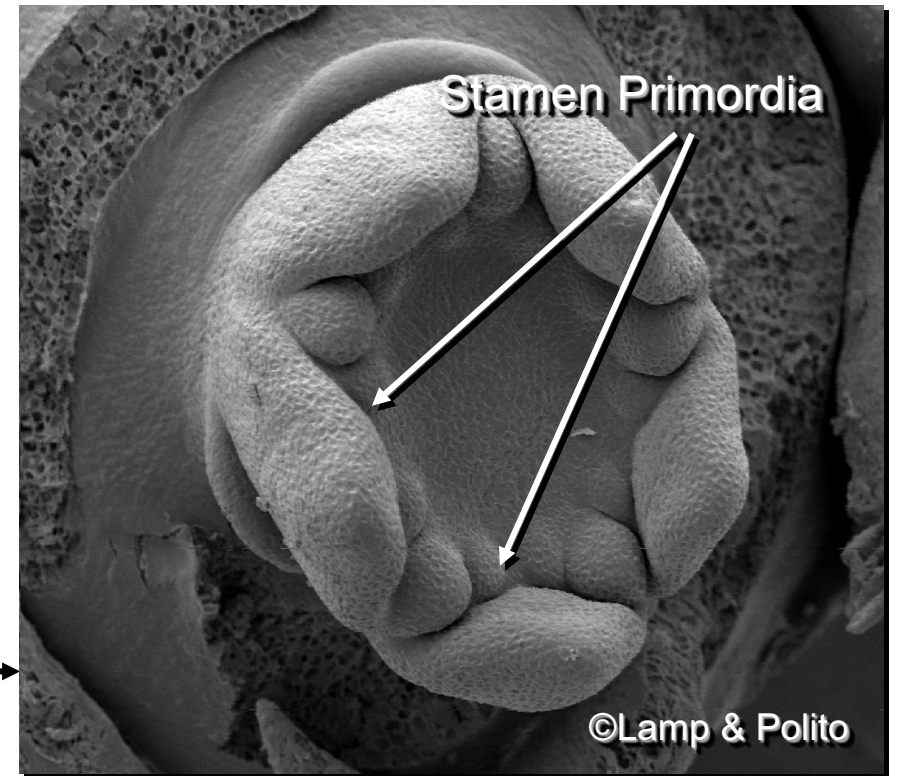
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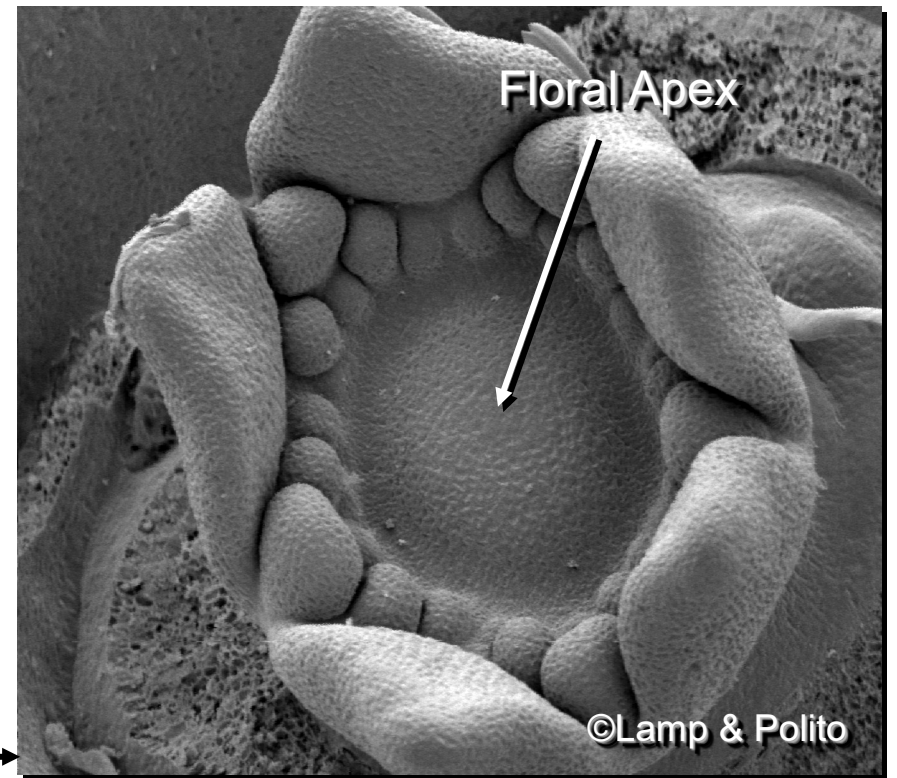
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August 18	Shake	Flower stage 3/4
August 26		Flower stage 5



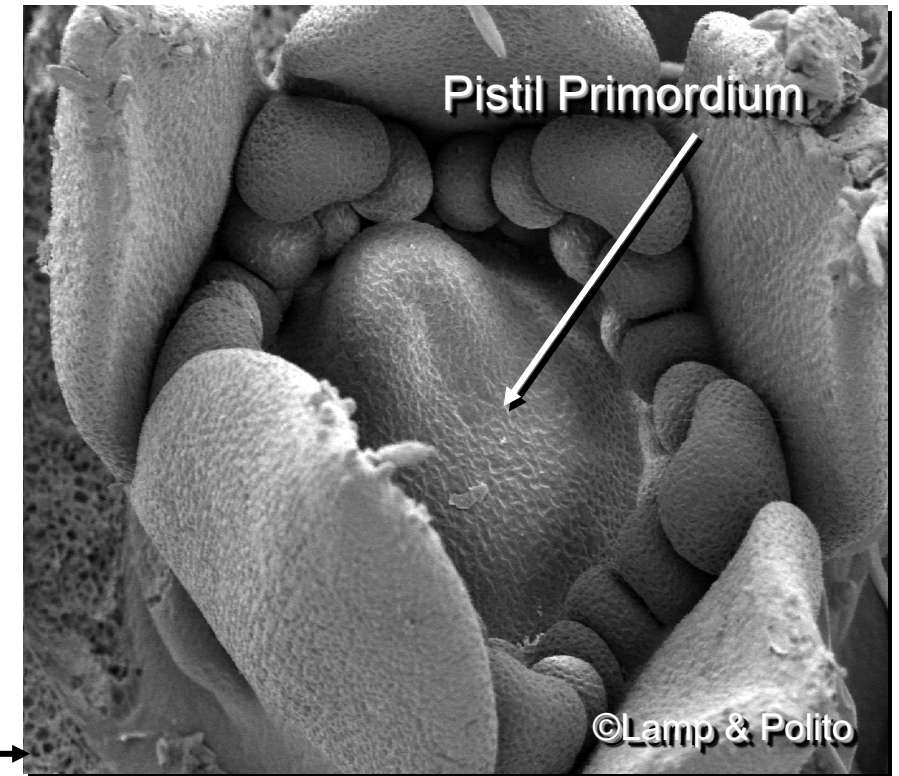
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August 26		Flower stage 5
September		Flower stage <u>6</u> /7



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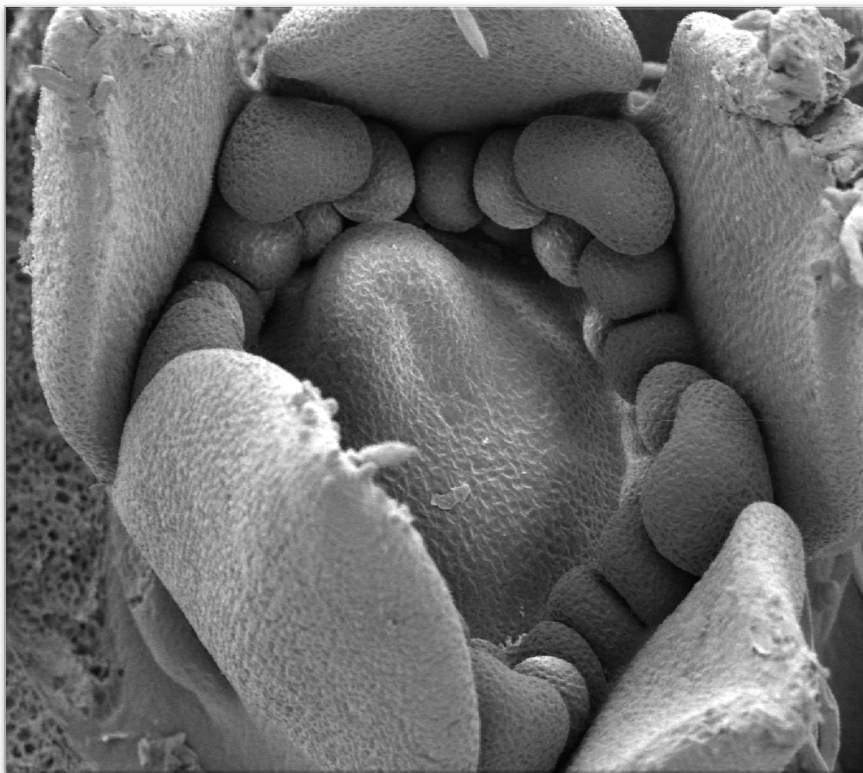
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August 18	Shake	Flower stage 3/4
August 26		Flower stage 5
September		Flower stage 6/7



So, the 'bank account' concern is a possibility, but in walnuts, long delays did not cause increased water stress at harvest (in fact, delayed trees were somewhat less stressed at harvest).

Size comparison:

Flower bud in late
September



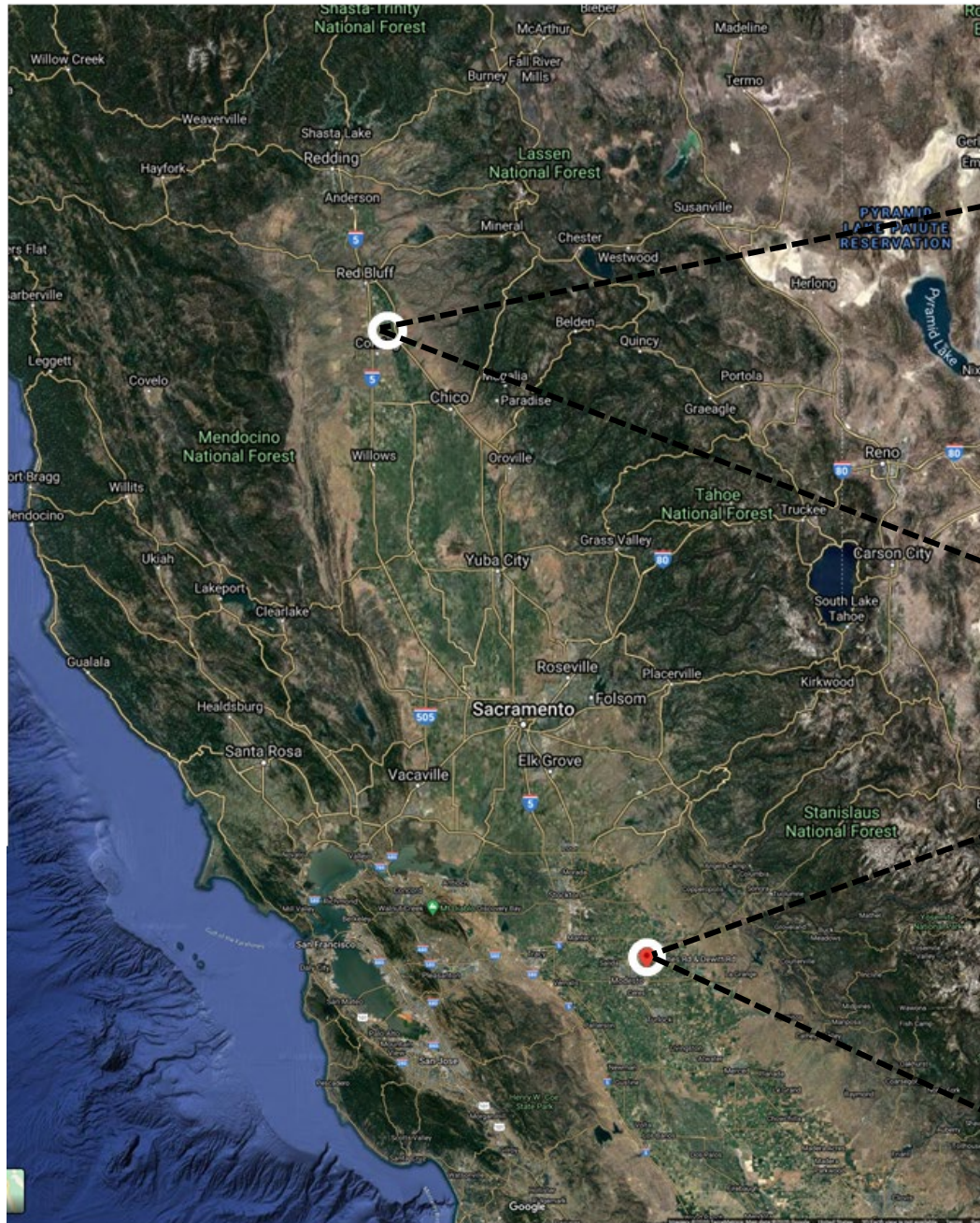
Winter dormant bud
in December



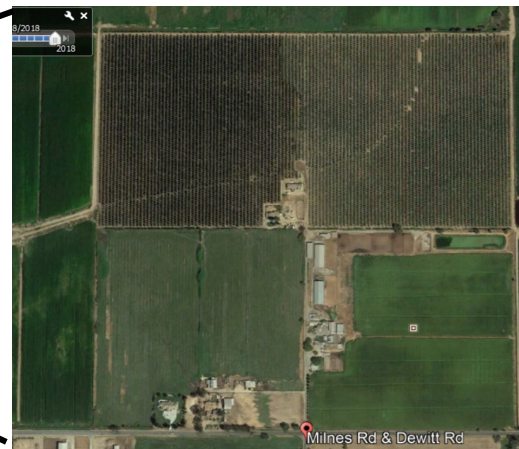
(Bud photo: M. Rawls)

Experiment

2020 delayed irrigation start orchards (FB around 2/22/20).
Control: Irrigate when trees are still 'wet' (baseline SWP)
Two levels of delay: wait for 2 or 4 bars below baseline SWP.



Tehama:
11 year old Nonpareil, Price,
Peerless orchard, 22' x 14,'
minisprinkler. Soil: Moda
loam/Perkins gravelly loam/Hillgate
loam



Stanislaus:
5 year old Independence on Atlas
orchard, 21' x 14,' microsprinkler.
Soil: San Joaquin sandy loam

“Baseline” values of midday SWP (Bar) under various air temperature and RH conditions for Prune and Almond



Air Temperature (F)	Air RH (%)		
	60	40	20
70	-5.3	-5.9	-6.5
80	-5.8	-6.6	-7.5
90	-6.4	-7.6	-8.7
100	-7.2	-8.8	-10.4
110	-8.3	-10.4	-12.6

“Baseline” values of midday SWP (Bar) under various air temperature and RH conditions for Prune and Almond

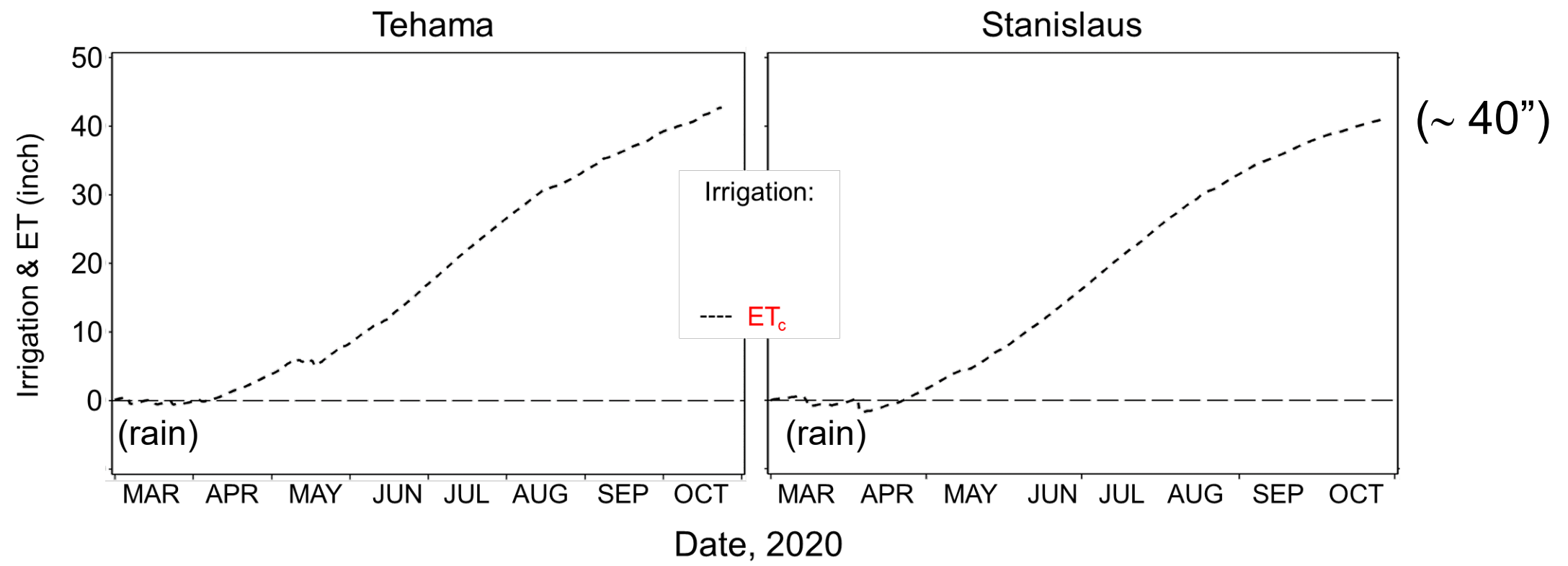


Air Temperature (F)	Air RH (%)		
	60 (humid)	40	20 (dry)
70 (cool)	-5.3	-5.9	-6.5
80	-5.8	-6.6	-7.5
90	-6.4	-7.6	-8.7
100	-7.2	-8.8	-10.4
110 (hot)	-8.3	-10.4	-12.6

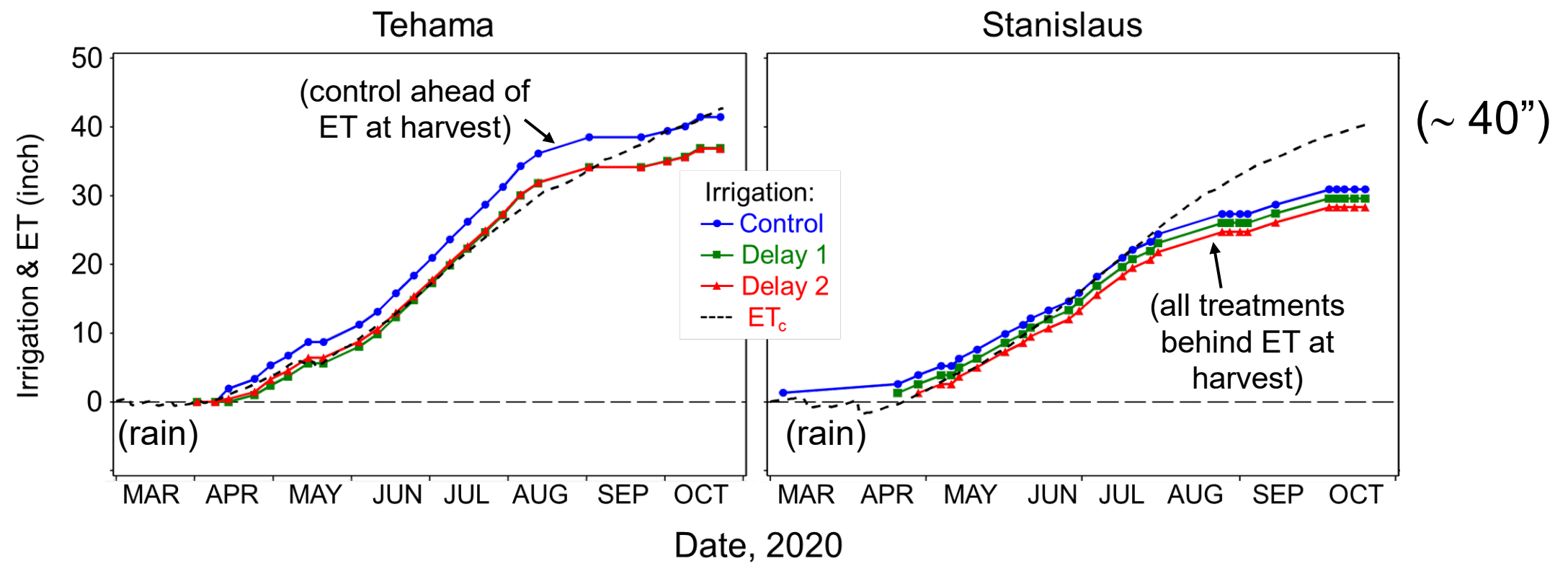
General levels of almond water stress:

-18 (moderate) → -30 (serious) → → -60 (“I’m not dead yet”)

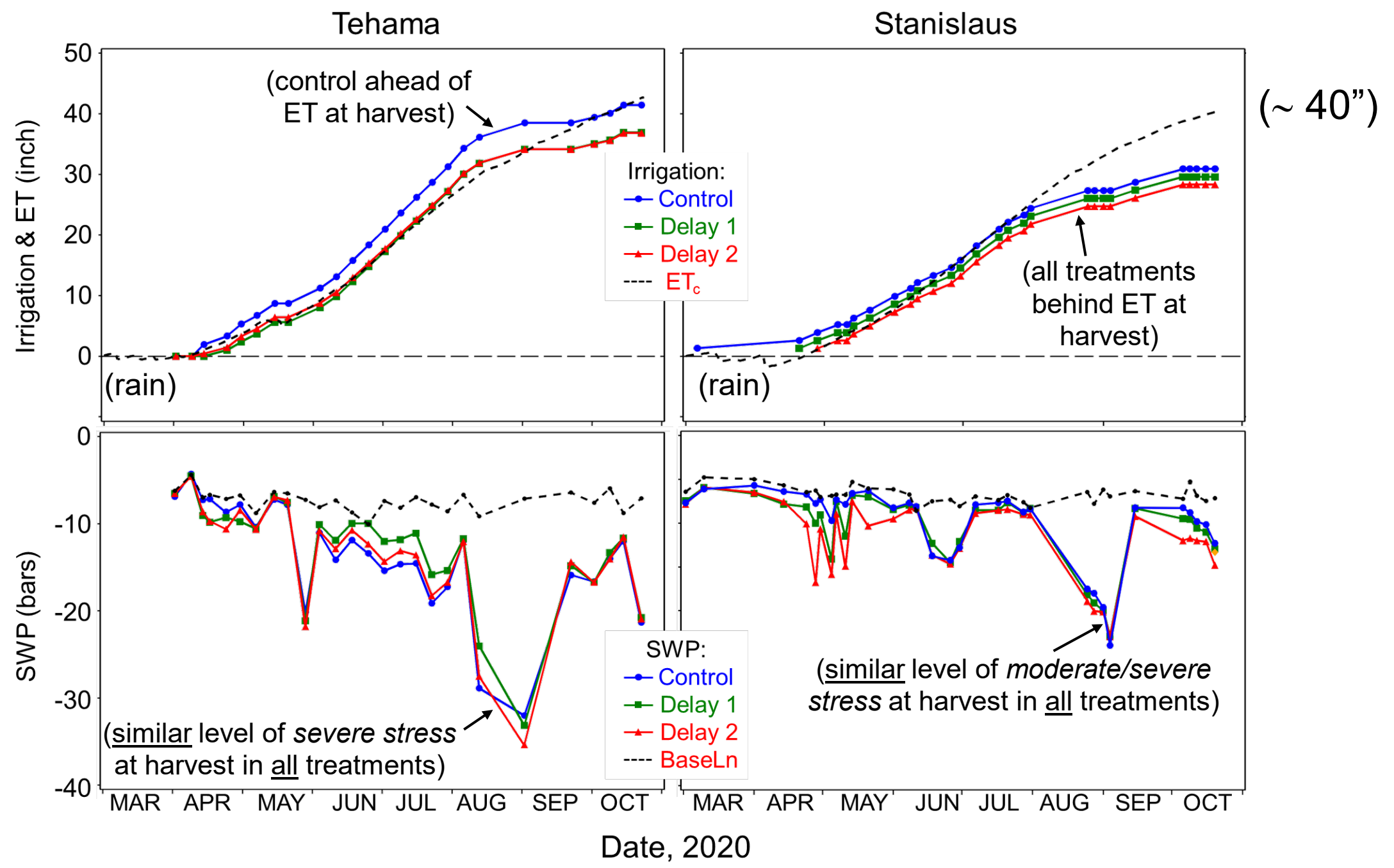
Results



Results



Results



Results

No statistical differences between delays, and no trend of difference with increasing delay.

Irrigation Treatment	Yield (kernel #/ac)	
	Tehama (nonpareil)	Stanislaus (Independence)
Control	3750	2530
Delay 1	3230	2270
Delay 2	3690	2540

Irrigation Treatment	Kernel weight (g)		% NOW		% shrivel		% double	
	Tehama	Stanislaus	Tehama	Stanislaus	Tehama	Stanislaus	Tehama	Stanislaus
Control	1.13	1.12	1.8	1.5	2.3	5.5	4	1
Delay 1	1.08	1.18	0	2.5	0.5	1.0	4	0
Delay 2	1.08	1.14	0	2.0	0.8	3.0	7	0

(Tentative) conclusions:

- 1) As found previously in walnuts, delaying the first irrigation does result in some stress during the delay, but does not result in more stress at harvest.
- 2) As found previously in everything, different orchards/soils are different: applying full ET may not prevent substantial water stress in one location, and applying a deficit ET may only cause mild to moderate stress in another location.

(Tentative) conclusions:

- 1) As found previously in walnuts, delaying the first irrigation does result in some stress during the delay, but does not result in more stress at harvest.
- 2) As found previously in everything, different orchards/soils are different: applying full ET may not prevent substantial water stress in one location, and applying a deficit ET may only cause mild to moderate stress in another location. [More research is needed to find out if this can be predicted based on soil or other orchard conditions].
- 3) Also as found previously in walnuts, once the first SWP threshold is reached, the next threshold is not far behind. So, waiting for a particular SWP 'trigger' may not be as important as just waiting for the trees to 'start to dry out.'
- 4) Long term effects (if there are any) should be clear with more years of data.

Thanks for your support and attention!

Ken Shackel, UC Davis
Roger Duncan, UCCE
Luke Milliron, UCCE
Bruce Lampinen, UCCE



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Andrew Mcelrone, *USDA-UC Davis*

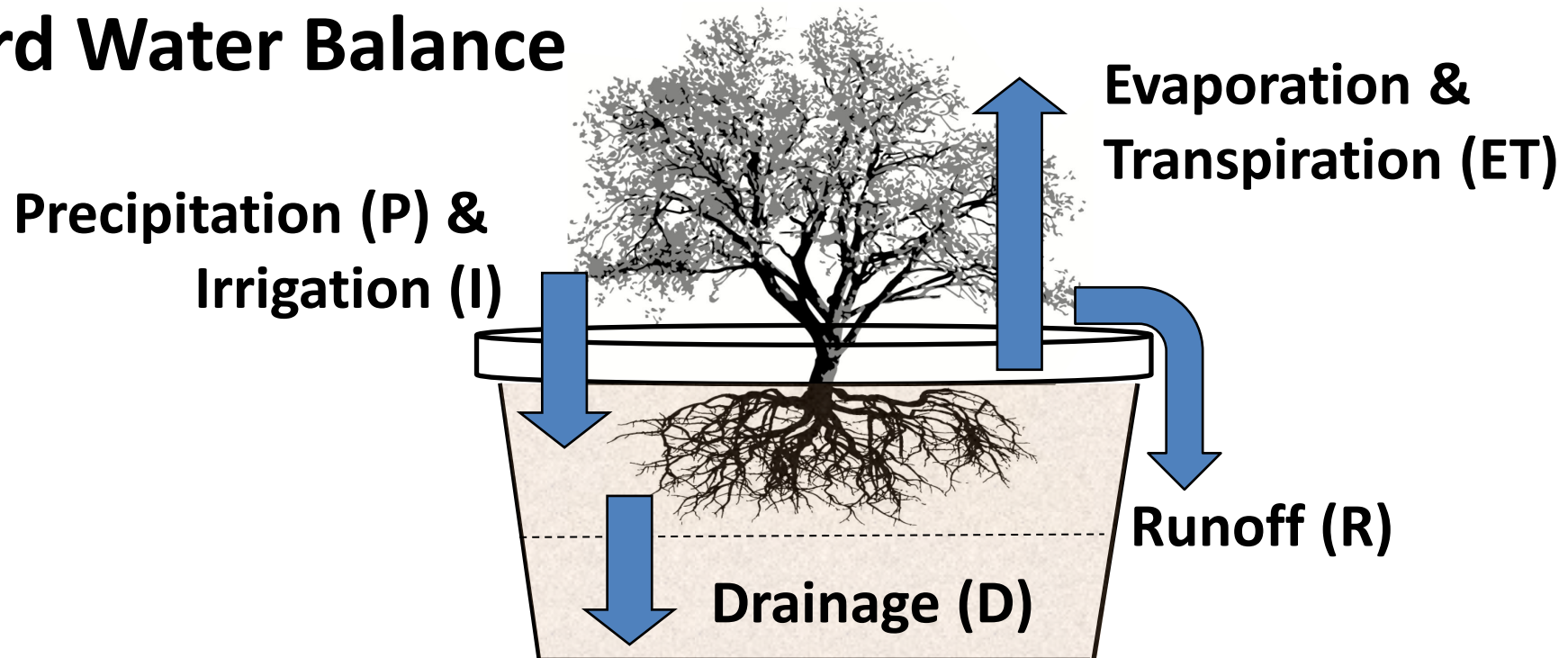


ET based irrigation management for almonds: something old and something new

Andrew J. McElrone; andrew.mcelrone@usda.gov

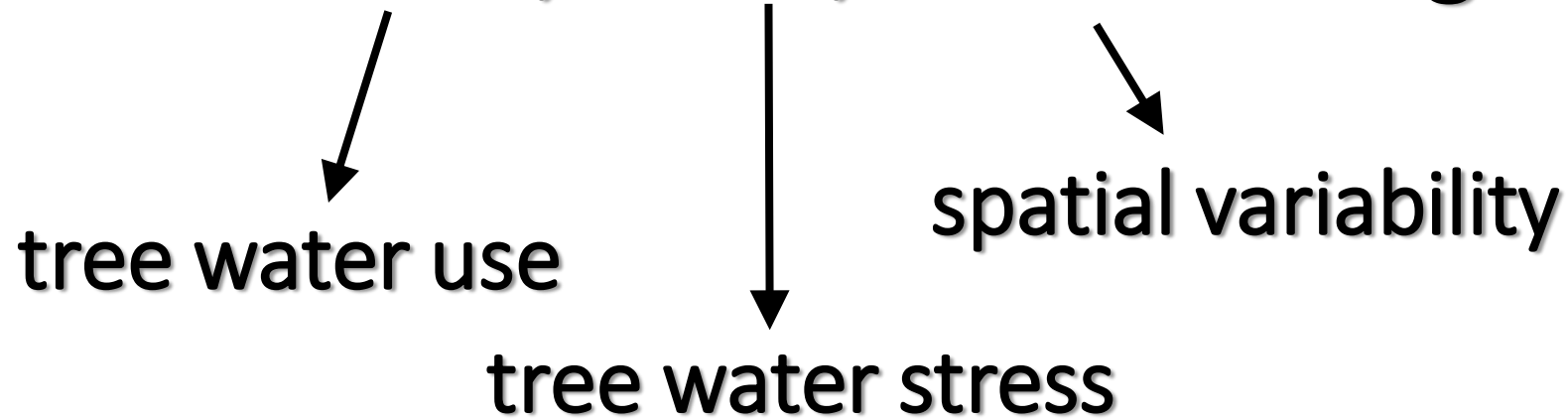


Orchard Water Balance



$$\text{Change in soil water} = \underbrace{P + I}_{\text{Gains}} - \underbrace{ET - D - R}_{\text{Losses}}$$

How much, when, where to irrigate?



New tools needed to approach stress thresholds to achieve water savings and production/management goals

California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS)

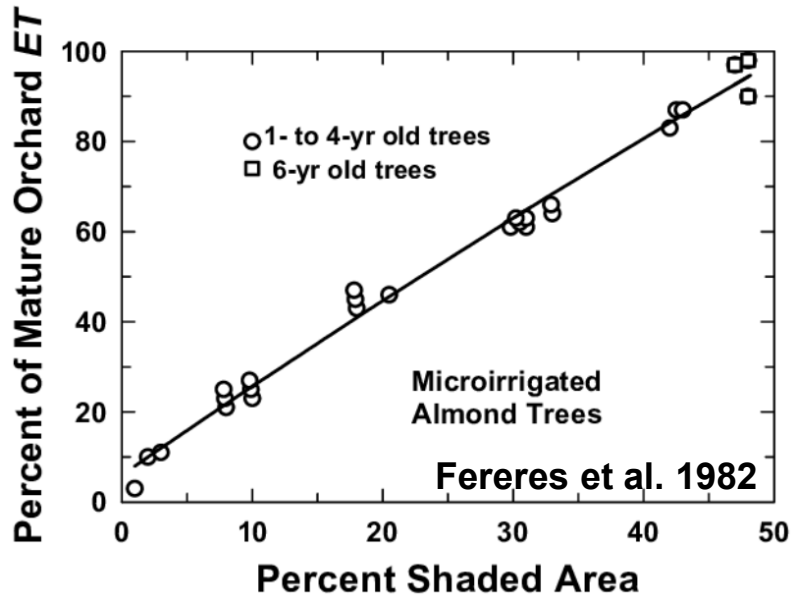
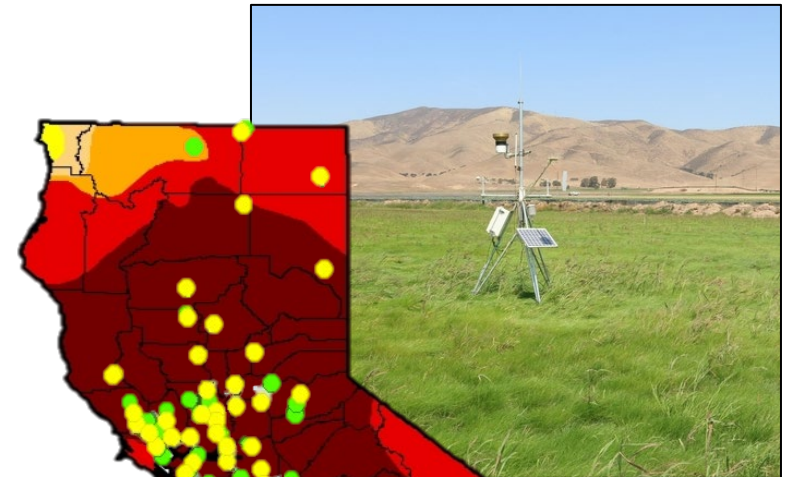
$$ET_C = K_C * ET_O$$

Crop coefficient

Reference ET
(well-watered
model grass)

$$K_C = ET_C / ET_O$$

Obtained shaded area
below trees



...assumes a disease-free plant grown under optimum soil water and nutrient conditions...

Doorenbos and Pruitt, 1977

Energy Balance Approaches to Quantify ET

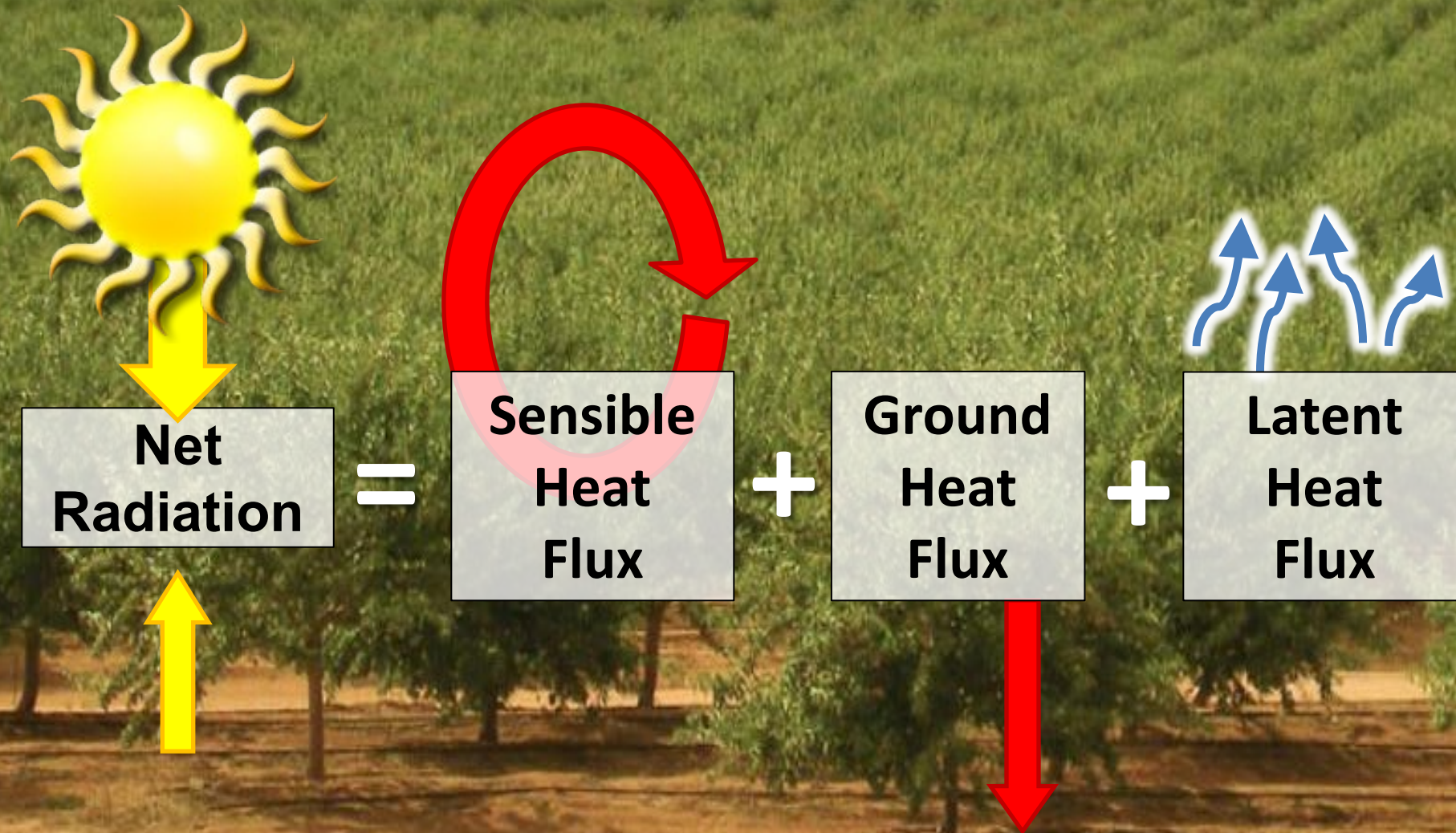
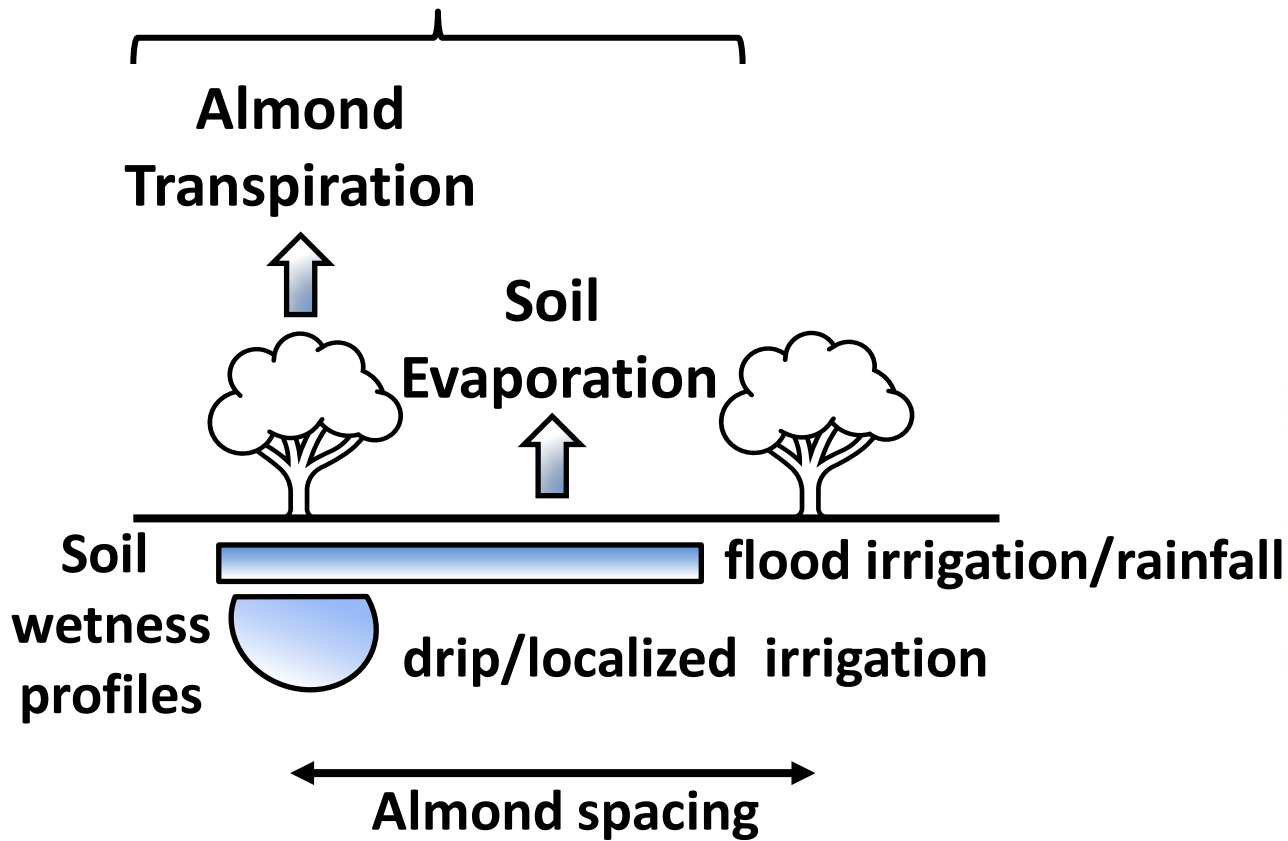


Image from Irribiz

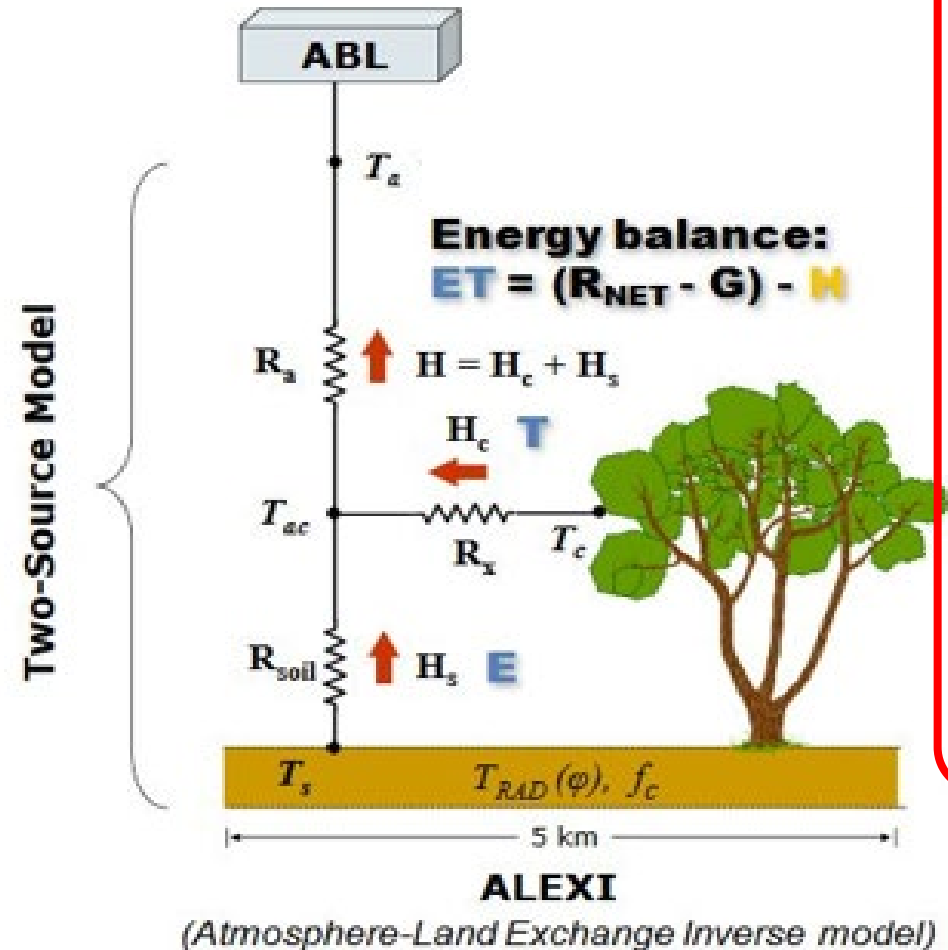
Partitioning the energy at the crop surface

Energy partitioning to determine ET

Evapotranspiration - ET



Two Source Energy Balance



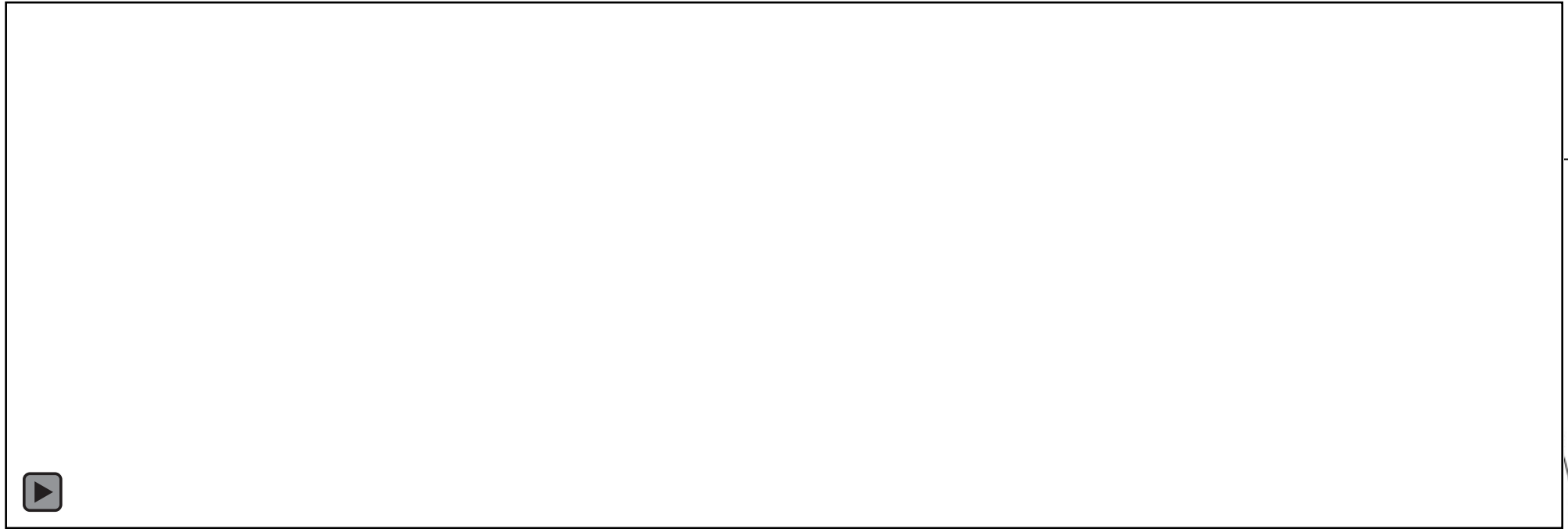
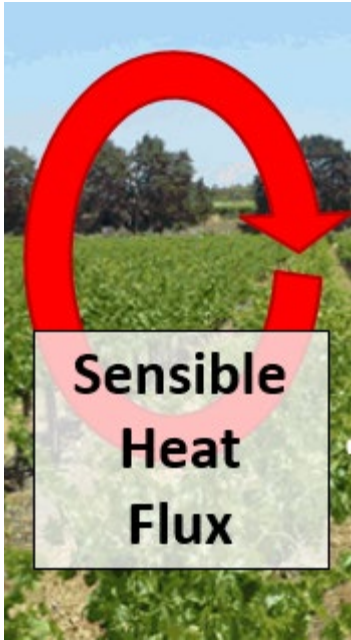
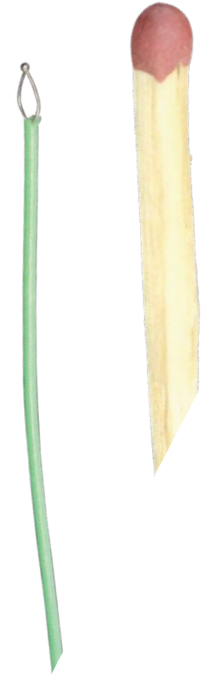
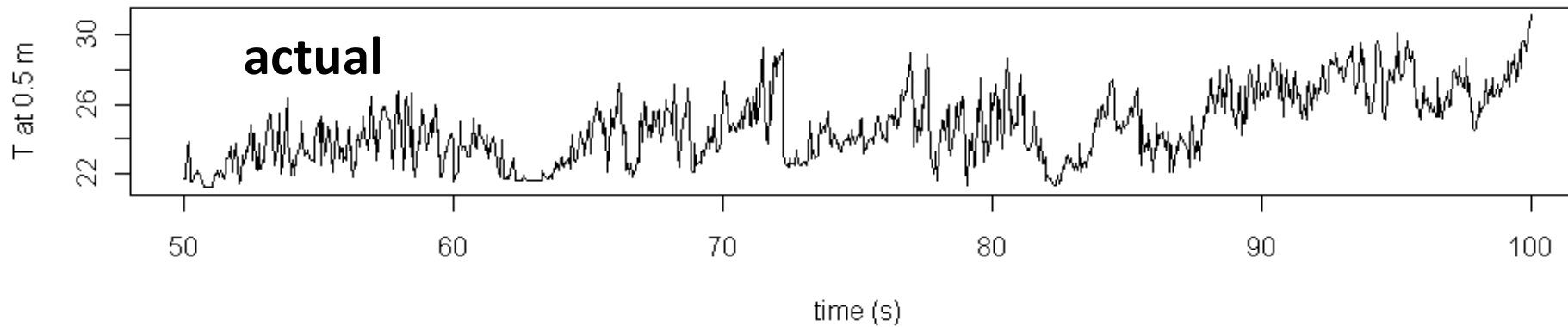
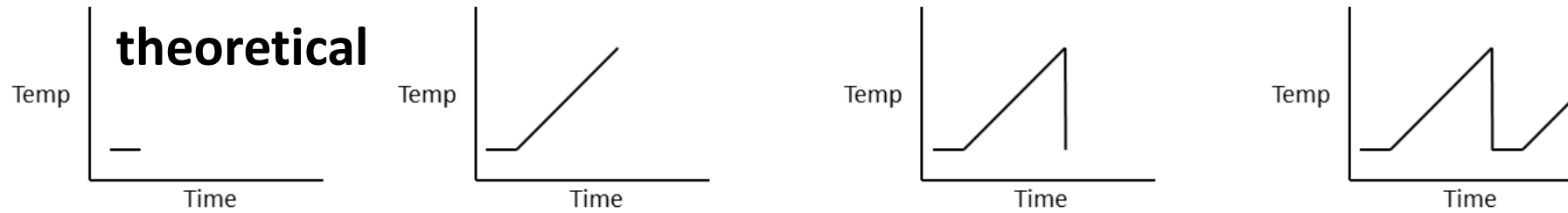
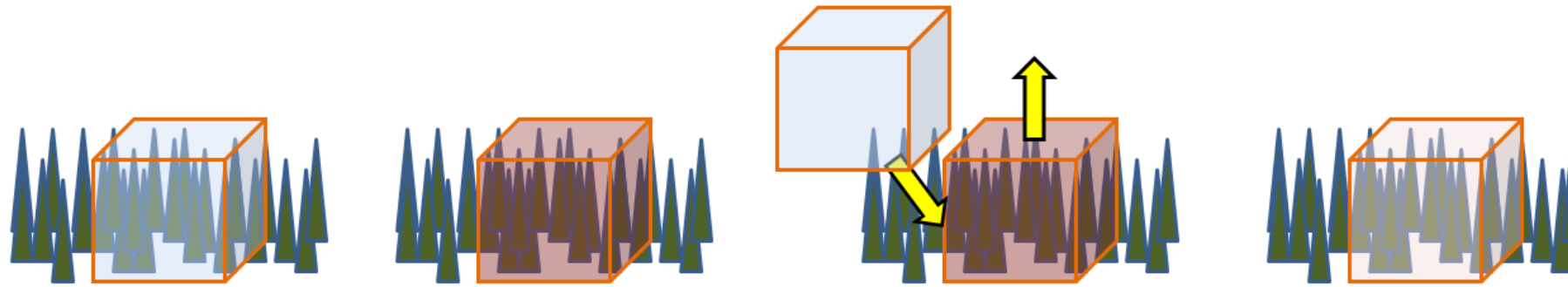


Image from Irribiz

Surface Renewal- Theory vs. Reality

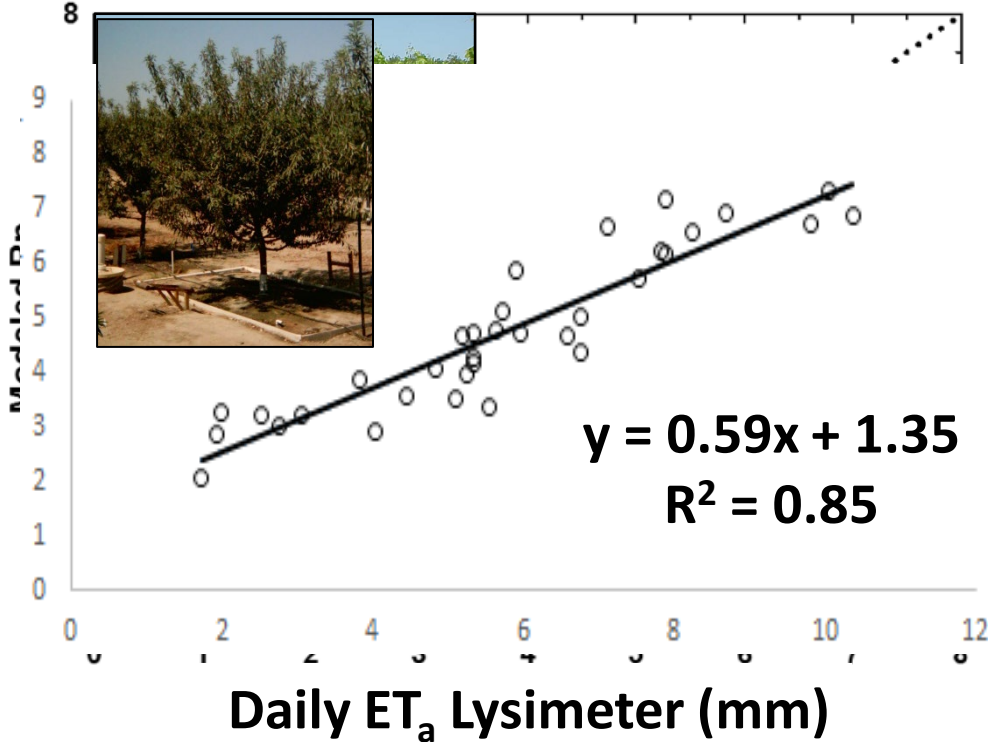


**Successfully removed the need to calibrate against expensive research grade system
(Shapland et al. 2012a,b, 2014)**

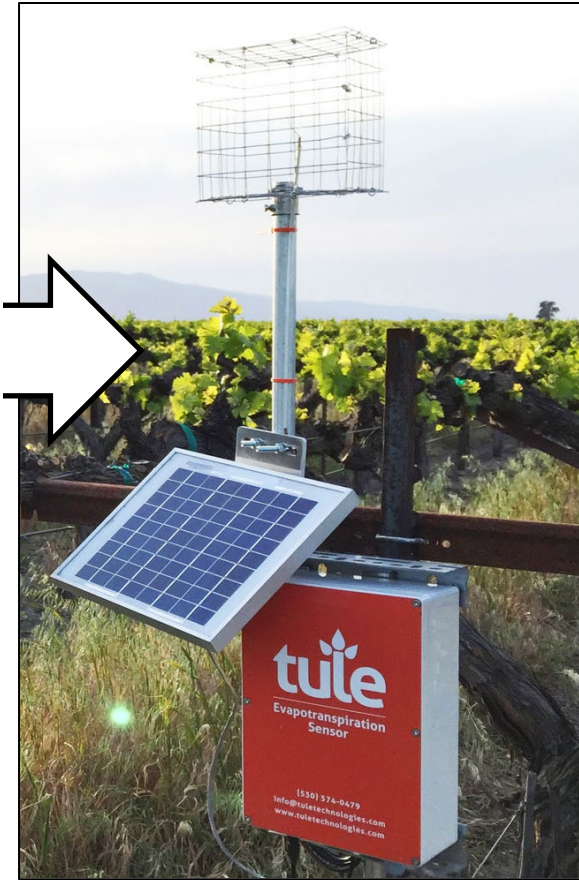
Goal: inexpensive, site-specific measurement of actual crop water use

Daily ET_a Surface Renewal (mm)

SR vs Lysimeter
Surface Renewal



Research Agricultural Center
Kearney Agricultural Center
Univ. of California - Parlier, CA
Univ. of California - Parlier, CA



Commercial System

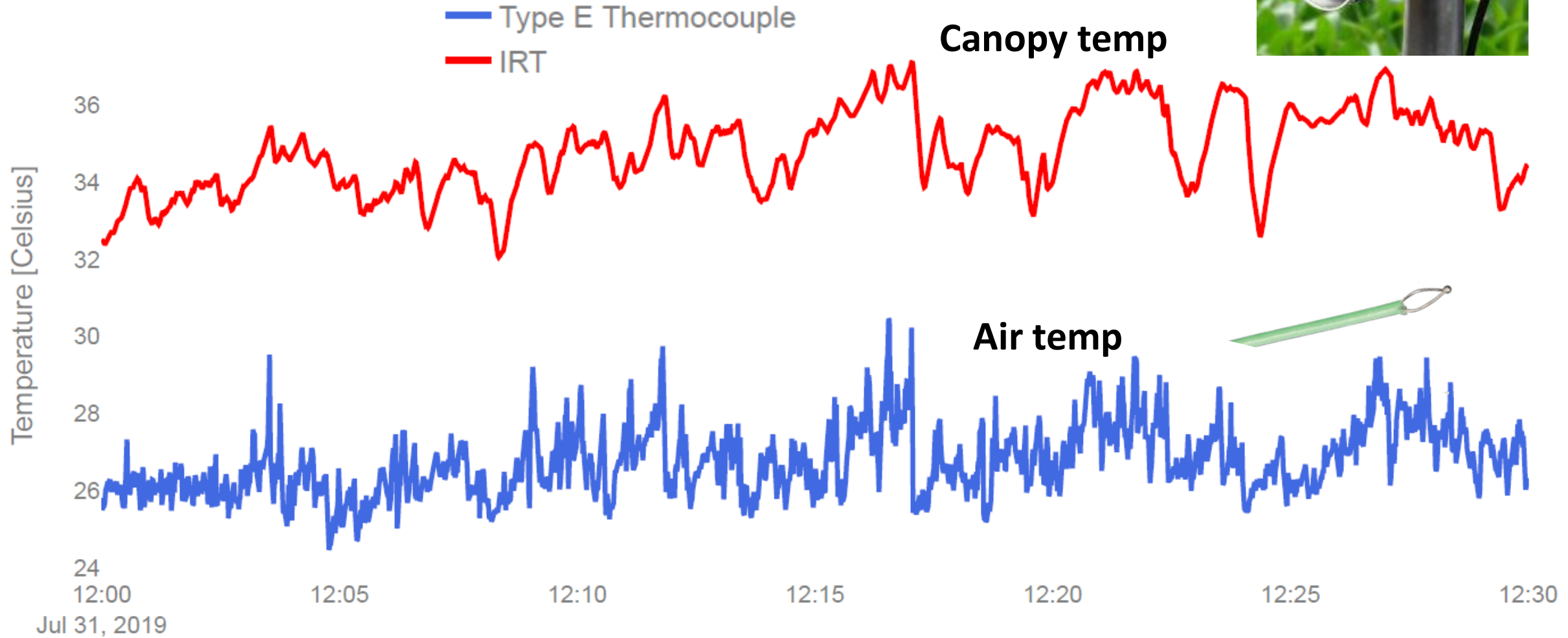


Mark 2

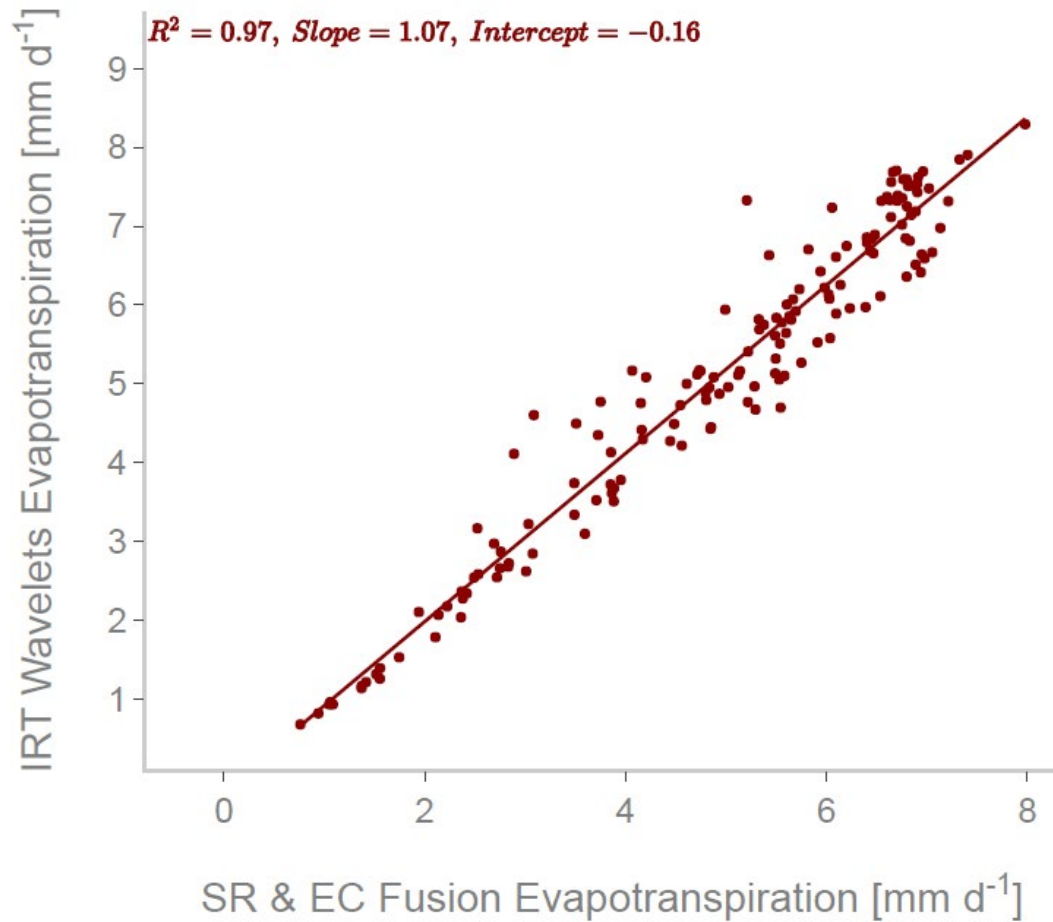
New method with InfraRed Radiometers (IRTs) at 1Hz



Temperature Comparison



ET from new IRT Method vs. Almond ET from Flux Tower



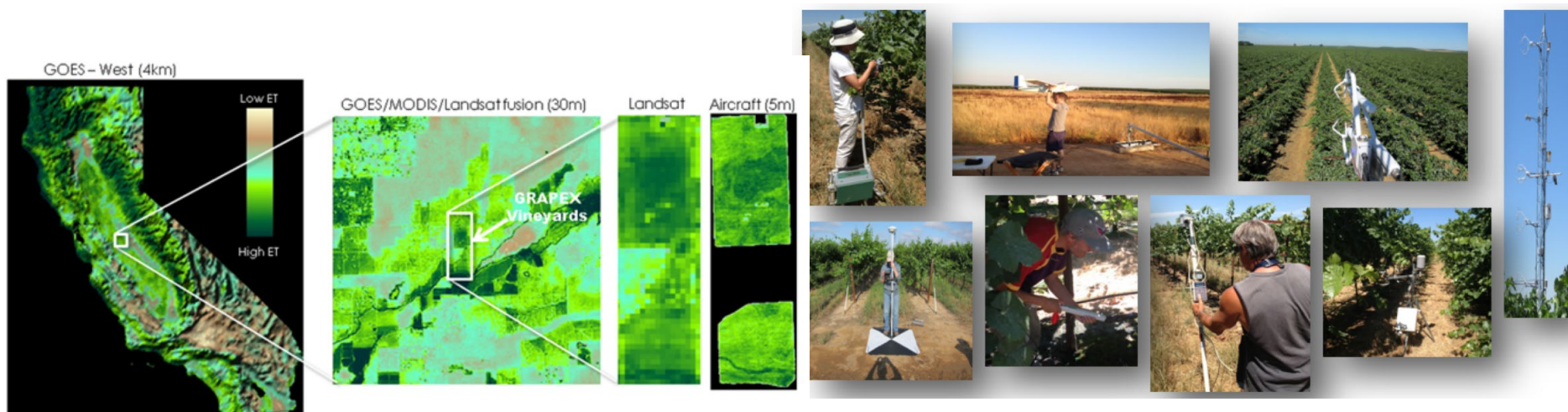
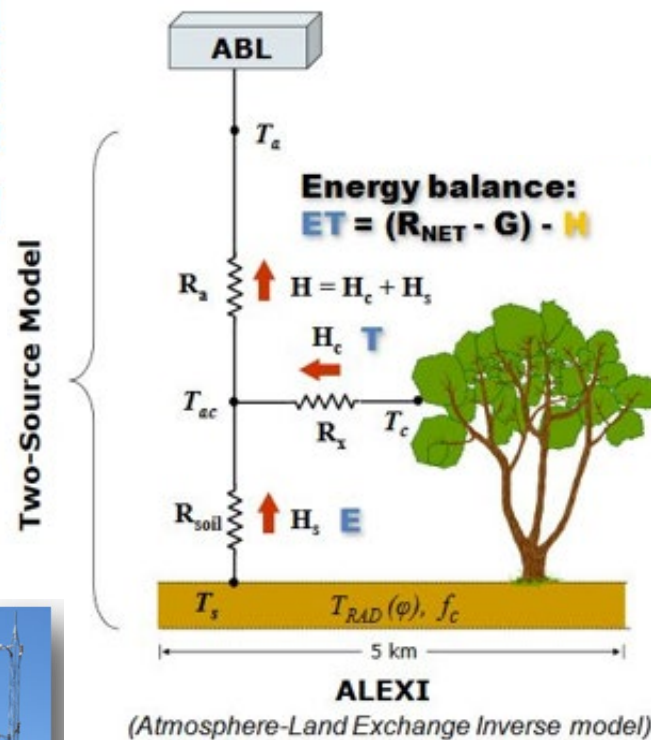
Develop an online tool and instructional videos to facilitate grower adoption of this technique-citizen science model

Grape Remote sensing Atmospheric Profile & Evapotranspiration eXperiment



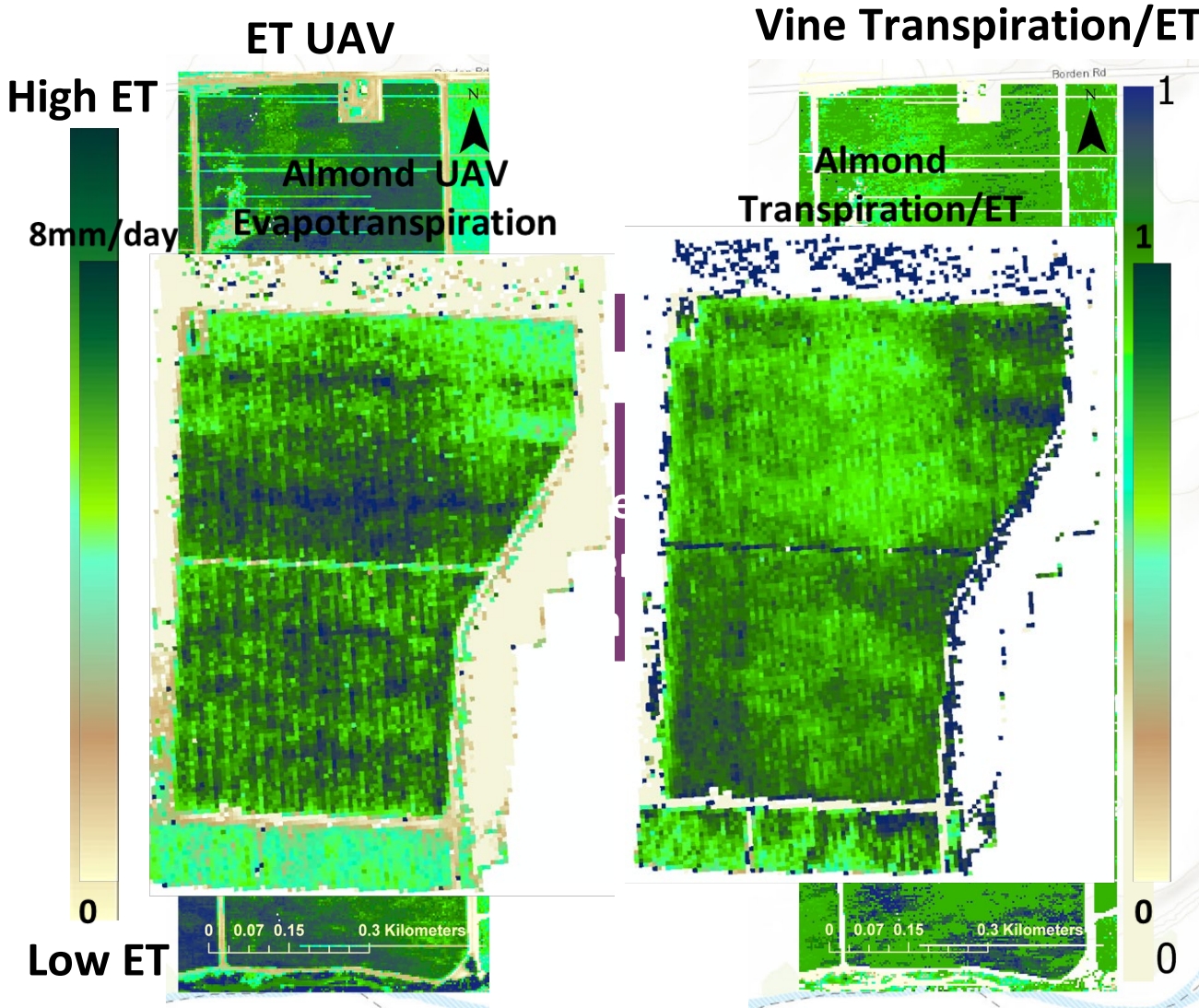
Refine and apply a multi-scale remote sensing ET toolkit for mapping crop water use and stress for improved irrigation management in CA

Two Source Energy Balance



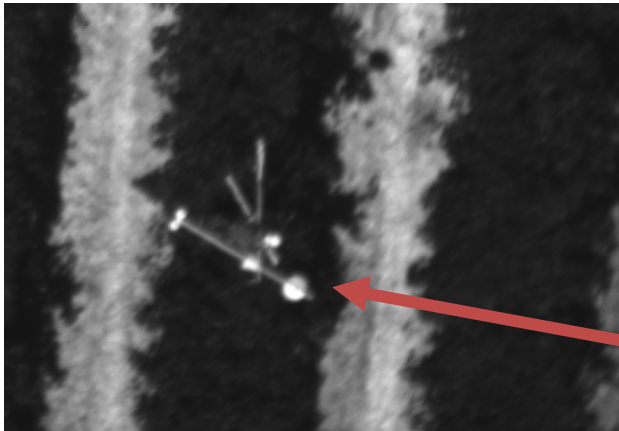
Parsing Transpiration from ET

Utah State- Aggie Air- Alfonso Torres and team

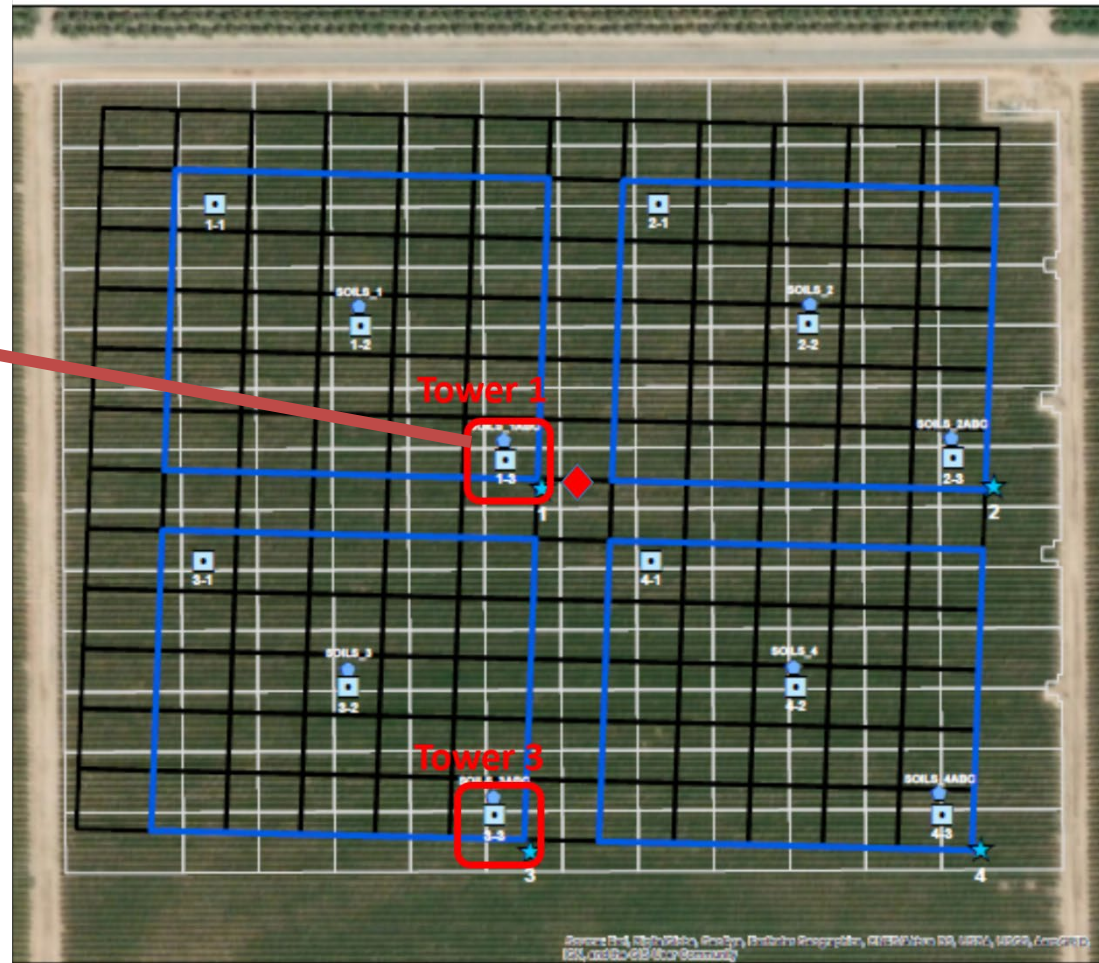


Hovering UAV 1Hz data capture- Aggie Air

TSEB at 1Hz comparison with Eddy flux tower and new IRT method

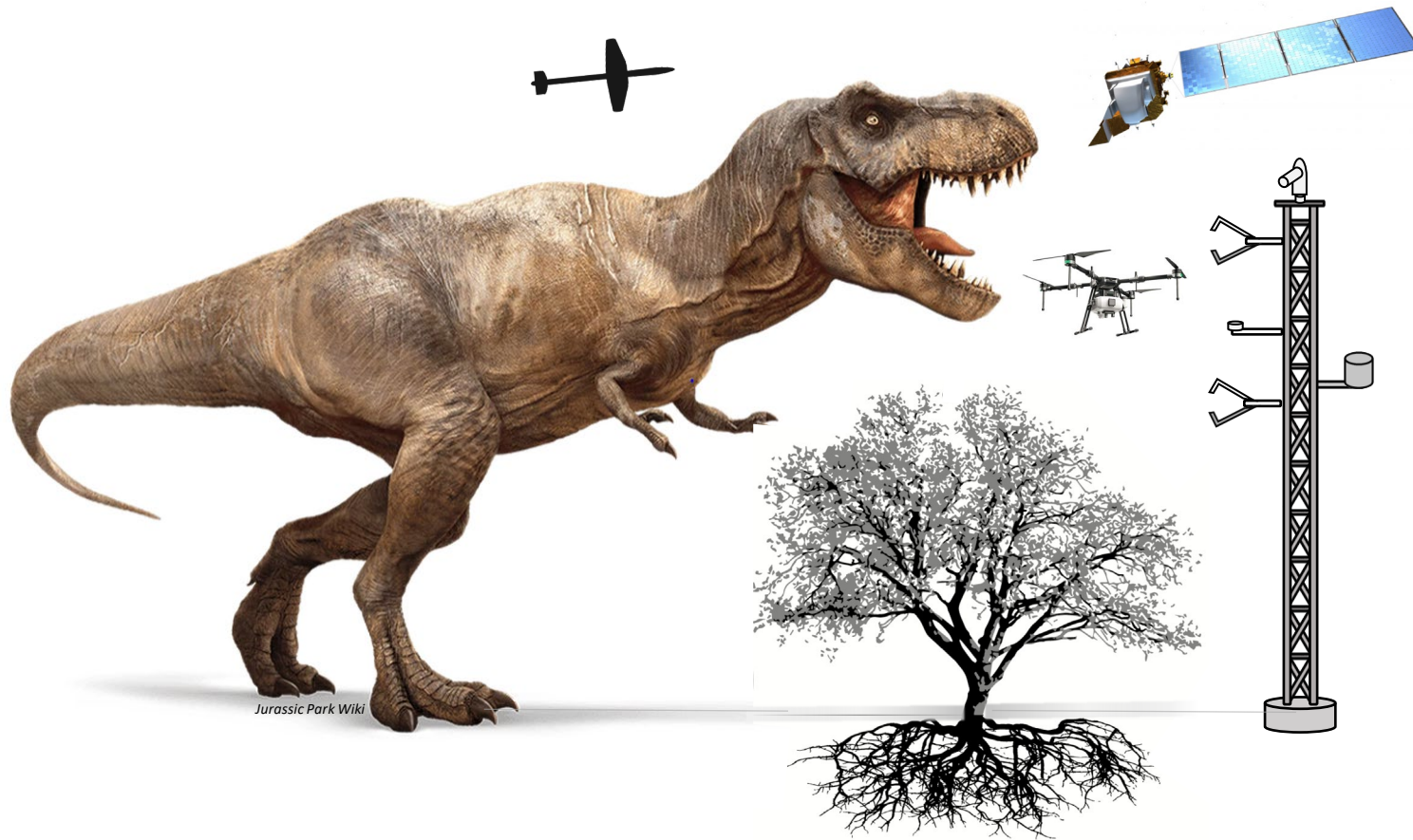


Actual image of Tower from hover flight (1inch/pixel)



- ◆ SIF tower
- ★ Flux Towers
- Datavines & LAI
- Soil Moisture
- ▭ Landsat Zones
- ▭ Landsat
- ▭ VRDI

T-REX: Tree crop Remote sensing of Evapotranspiration eXperiment



Jurassic Park Wiki

CDFA-Specialty Crop Block Grant

*Development of Low-Cost and
Accessible Irrigation Management
Tools for Almonds...*

Partners: ABC, Bergwerff (Winters
Farming), Lak Brar, Melton
(OpenET), Magney



NEW PERSPECTIVES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Forrest Melton, *NASA*

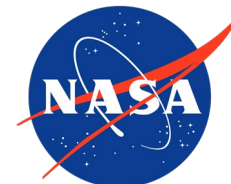


OPENET

Filling the Biggest Data Gap in Water Management



Forrest Melton, NASA Ames & CSU Monterey Bay
Robyn Grimm, Environmental Defense Fund
Justin Huntington, Desert Research Institute



The OPENET Team

Environmental Defense Fund Robyn Grimm, Dana Rollison, Maurice Hall

DRI, NASA Ames, Habitat Seven (Multimodel Development, Integration, API, UI) Justin Huntington, Forrest Melton, Jamie Herring, Charles Morton, Britta Daudert, Alberto Guzman, Jody Hansen, Jordan Harding, Matt Bromley

USDA, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, U. Maryland, U. Wisconsin (ALEXI/DisALEXI) Martha Anderson, Yun Yang, Christopher Hain, Mitch Schull, Mutlu Ozdogan

U. of Nebraska, U. of Idaho, DRI (EE METRIC) Ayse Kilic, Rick Allen, Peter Revelle, Samuel Ortega

NASA JPL (PT JPL) Josh Fisher, Gregory Halverson

NASA Ames, CSUMB, Stanford University (SIMS) Forrest Melton, Alberto Guzman, Lee Johnson, Tianxin Wang, Conor Doherty

USGS (SSEBop) Gabriel Senay, MacKenzie Friedrichs

Google Earth Engine Tyler Erickson



Evapotranspiration and Consumptive Use

Water applied to a field ultimately:

- Evaporates
- Transpires (after being used by plants to grow)
- Recharges underlying groundwater
- Runs off and returns to a local canal or river

Search



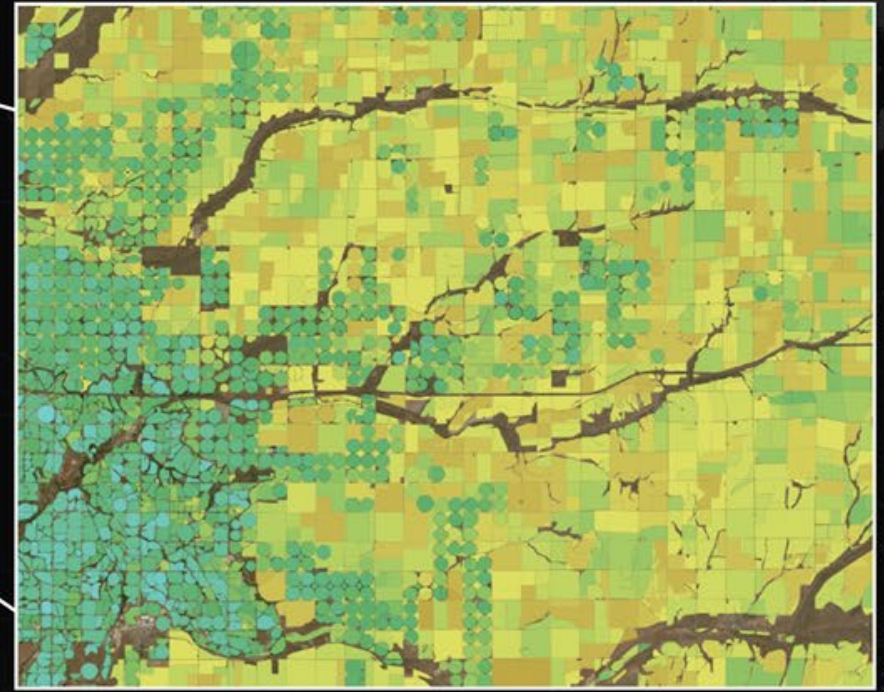
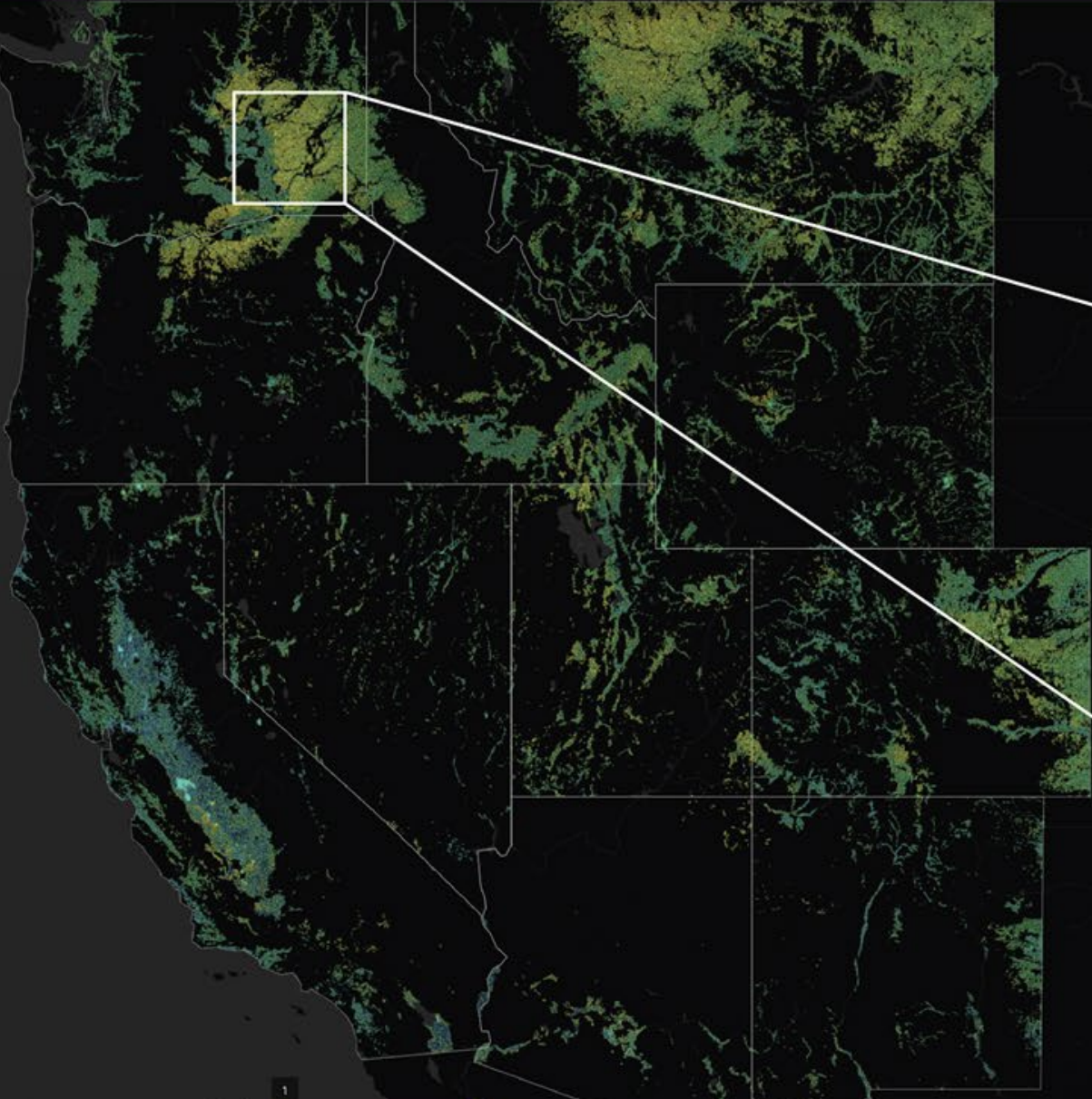
Select Year
2019

Variable
ET

Raster View Field View

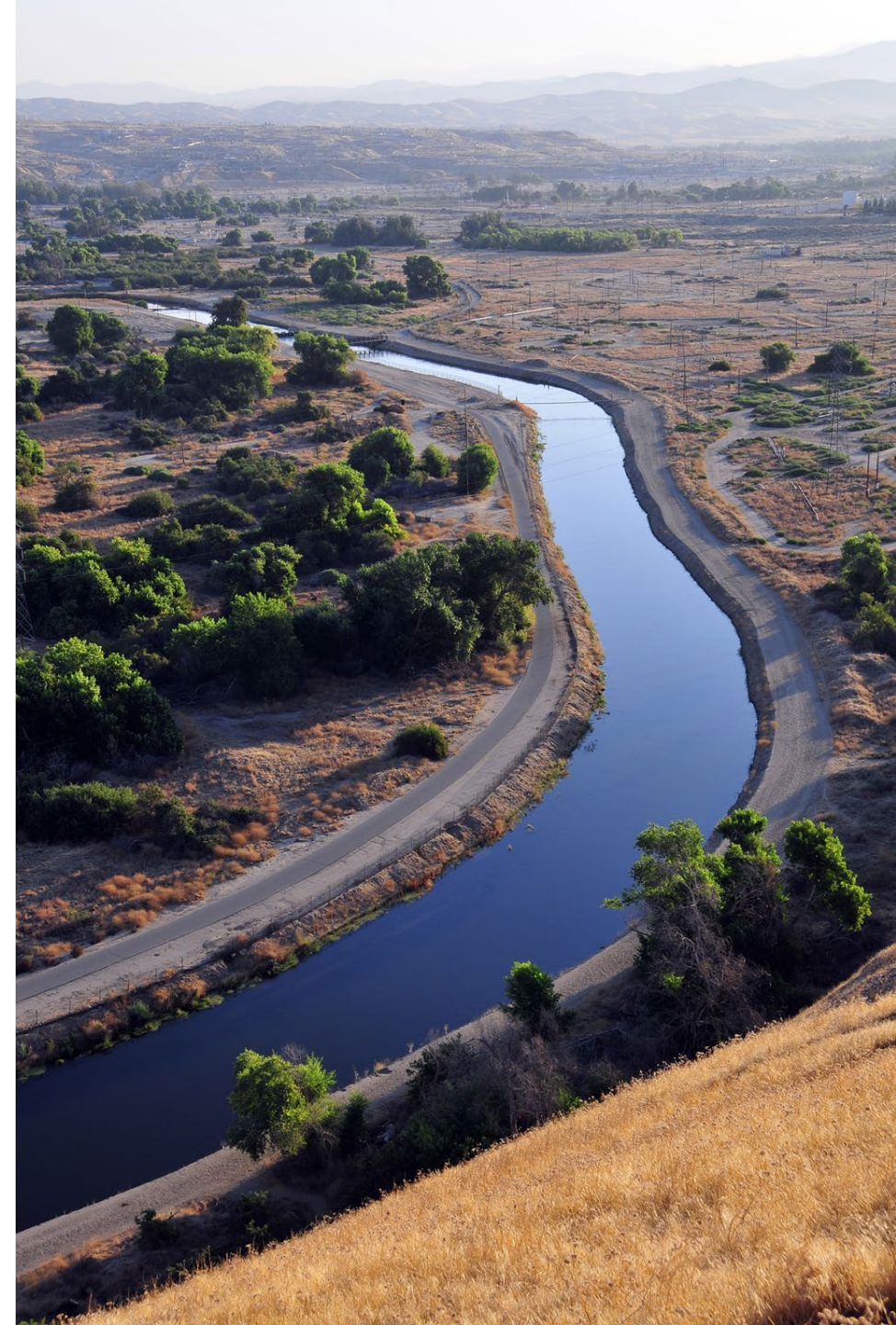
Cities

mm in



Measuring ET enables:

- Development of realistic water budgets
- Incentives for conservation and innovation
- Proper credit for reduced use
- Reduced transaction costs for water trading programs
- Increased on-farm efficiencies





Working with Farmers and Improving Irrigation Scheduling Tools

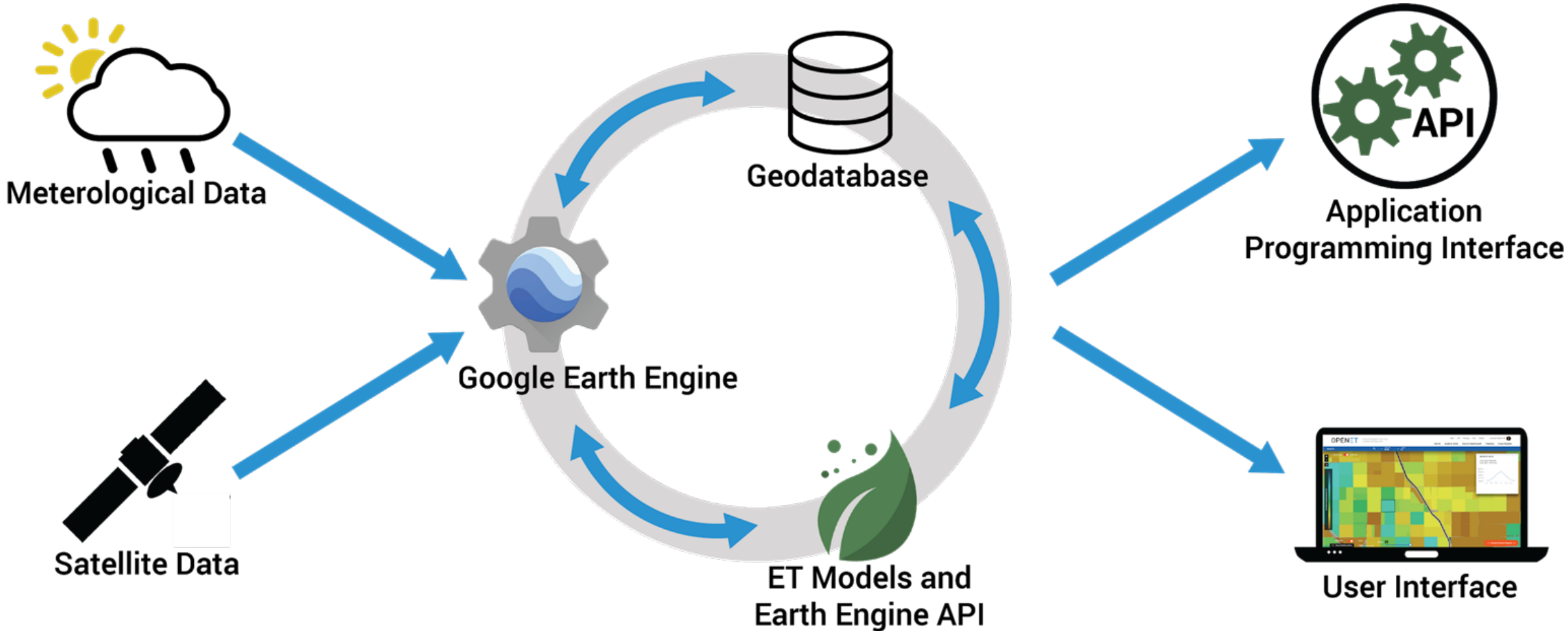
Current challenge: accurate estimation of national scale near real-time crop ET with satellite data



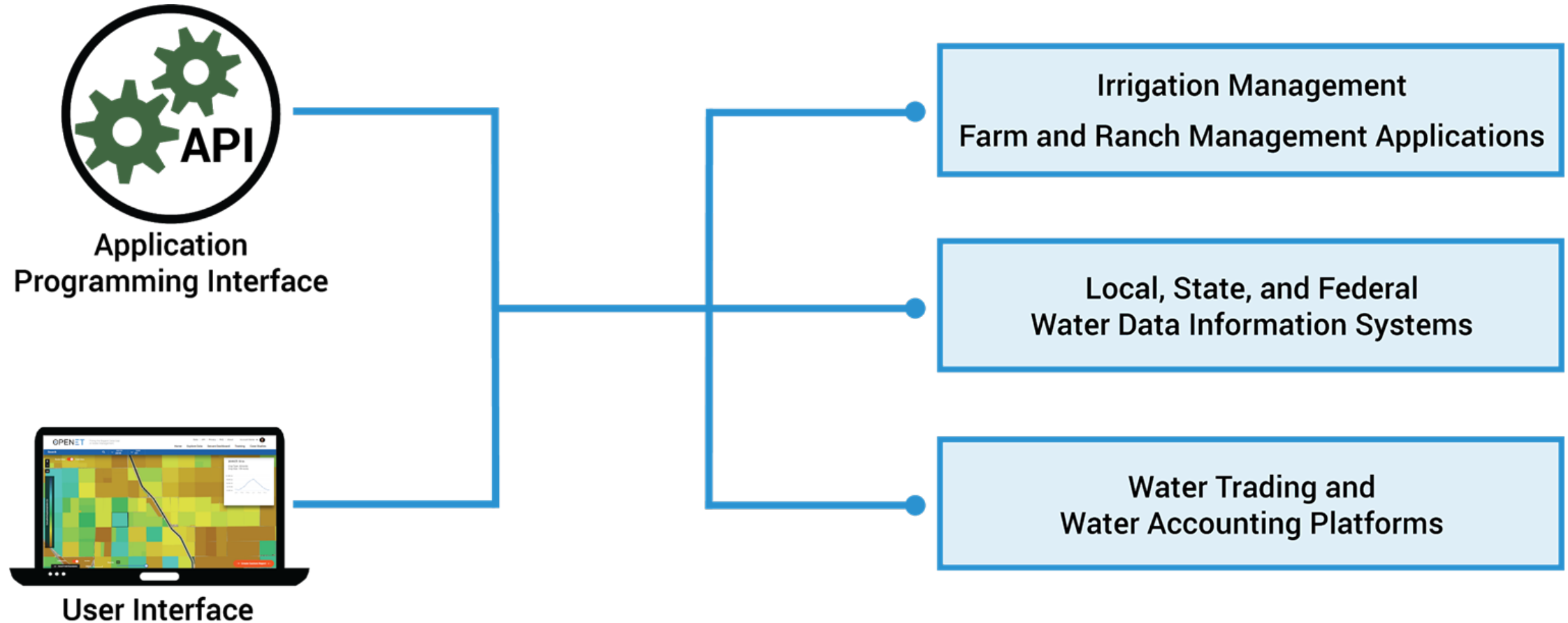
“If you give farmers better information on when they should and shouldn’t have their water on, you’re going to save water. I think that’s the greatest asset of OpenET” - Denise Moyle, Diamond Valley Nevada

A screenshot of the California Almonds Sustainability Program website. The header includes navigation links: SWITCH TO ALMONDS.COM, CONSUMERS, FOOD PROFESSIONALS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ALMOND GROWERS, ALMOND PROCESSORS, NEWSROOM, and GROWING GOOD. The main content area features a large banner with the text "Welcome to the CALIFORNIA ALMOND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM Online System" and a "CREATE ACCOUNT" button. Below the banner are four sections: "CREATE ACCOUNT" with a photo of two people, "ABOUT THE PROGRAM" with a photo of an orchard, "TOOLS & BENEFITS" with a photo of hands holding almonds, and "USER LOGIN" with input fields for Username and Password, a "Remember Me" checkbox, and a "Login" button.

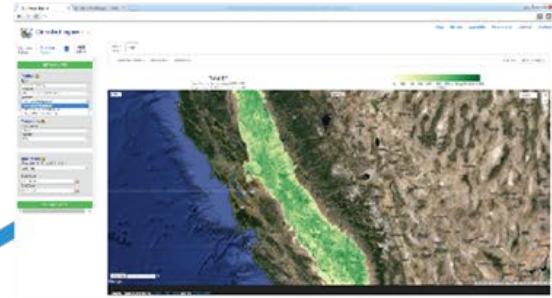
How OpenET Works



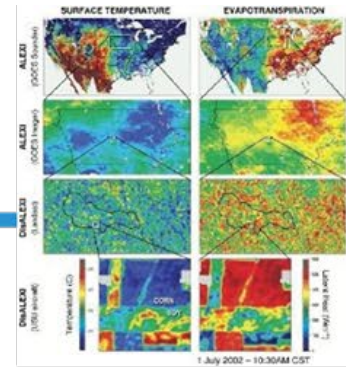
OpenET API for Integration with Other Software



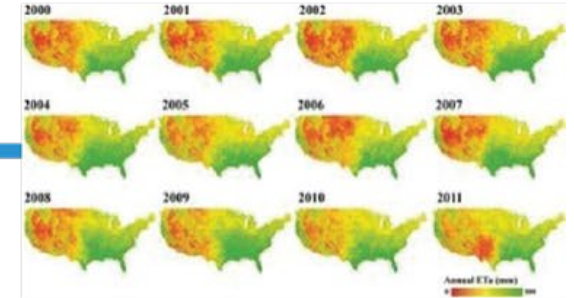
OpenET Uses Well-Established Methods



EE METRIC
University of Nebraska,
University of Idaho



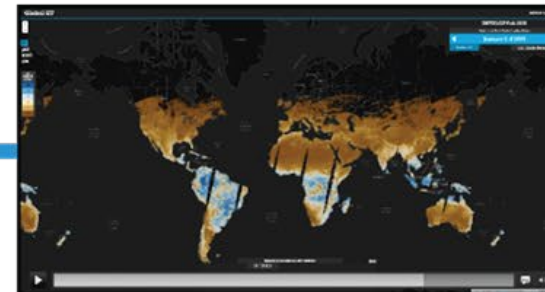
ALEXI/DisALEXI
USDA, NASA, University of Maryland,
University of Wisconsin



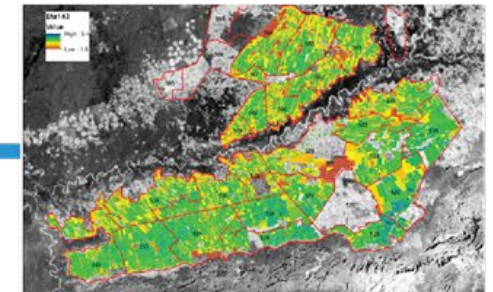
SSEBop
USGS



SIMS
NASA, CSUMB, Stanford University



PT-JPL
NASA

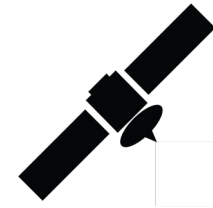


SEBAL

OpenET Uses Data from a Constellation of Satellites



Image credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Conceptual Image Lab



USGS-NASA Landsat 5/7/8
(TM / ETM+ / OLI)
30m/0.22 acres | overpass every 8-16 days

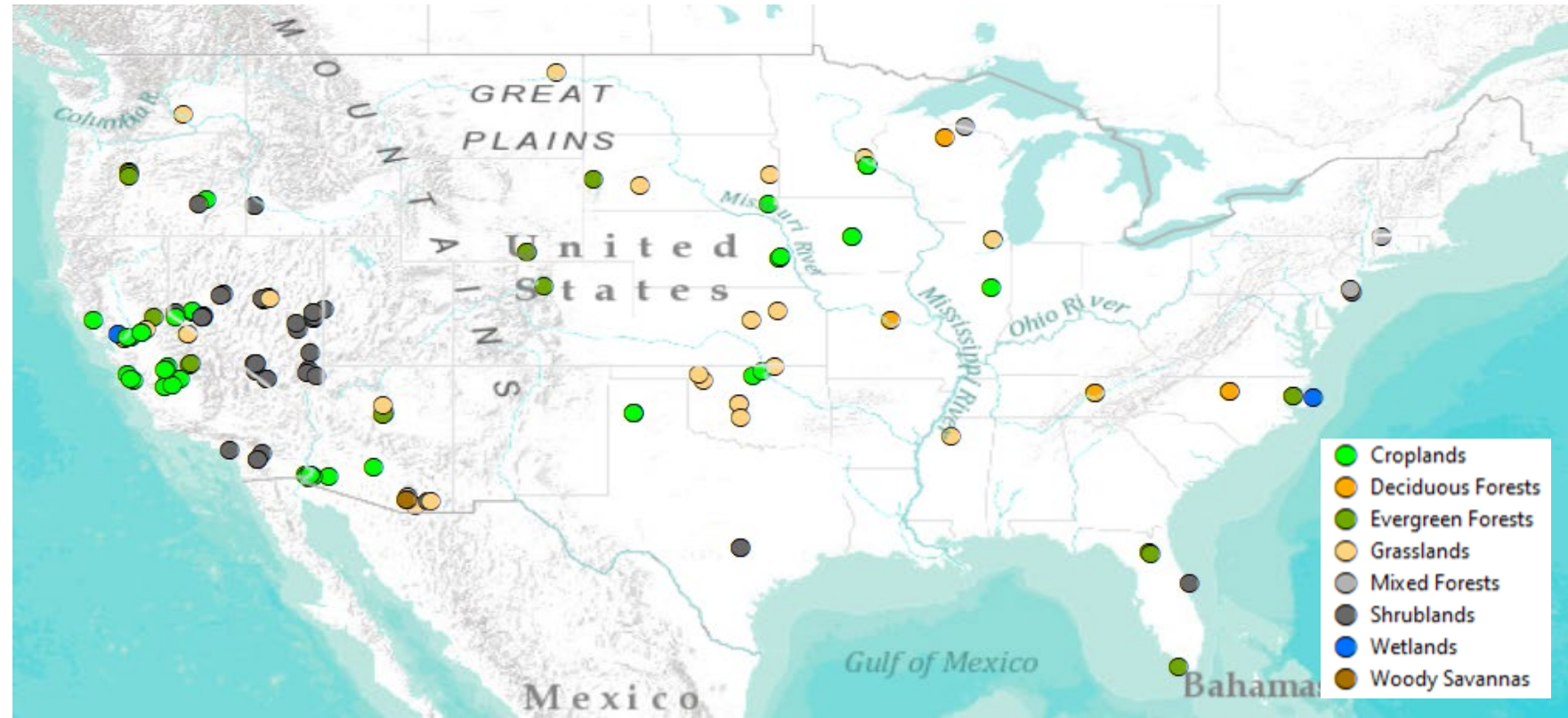
NASA Terra / Aqua
1 km | daily overpass

NASA-NOAA Suomi NPP
~300-375m | daily overpass

NOAA GOES-15/16/17
0.5-4 km | < hourly

ESA Sentinel-2A, 2B
20m/0.1 acres | overpass every 5-10 days

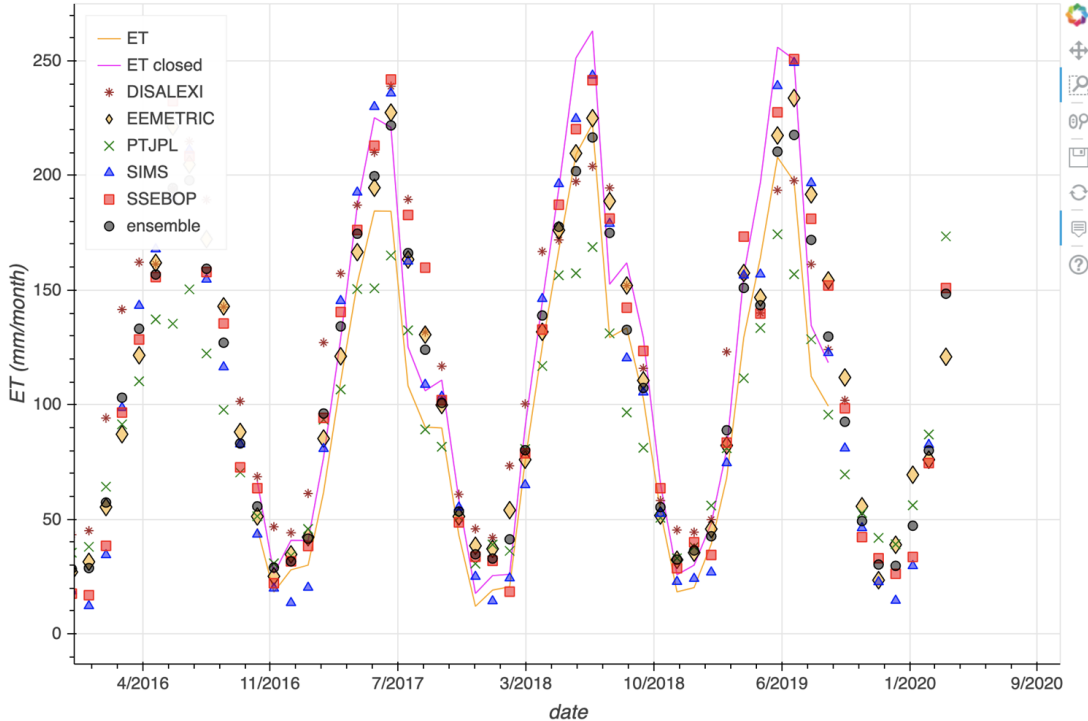
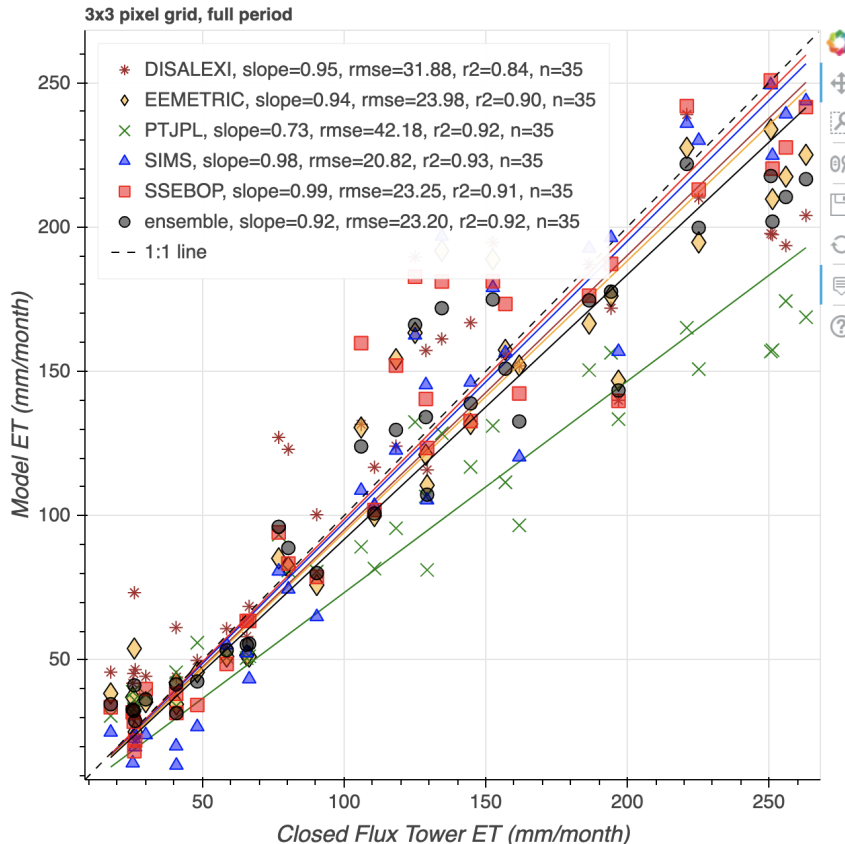
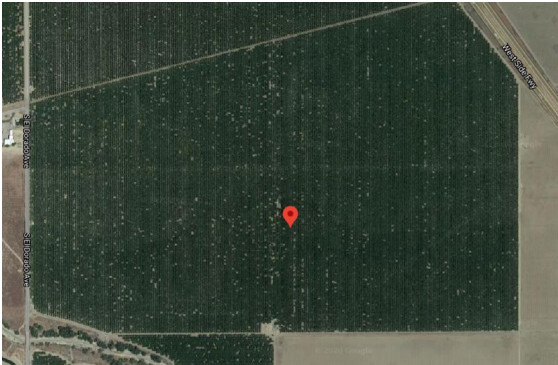
ET Intercomparison and Accuracy Assessment



Examples of Initial Results for Almonds

Almond Orchard | South Central Valley, CA

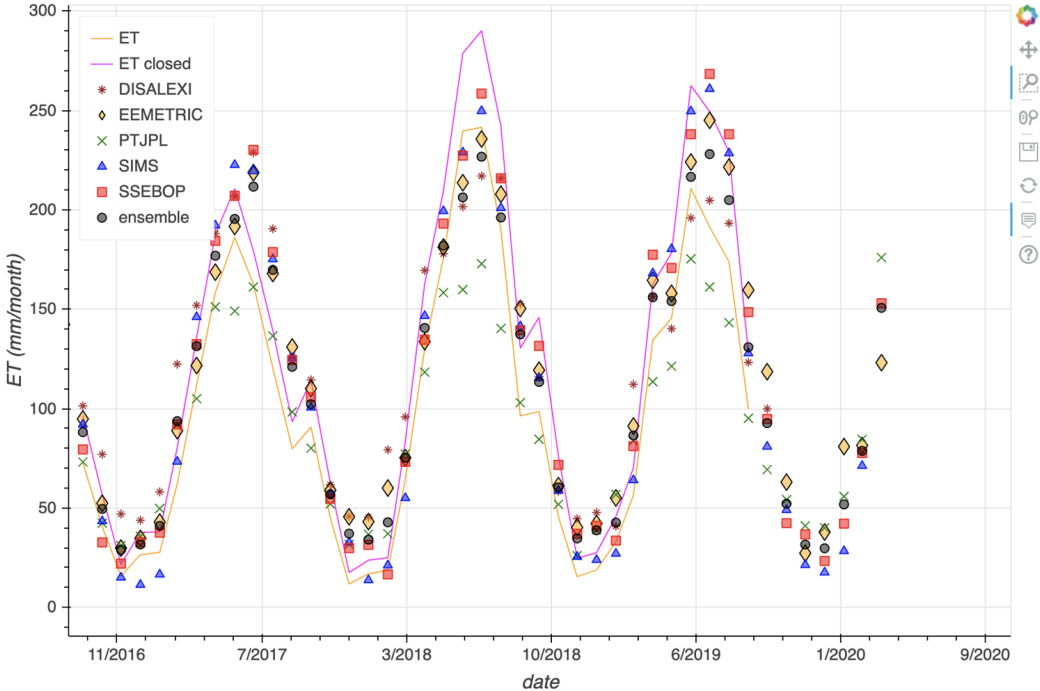
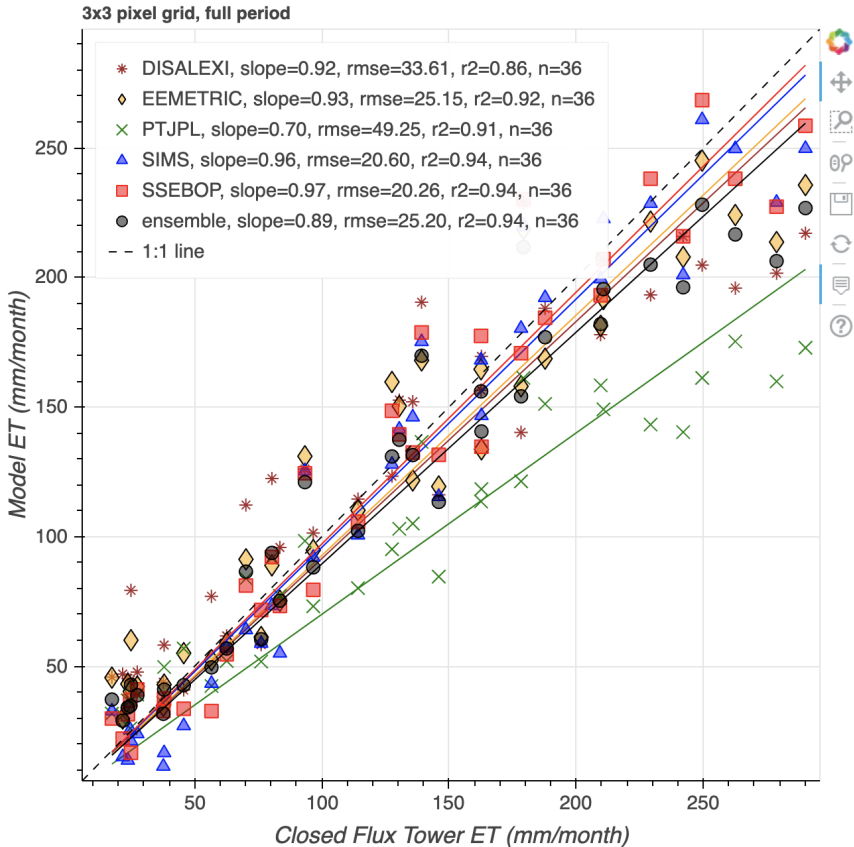
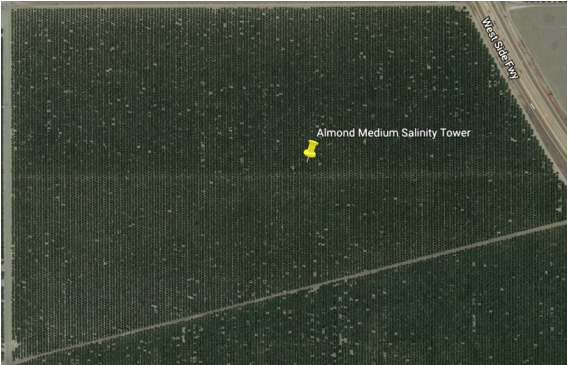
Site: Almond High; State: CA
Land Cover: Croplands, Almond
EBC: 0.83; EBC_GS: 0.83; EBC_NGS: 0.82; Correction: 1.26
Monthly ET Comparison, cimis



Examples of Initial Results for Almonds

Almond Orchard | South Central Valley, CA

Site: Almond Med; State: CA
Land Cover: Croplands, Almond
EBC: 0.82; EBC_GS: 0.83; EBC_NGS: 0.79; Correction: 1.31
Monthly ET Comparison, cimis



OPENET

Filling the Biggest Data Gap in Water Management



OpenET will go live in 2021



NEW PERSPECTIVES IN IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Isaya Kisekka, *UC Davis*



Data-Driven Smart Irrigation Management in Almonds

Isaya Kisekka

Associate Professor

Departments: Land Air Water Resources | Biological and Agricultural Engineering



Understanding Water Use of Young Almond Orchards



Quantifying water use of young almond orchards



1st Leaf Orchard

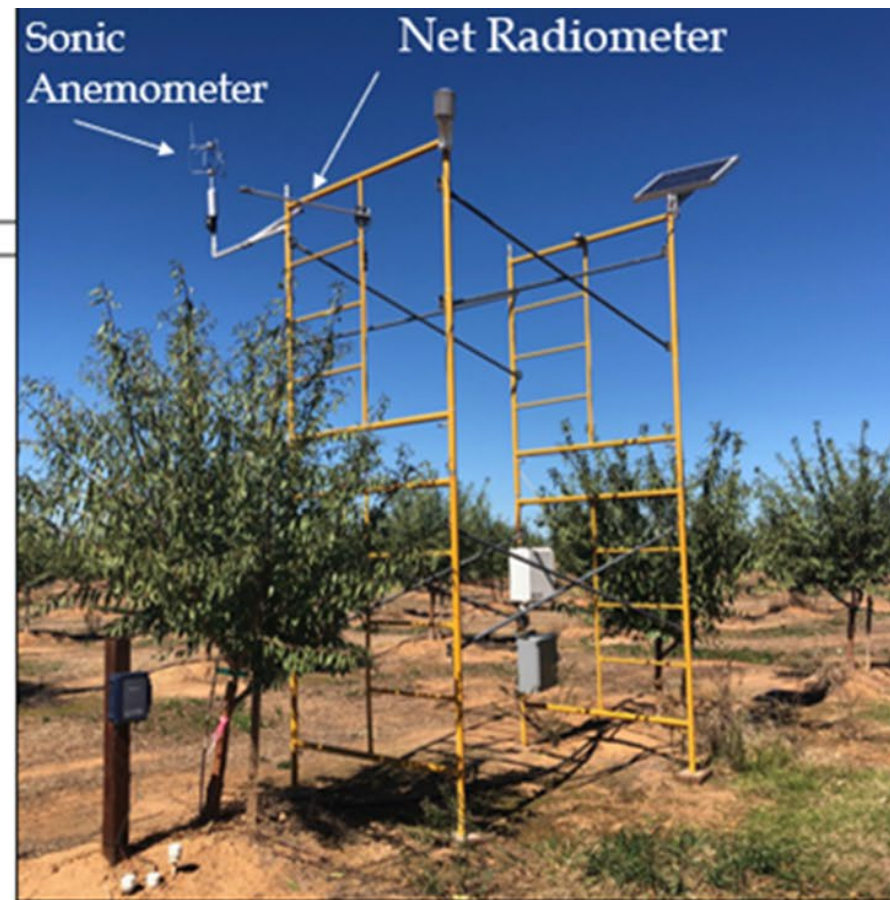
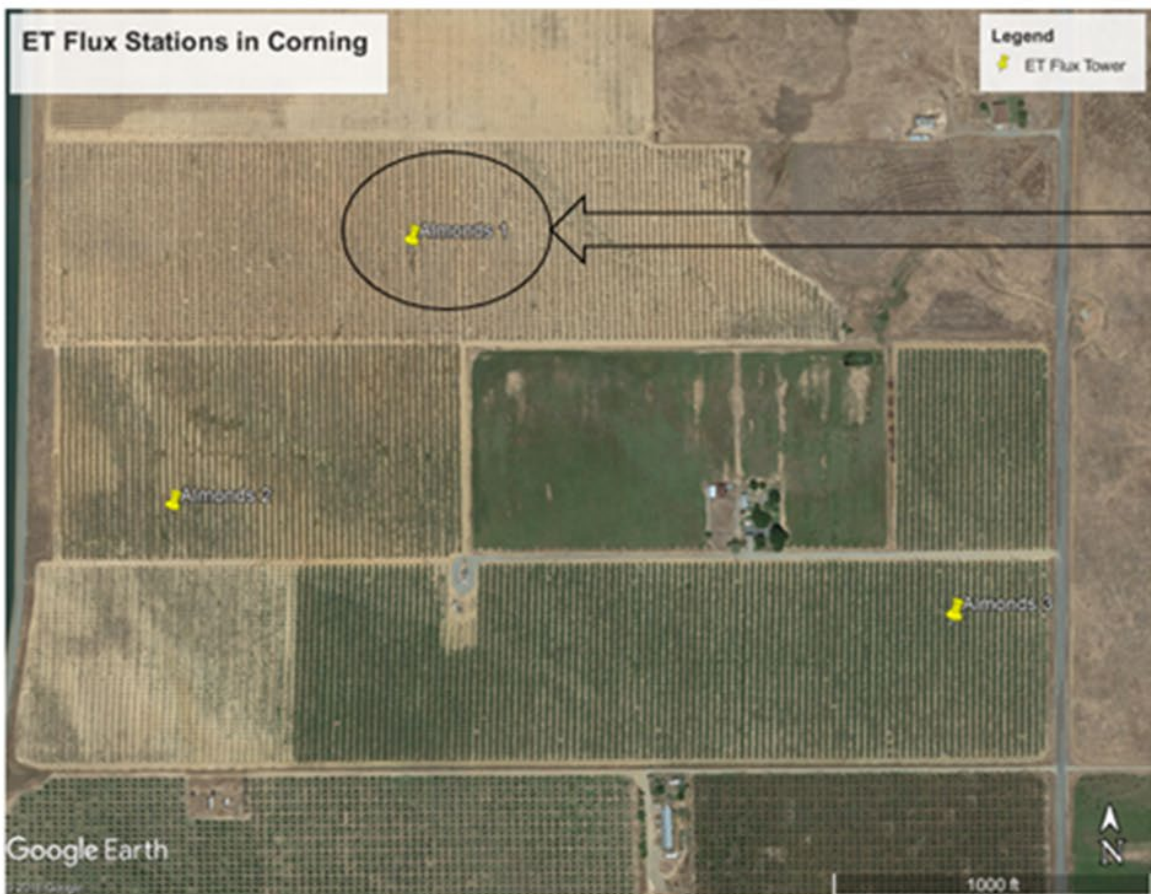


2nd Leaf Orchard





Field Site: Corning, CA

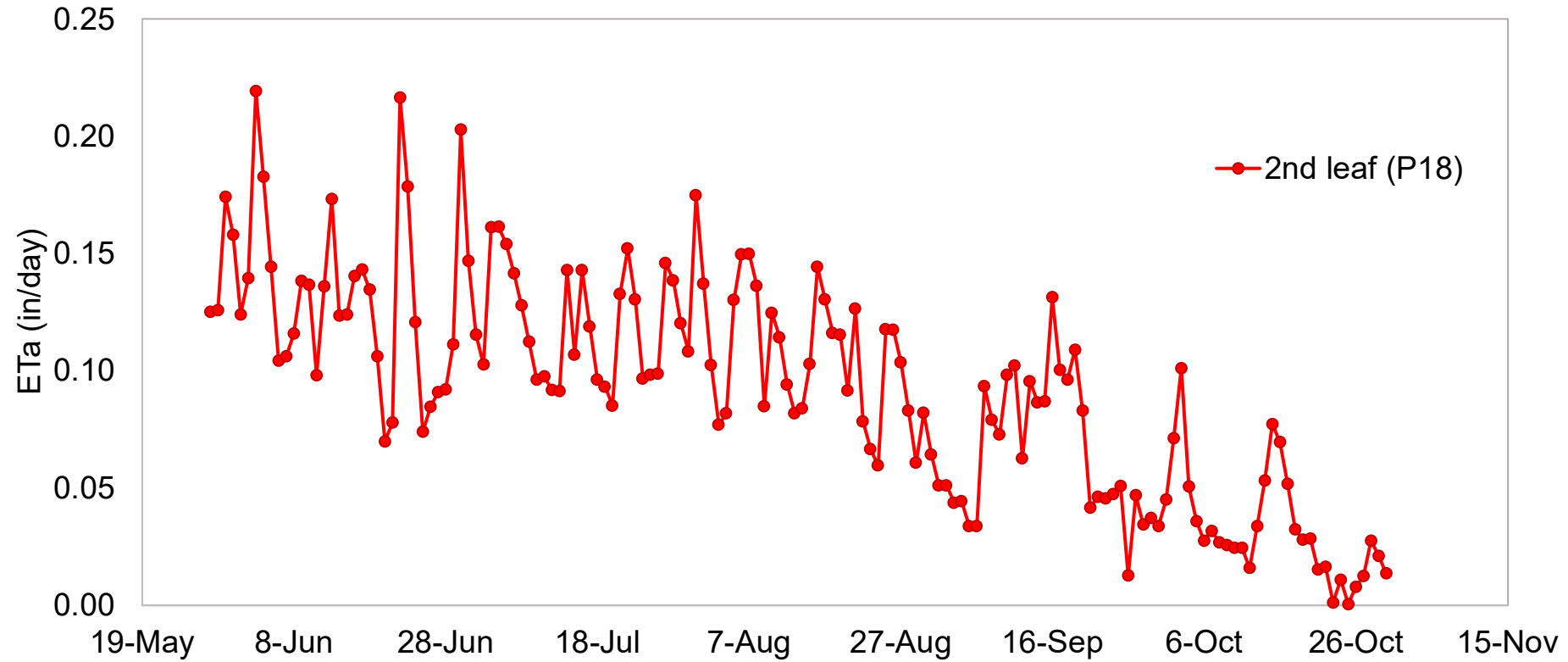


$$LE = R_n - H - G$$



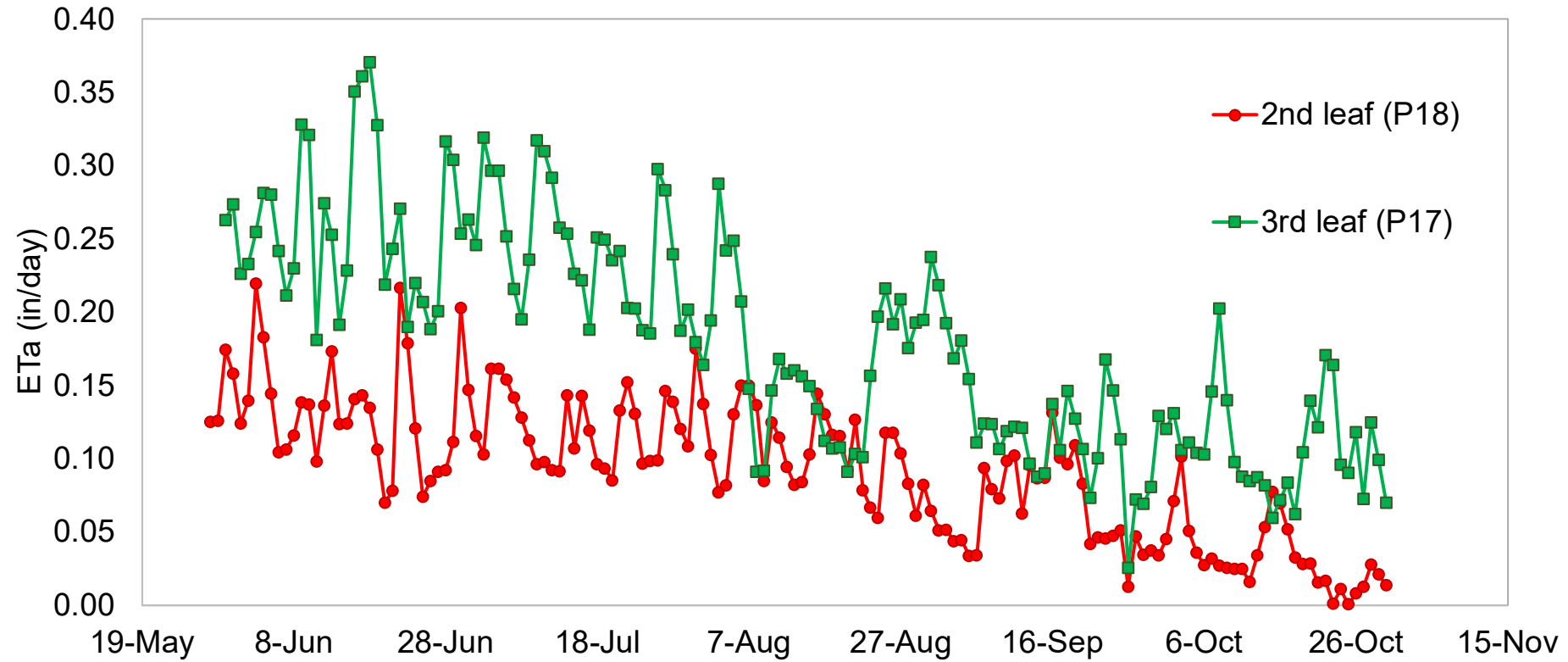


2019: Actual evapotranspiration in young almond orchards



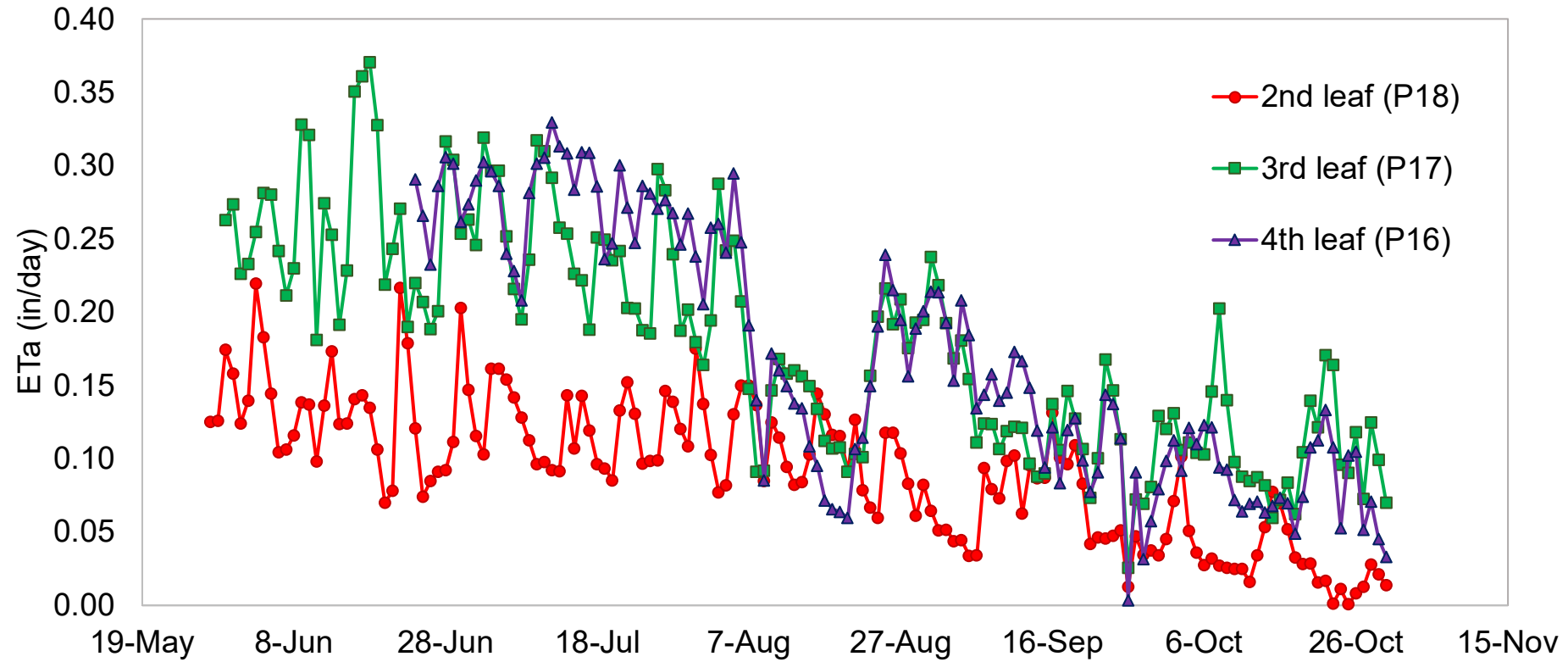


2019: Actual evapotranspiration in young almond orchards



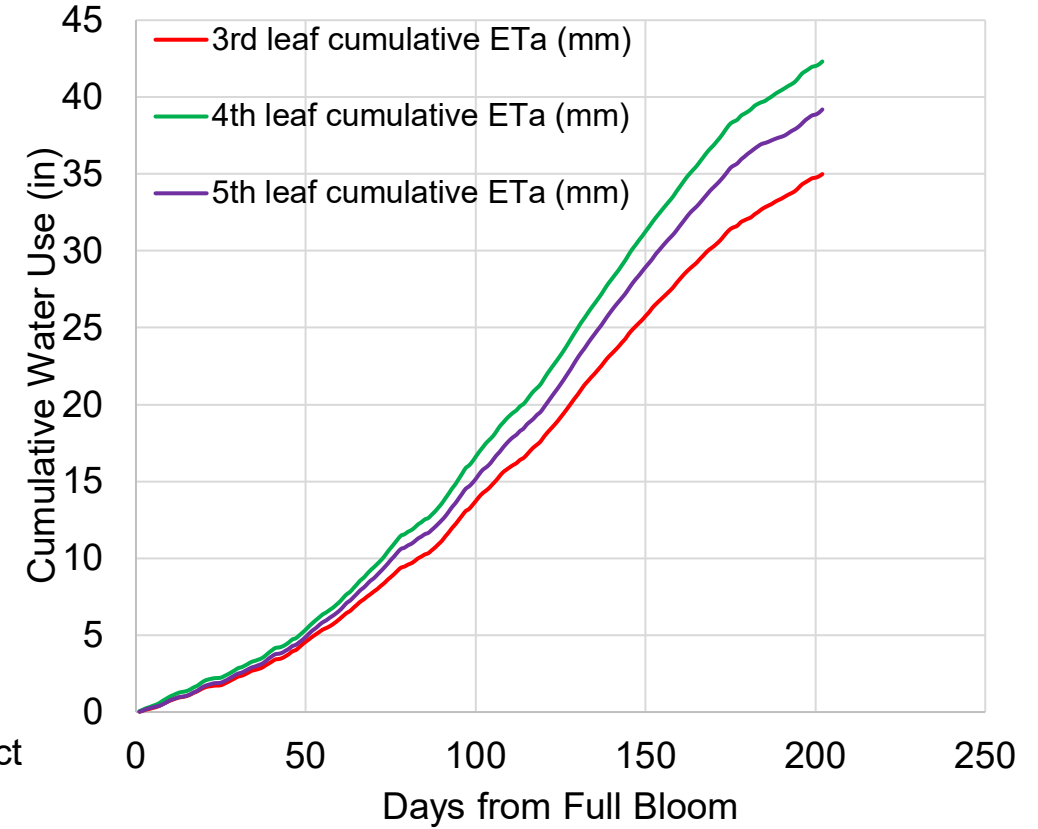
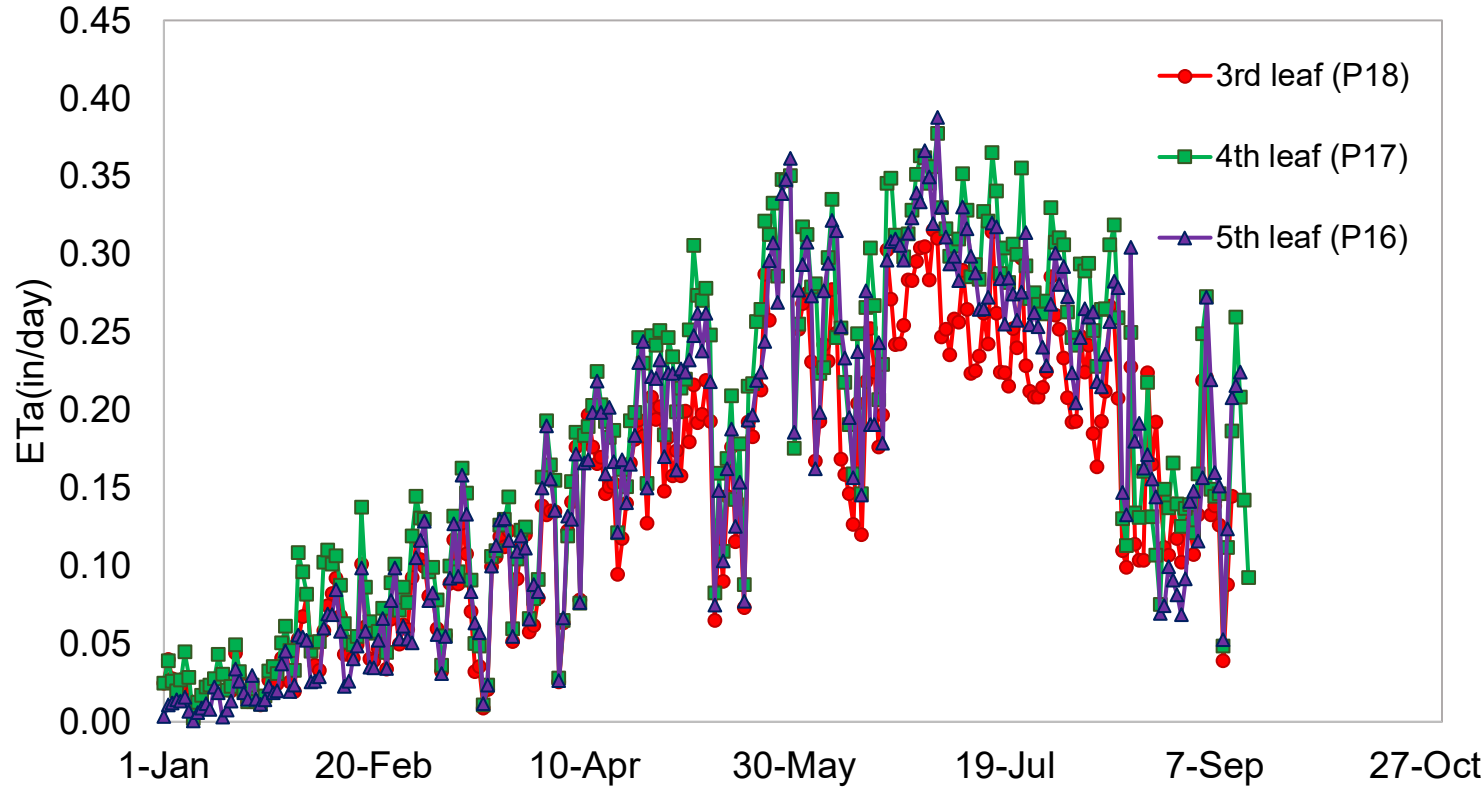


2019: Actual evapotranspiration in young almond orchards





2020: Actual evapotranspiration in young almond orchards



Most of the increase in evapotranspiration occurred during the first four years of plant growth





Young almond orchard crop coefficients

$$K_c = \frac{ET_c}{ET_o} = \frac{R_{n,c} - G_c - H_c}{\frac{\Delta(R_{nr} - G_r) + \rho c_p (e_z^0 - e_z)/r_{ar}}{\Delta + \gamma(1 + r_{sr}/r_{ar})}}$$

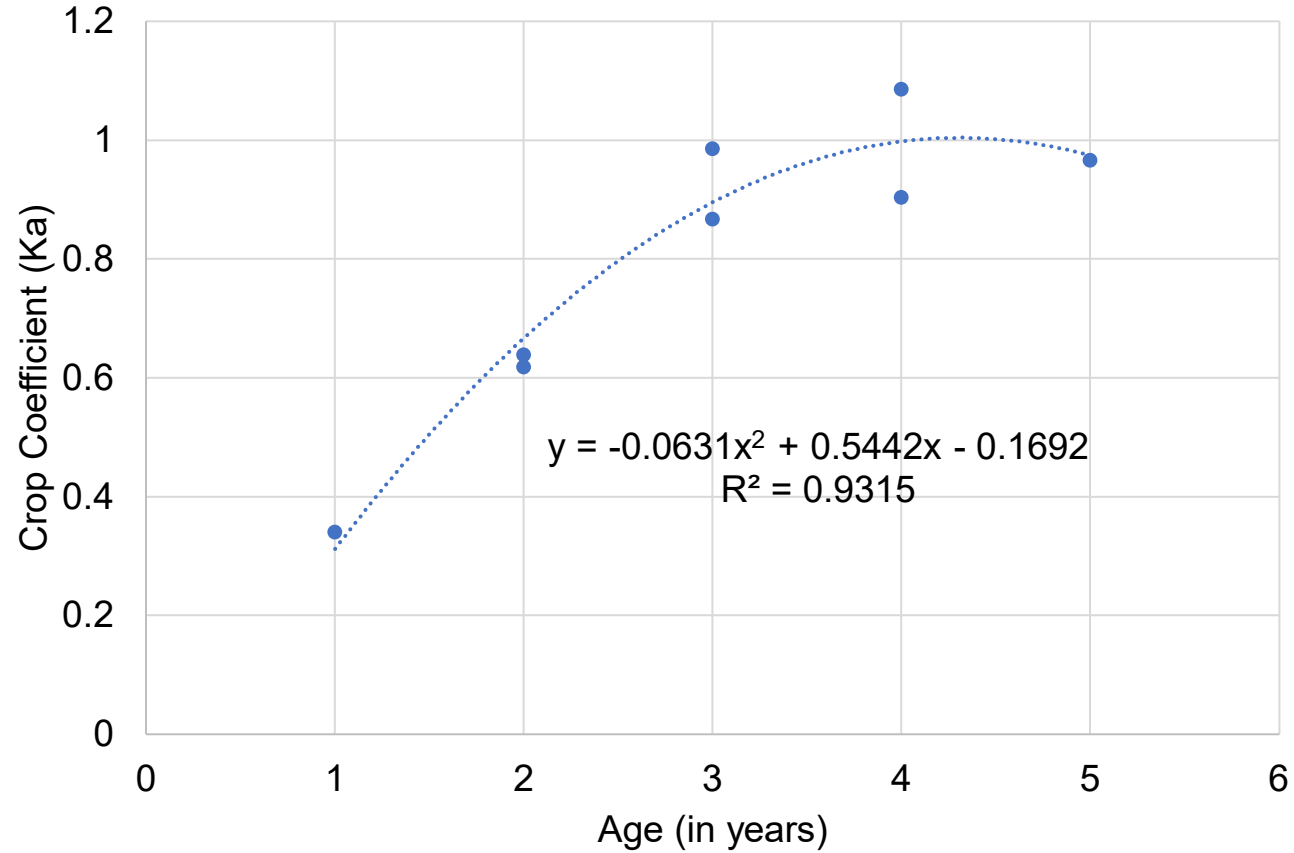
Symbol	Description
ET_c	Actual evapotranspiration of almond
ET_o	Reference evapotranspiration of a grass crop
K_c	Crop coefficient
H_c	Sensible heat flux density to the air of almond crop
$R_{n,c}$ and R_{nr}	Net incoming radiation of the almond crop and grass reference, respectively
G_c and G_r	Ground heat flux density of the almond crop and grass reference, respectively
r_{ar}	Aerodynamic resistance for reference grass crop
r_{sr}	Surface resistance for reference grass crop
Δ	Slope of the saturation vapor pressure/temperature curve
e_z^0	Saturation vapor pressure of air at height z
e_z	Vapor pressure of air at height z
γ	Psychrometric constant
ρ	Density of air
c_p	Specific heat at constant pressure



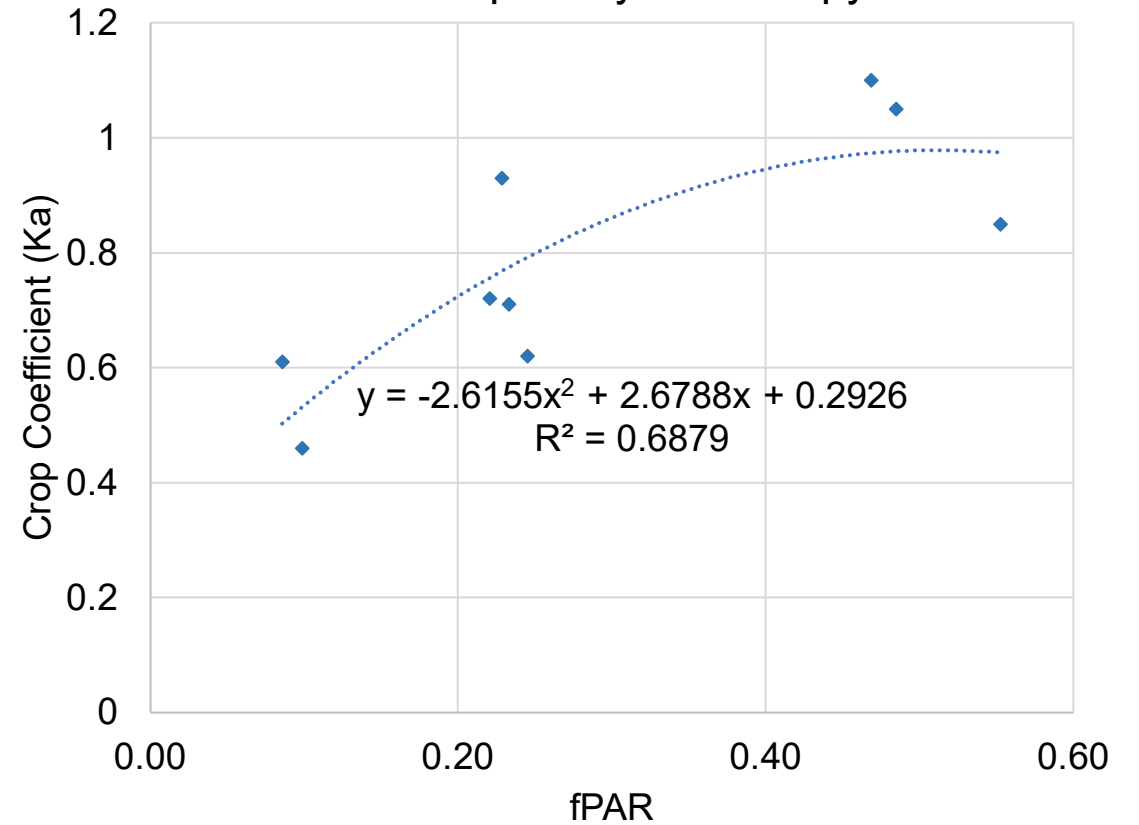


Young almond orchard crop coefficients

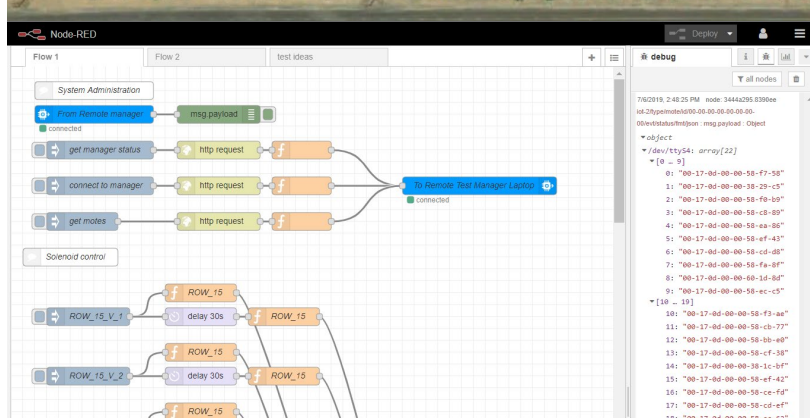
Ka : all orchards combined



Crop Coefficients as a function of fraction PAR intercepted by the canopy



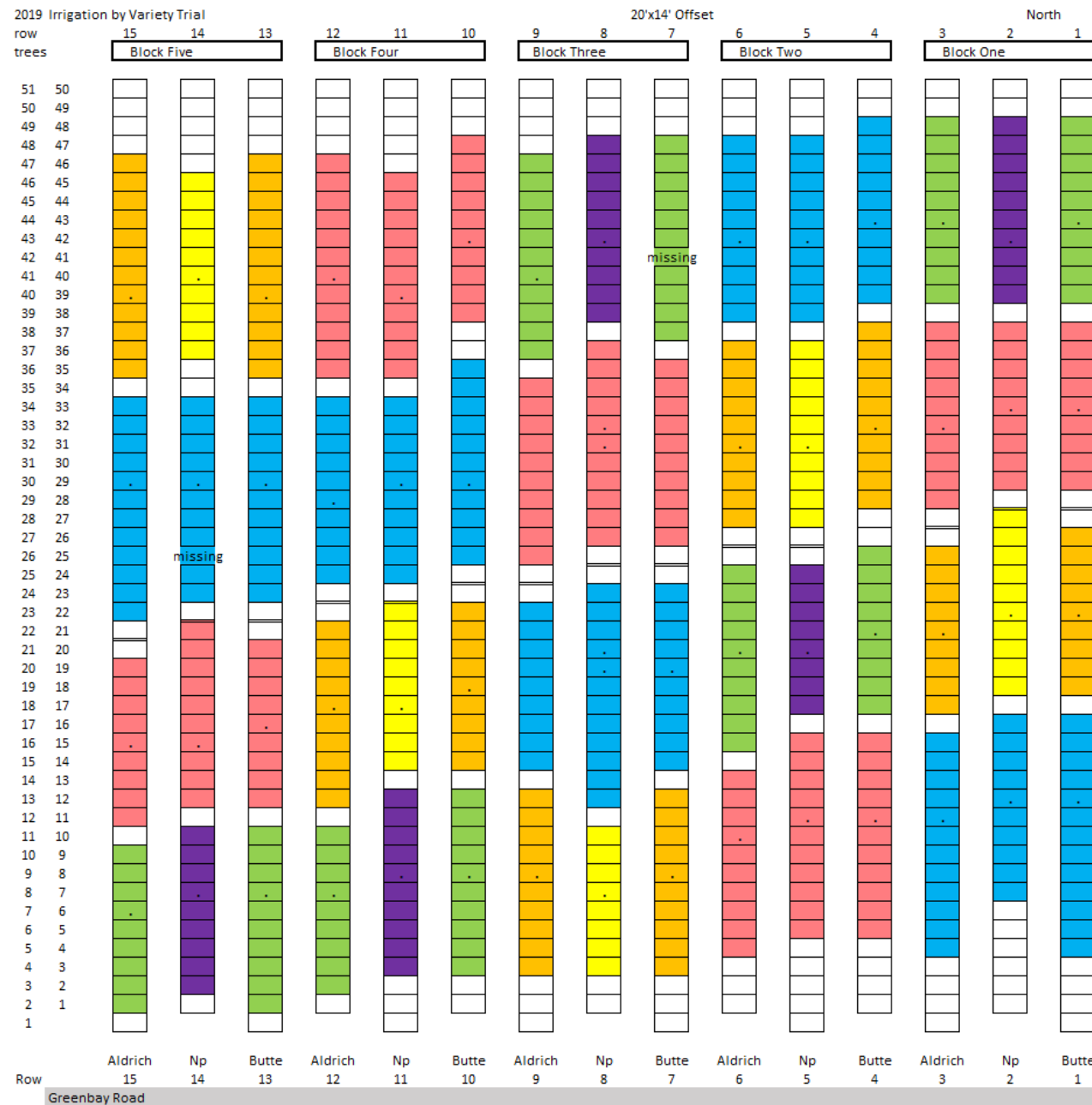
Site-specific Irrigation Management by Variety





Experimental Design

2019	Overall Treatment
S1	100-75-100% ET based on nonpareil growth stages (in all varieties)
S1	100-75-100% ET based on variety-specific growth stages (in all varieties)
S3	100-50-100% ET based on nonpareil growth stages (in all varieties)
S4	100-50-100% ET based on variety-specific growth stages (in all varieties)
S5	100-100-100% ET based on nonpareil growth stages (in nonpareil only) with single dripline during harvest season
S6	100-100-100% ET based on nonpareil growth stages (in nonpareil only) with double dripline during harvest season

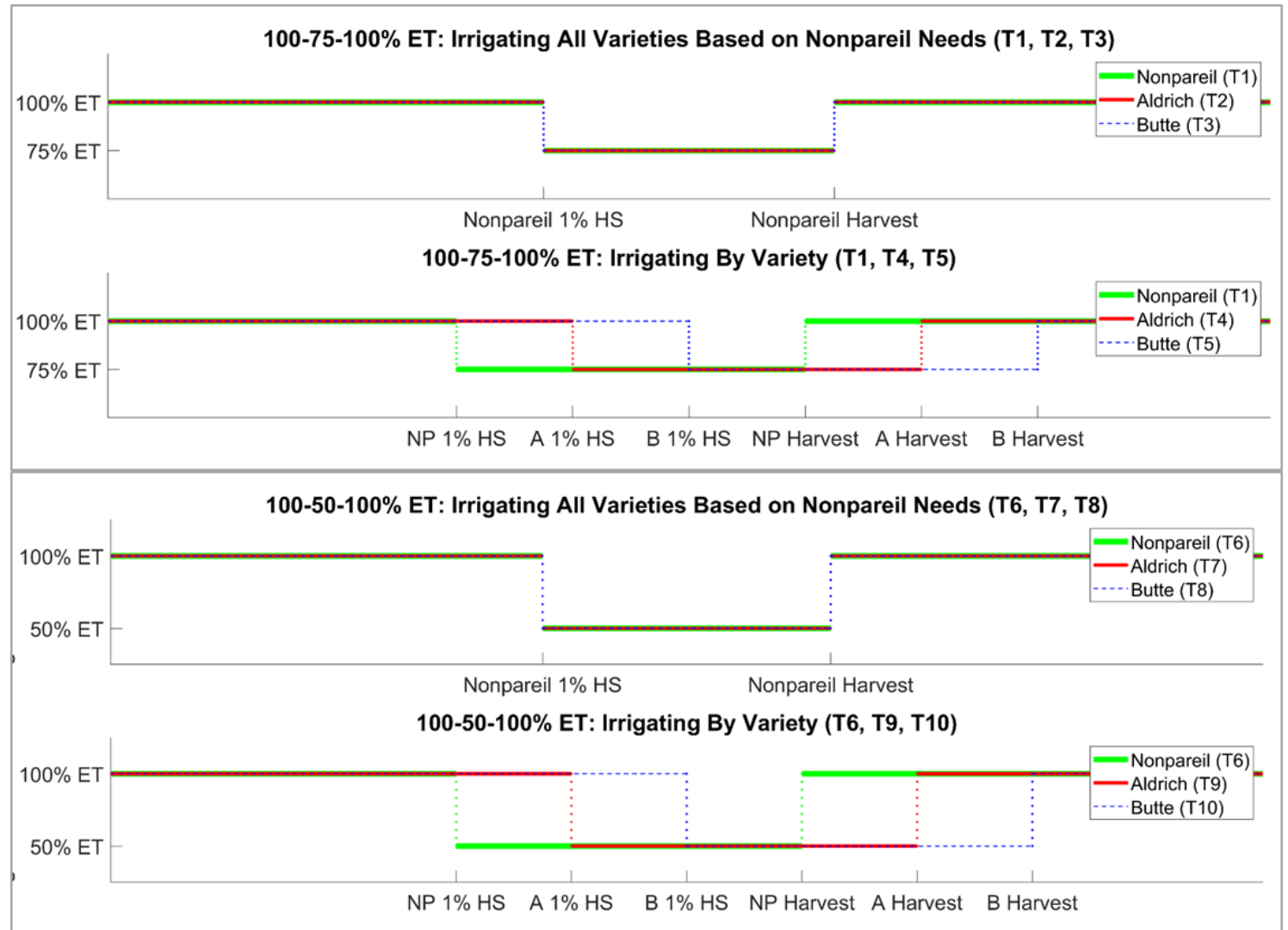




Site-specific irrigation management by variety

Compare the effects of:

- (1) irrigating according to Nonpareil hull-split timing
- (2) irrigating according to variety specific hull-split timing

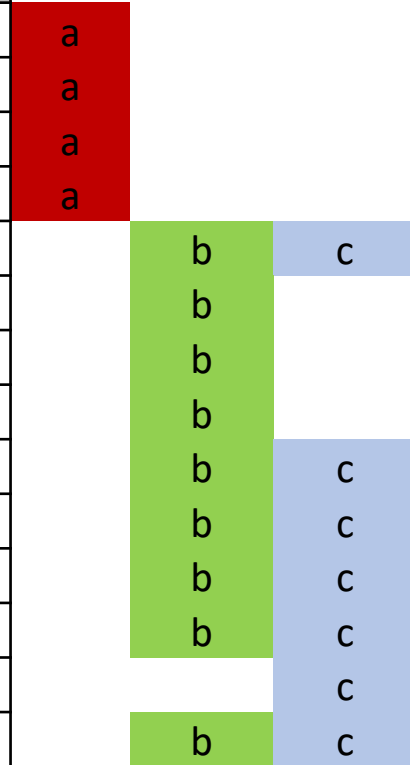




Site-specific irrigation management by variety

Total Yield Per Acre						
Year	Variety	Overall Treatment	Number of Observations	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
2019	A	S1	5	1503	376	5
		S2	5	1433	358	5
		S3	5	1352	338	5
		S4	5	1419	355	5
	B	S1	5	2677	669	5
		S2	5	2482	620	5
		S3	5	2431	608	5
		S4	5	2373	593	5
	N	S1	5	2820	705	5
		S2	5	2820	705	5
		S3	5	2687	672	5
		S4	5	2687	672	5
		S5	5	3048	762	5
		S6	5	2844	711	5

- A: Aldrich
- B: Butte
- N: Nonpareil



Treatments with the same letters are not significantly different

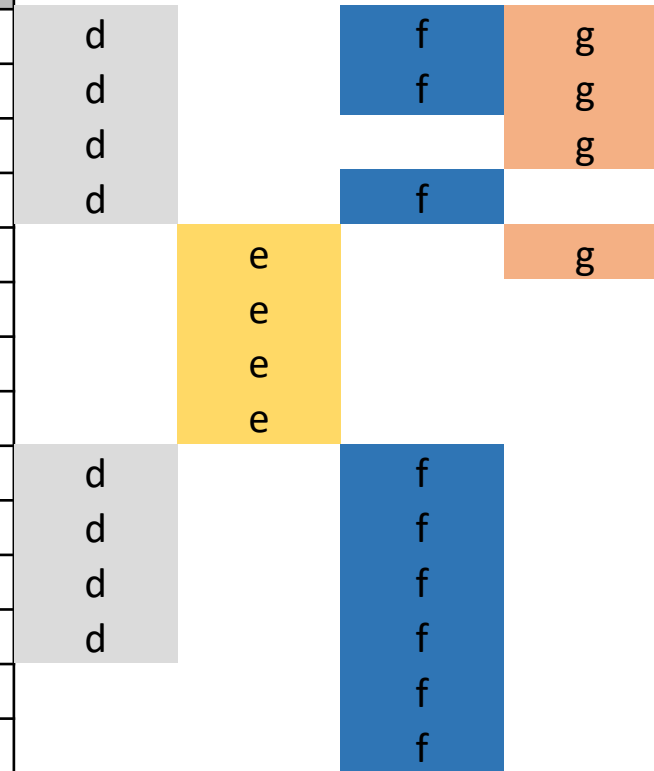




Site-specific irrigation management by variety

Total Yield Per Acre						
Year	Variety	Overall Treatment	Number of Observations	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
2020	A	S1	5	3122	780	5
		S2	5	3126	782	5
		S3	5	2954	739	5
		S4	5	3233	808	5
	B	S1	5	2617	654	4
		S2	5	2394	598	5
		S3	5	2355	589	5
		S4	5	2238	559	4
	N	S1	5	3477	869	5
		S2	5	3477	869	5
		S3	5	3335	834	5
		S4	5	3335	834	5
		S5	5	3512	878	5
		S6	5	3506	877	5

- A: Aldrich
- B: Butte
- N: Nonpareil

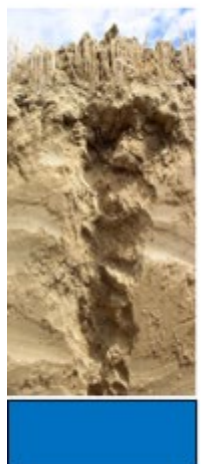
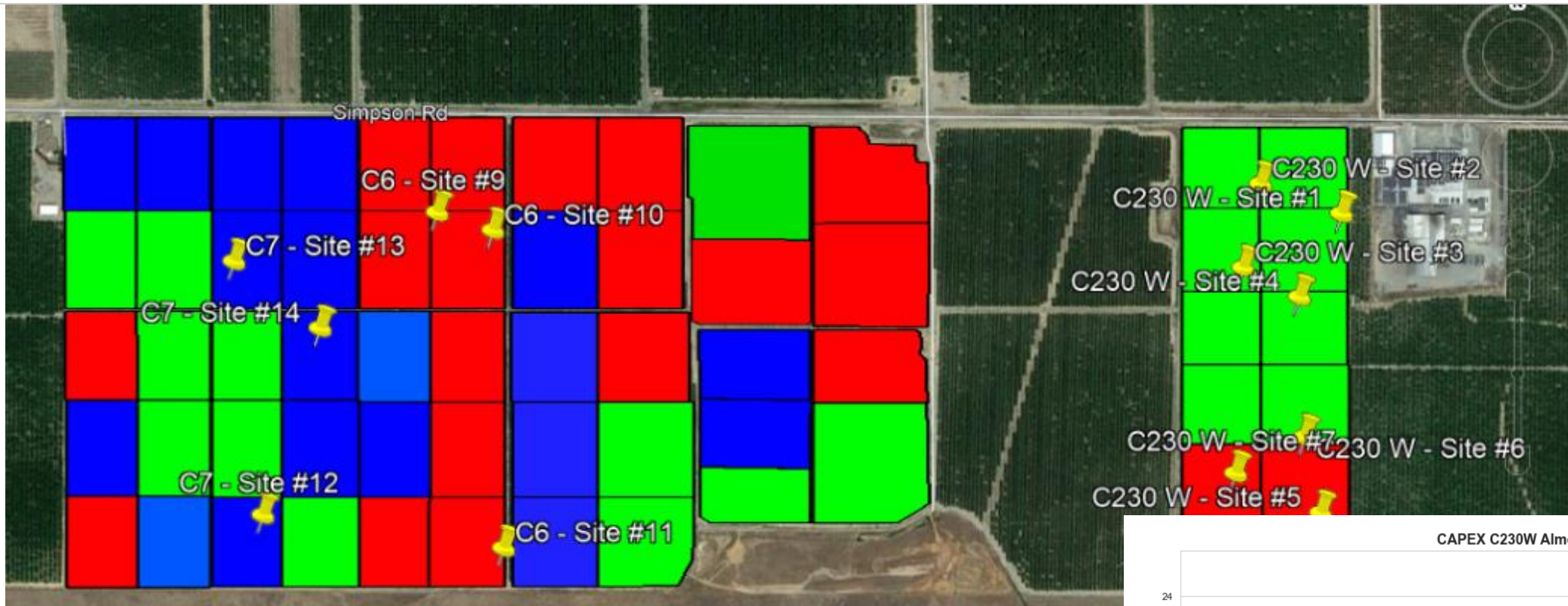


Treatments with the same letters are not significantly different



Zone Irrigation Management based on Soil Type

Site-specific irrigation management by soil type



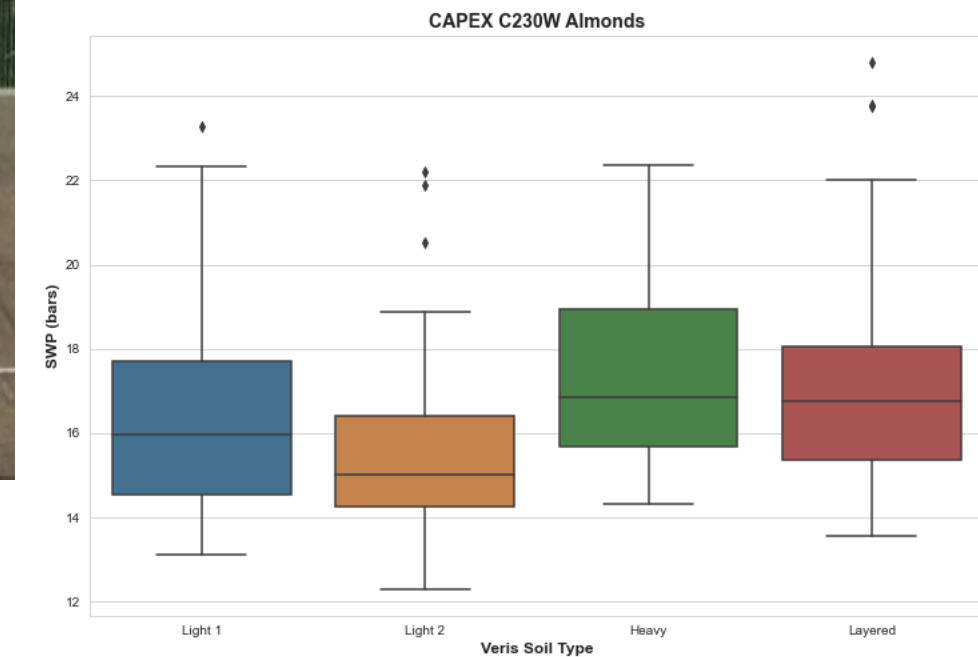
Heavy soil irrigation zone



Layered soil irrigation zone

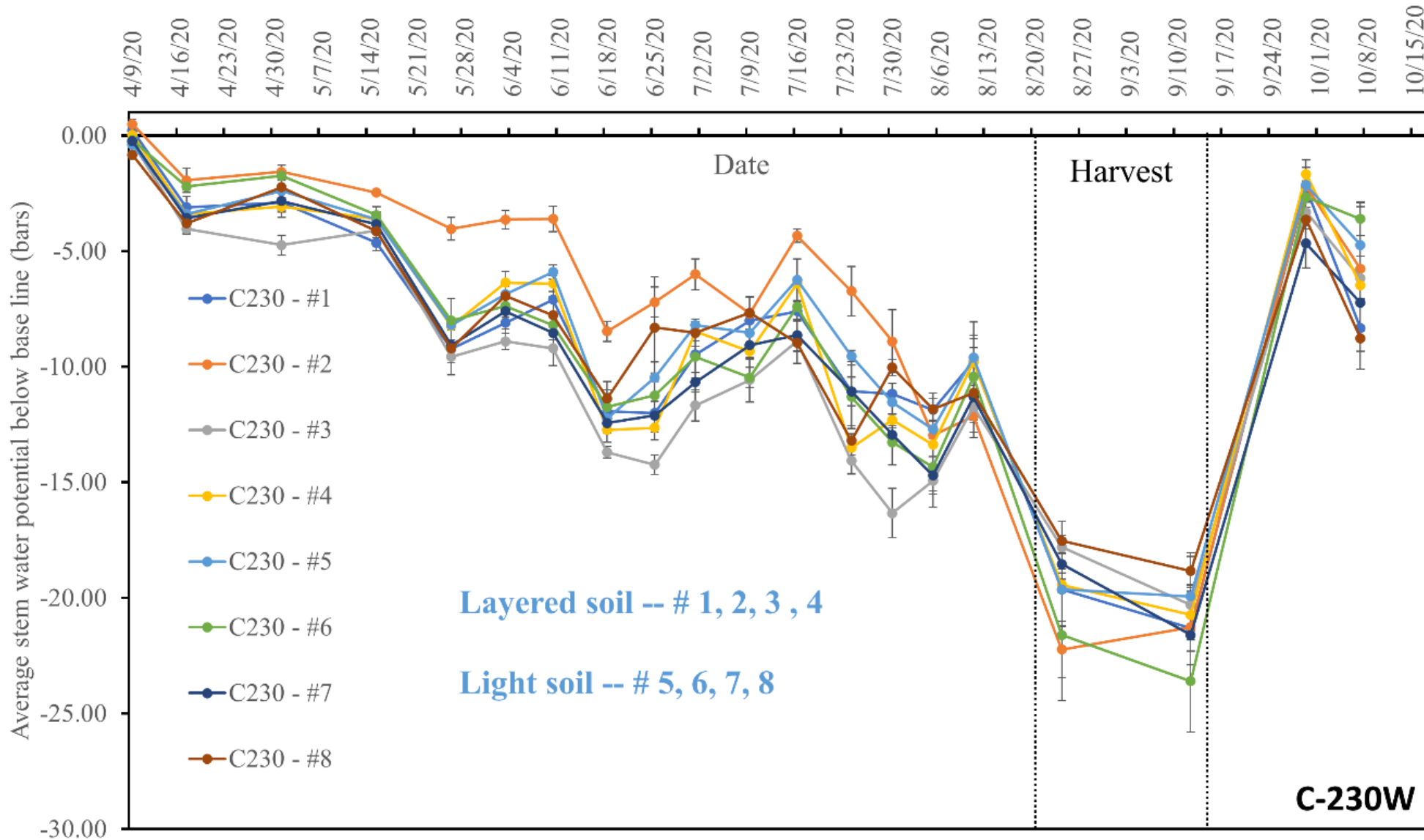


Light soil irrigation zone





Effect of soil type on tree stem water potential in block C-230 at CAPEX



Emerging **Soil** and **Plant Water Status Sensing**
Technologies for Data-driven Smart Irrigation
Management in Almonds

» Promising irrigation scheduling technologies in almonds



Large area cosmic ray soil moisture sensing



Automated micro-tensiometer for measuring stem water potential



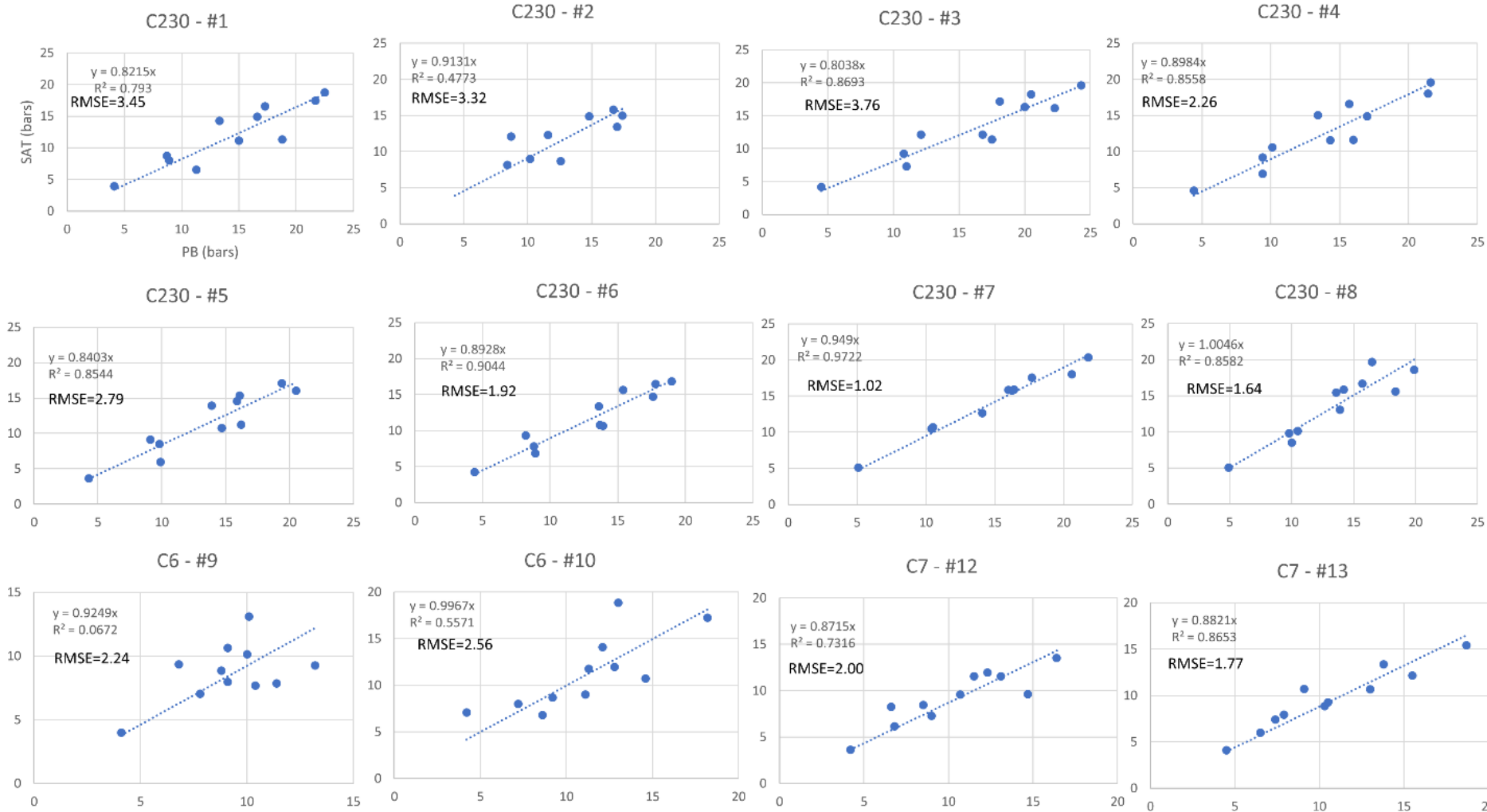
Automated stem water potential monitoring



Comparing pressure bomb versus calibrated Saturas micro-tensiometer



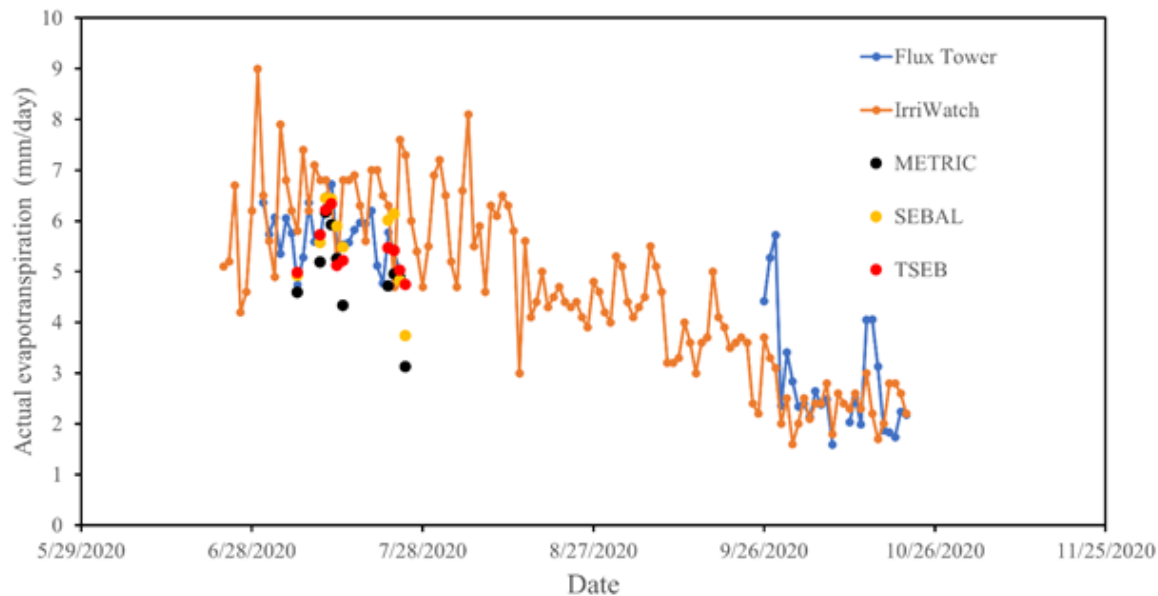
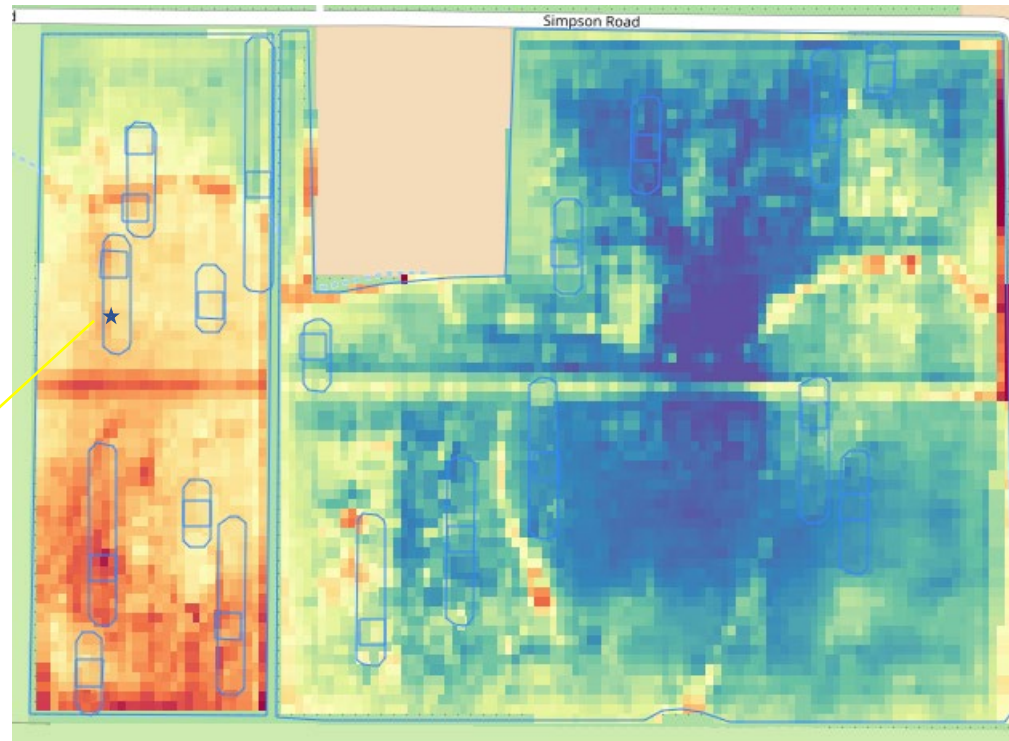
Evaluating performance of micro-tensiometers against pressure chamber



After calibration micro-tensiometers show good correlation with pressure chamber



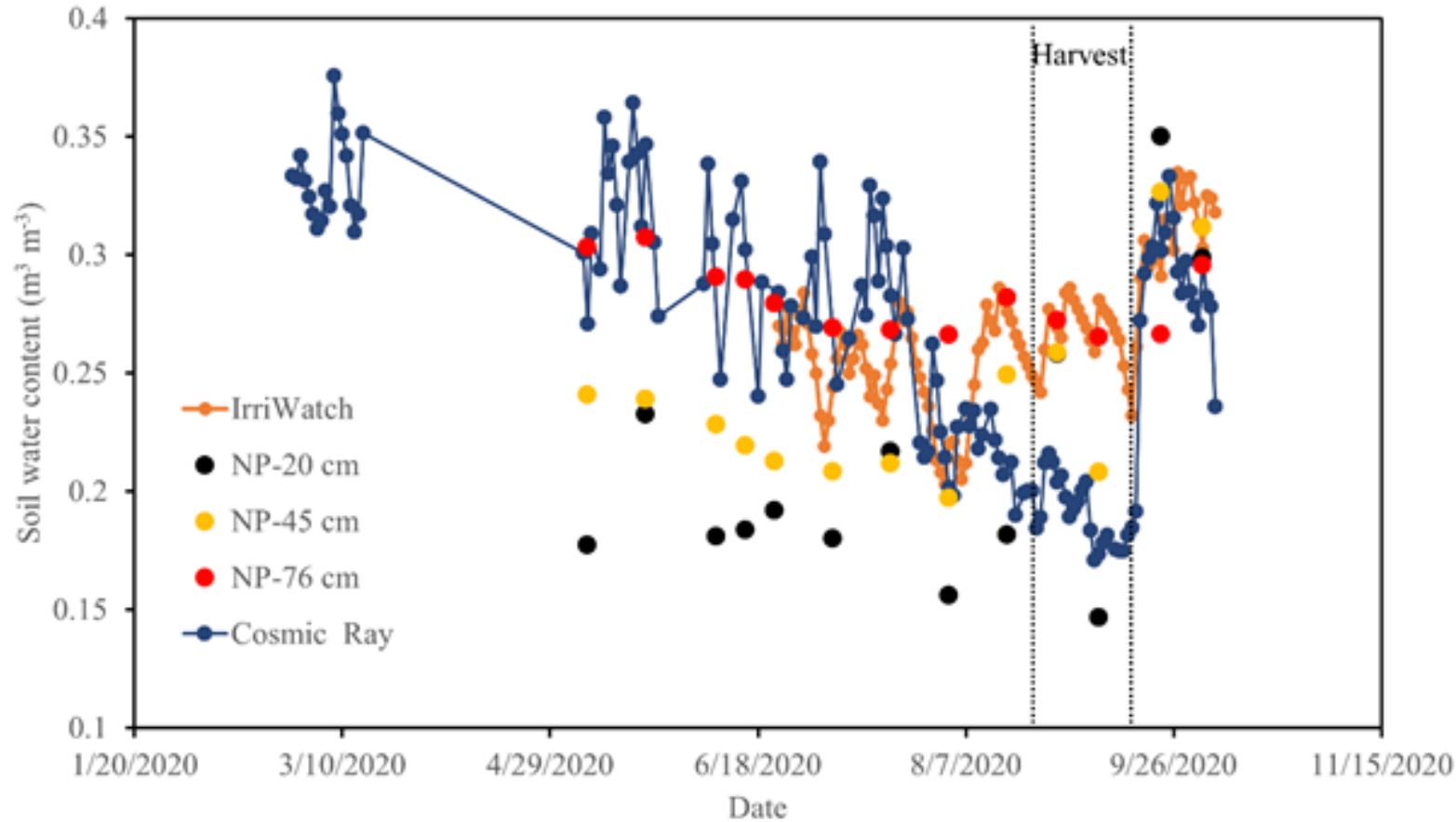
Eddy Covariance flux tower for validation of remote sensing ET



Remote sensing based ET shows great promise for smart irrigation management. Commercially available (e.g., <https://www.irriwatches.com/en/>, <https://jainsusa.com/monitoring-control/jain-logic/agralogics/>)



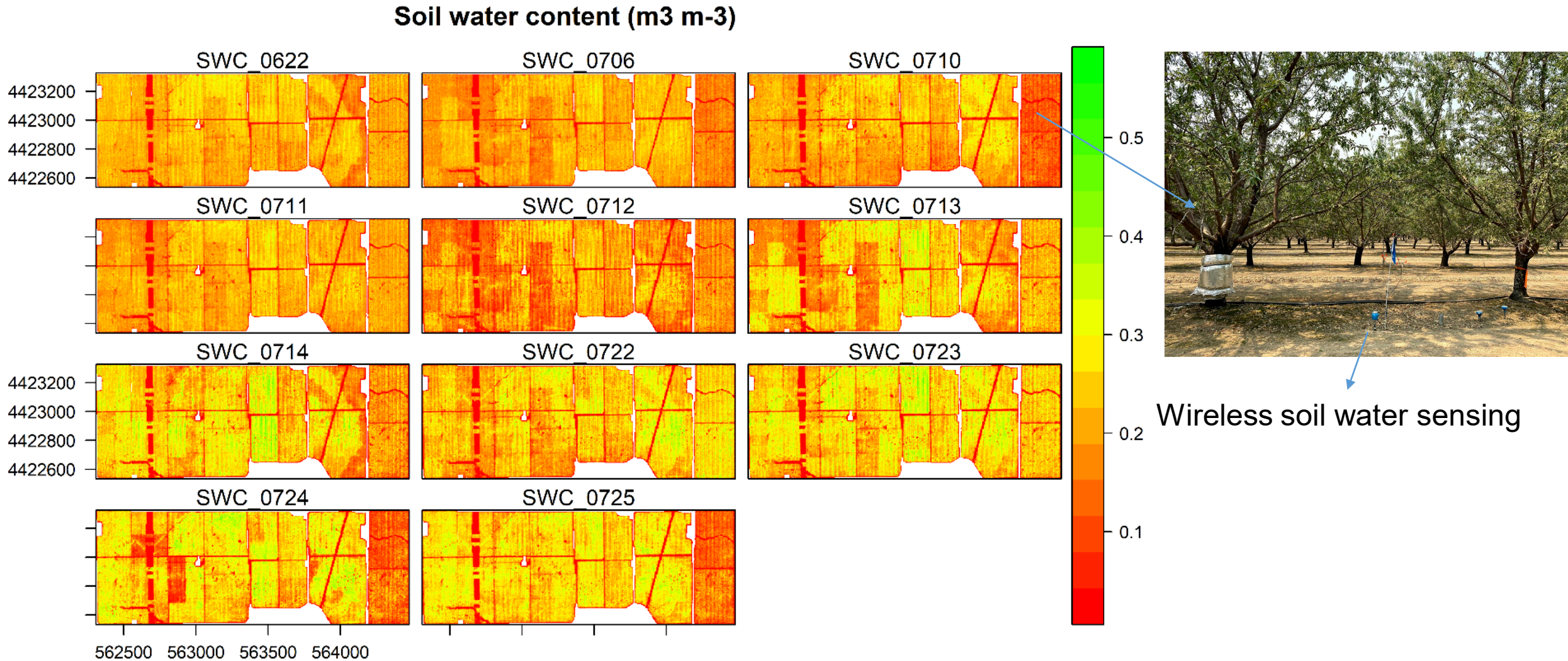
Orchard scale proximal soil moisture sensing using cosmic ray neutron probe



Cosmic ray neutron probe provides areal averaged soil moisture in the top 2 to 3 ft of the soil profile for an area ~ 30 to 50 acres.



Combining high resolution soil water maps (derived from ceres images) with ground based wireless soil water sensing





Thank You

Acknowledgements

- Kelley Marie Drechsler
- Srinivasa Rao Peddinti
- Allan Fulton
- Iael Hoffman
- Franz Niederholzer
- Umair Gull
- Ryan Fulton
- Floyd Nicolas
- Usama Al-Dughaishi
- Samuel Metcalf
- Esteve Ranch
- Nickels Soil Lab



Thank
You!

