

# Finding Needles in Haystacks: Disease Monitoring and Risk Assessment



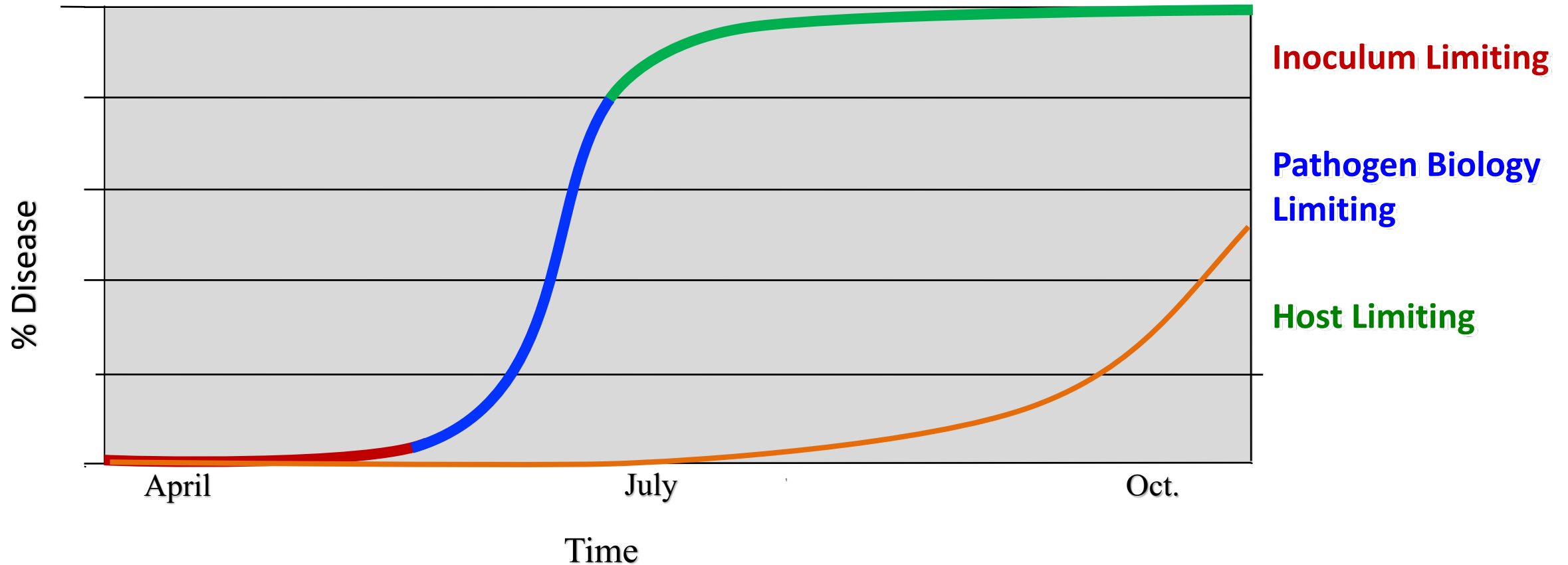
Walt Mahaffee

USDA-ARS

Horticulture Crops Disease & Pest Management Research Unit

Corvallis, Oregon

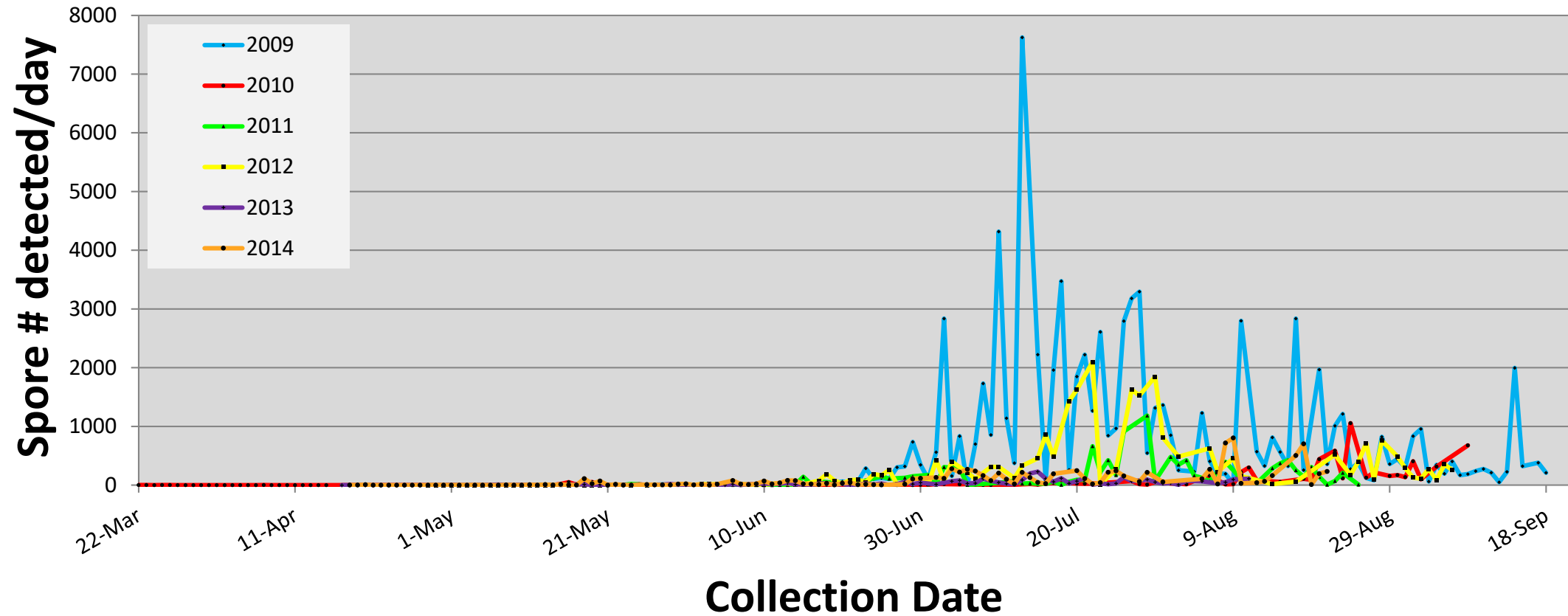
# Disease management is about delaying the inevitable





# Not all years or days have the same risk

Airborne *Erysiphe necator* conidia



# There are no silver bullets

- **Successful disease management is about combining the right tools, to the right location, at the right times, and in the right sequence.**
  - Disease forecasting
    - Formal (active model use)
    - Informal (internalized model into their intuition)
  - Disease Scouting – action thresholds and adjustments
  - Cultural practices
    - Fertility
    - Canopy management (row structure, orientation, trellising, pruning, leaf removal, etc)
    - Genotypes (plant resistance)
    - Planting times
  - Pesticide applications
    - Mostly prophylactic



Designed by Tamer Dulkeith

Well...  
maybe one

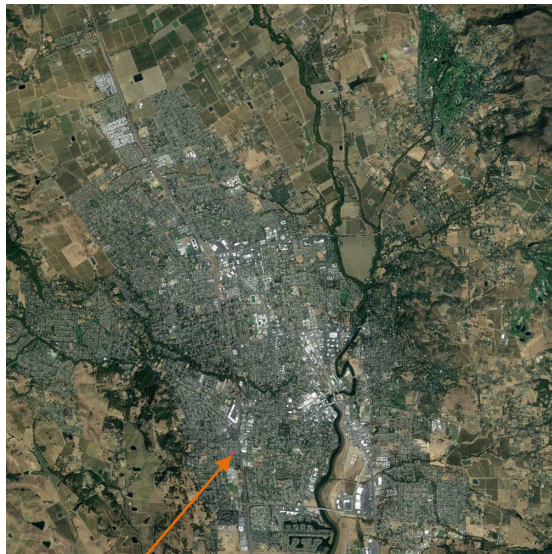
# Disease risk is not uniform or random but where is it?





# Scaling the Problem

- Let's assume  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m} = 1\text{ m}$  then I am  $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$
- Then this is



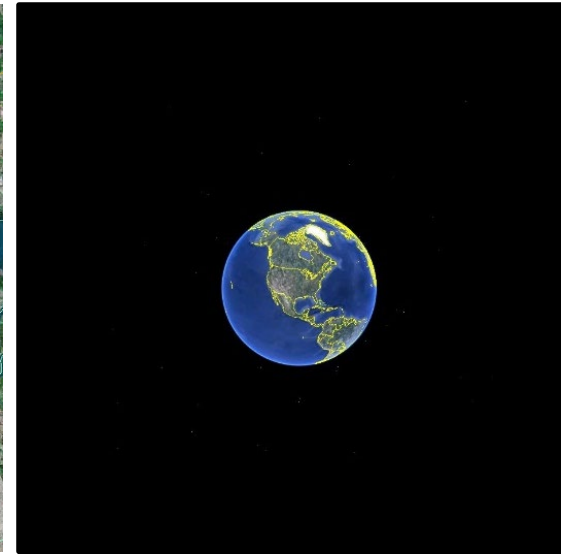
spore  $1\text{ cm}^2$

Readily observable  
*E. necator* colony



$100\text{ cm}^2$

Average grape leaf

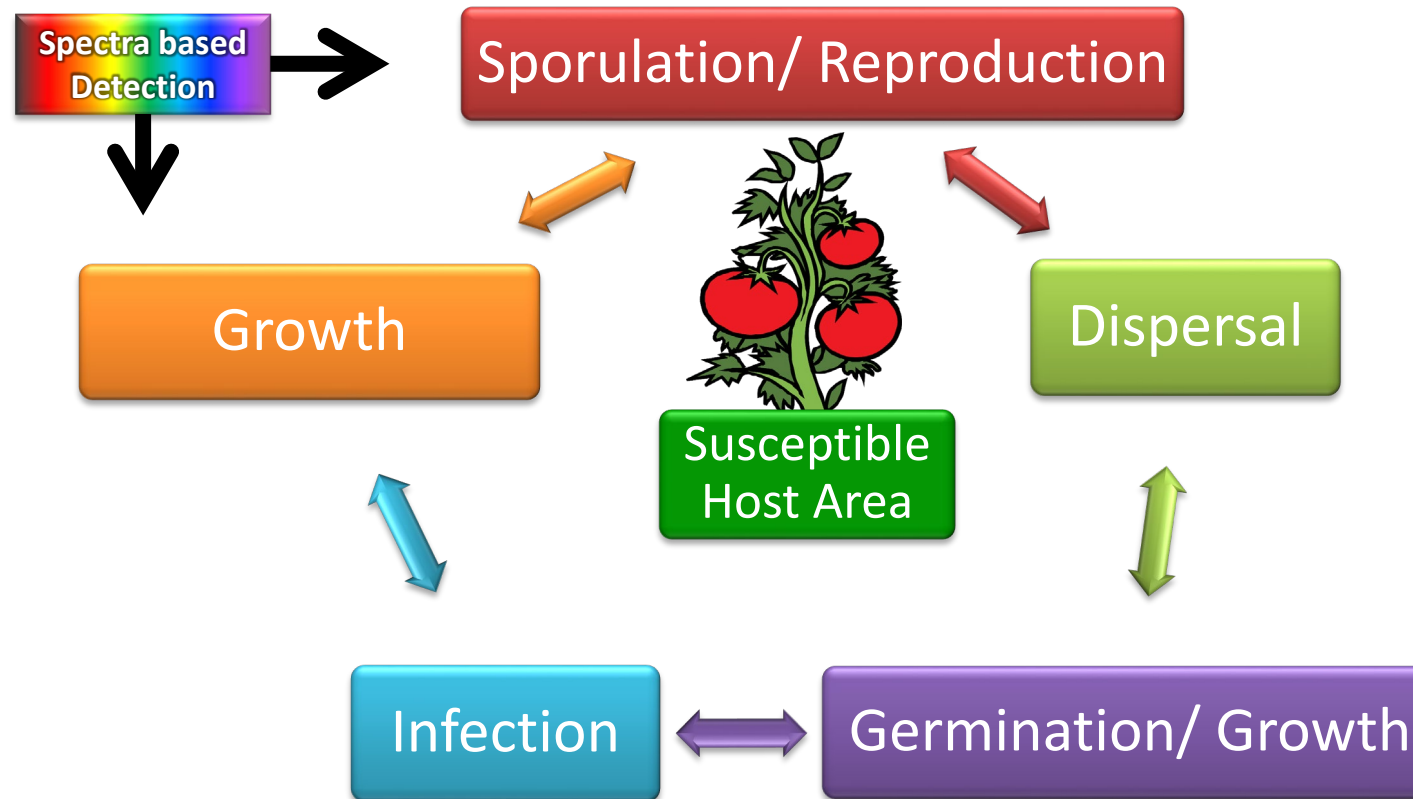


1 hectare

~2.5 acres

# Scouting is focused on physical location

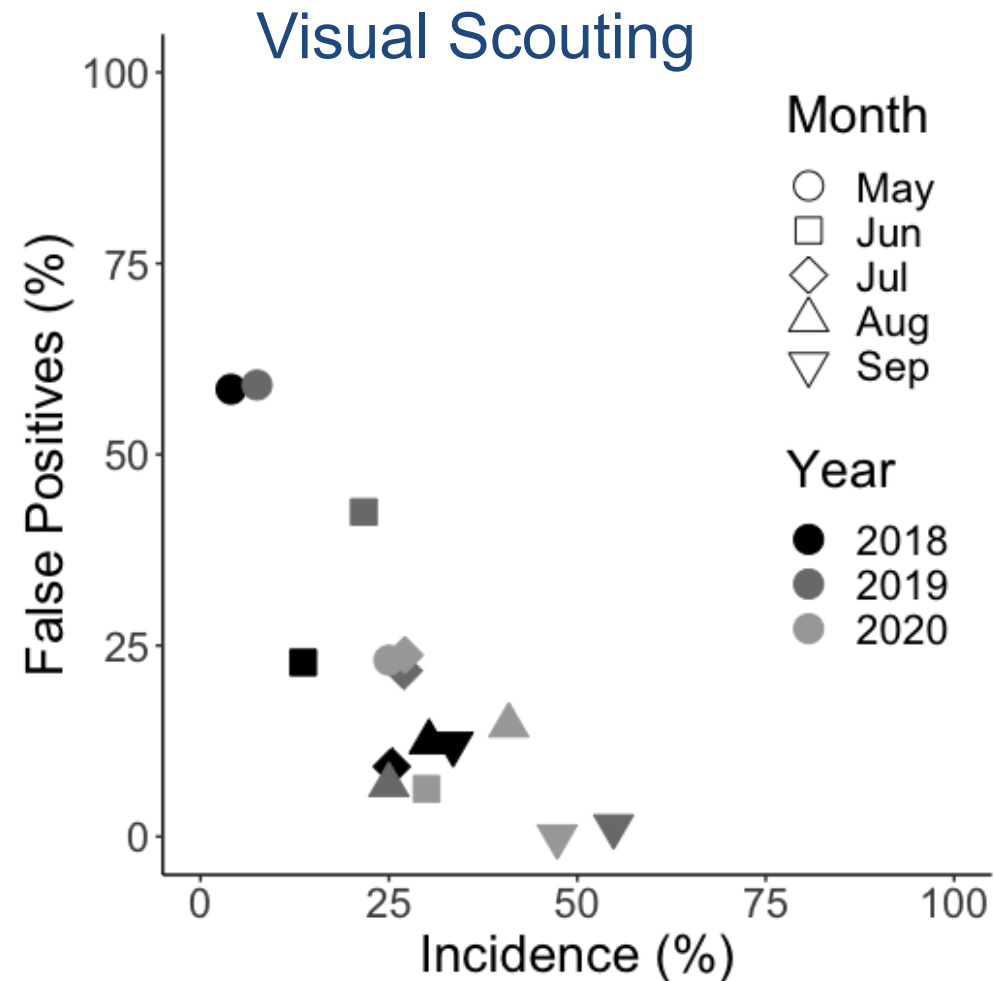
Pathogen Life Cycle



Adapted from Aylor, 2017; Ch1

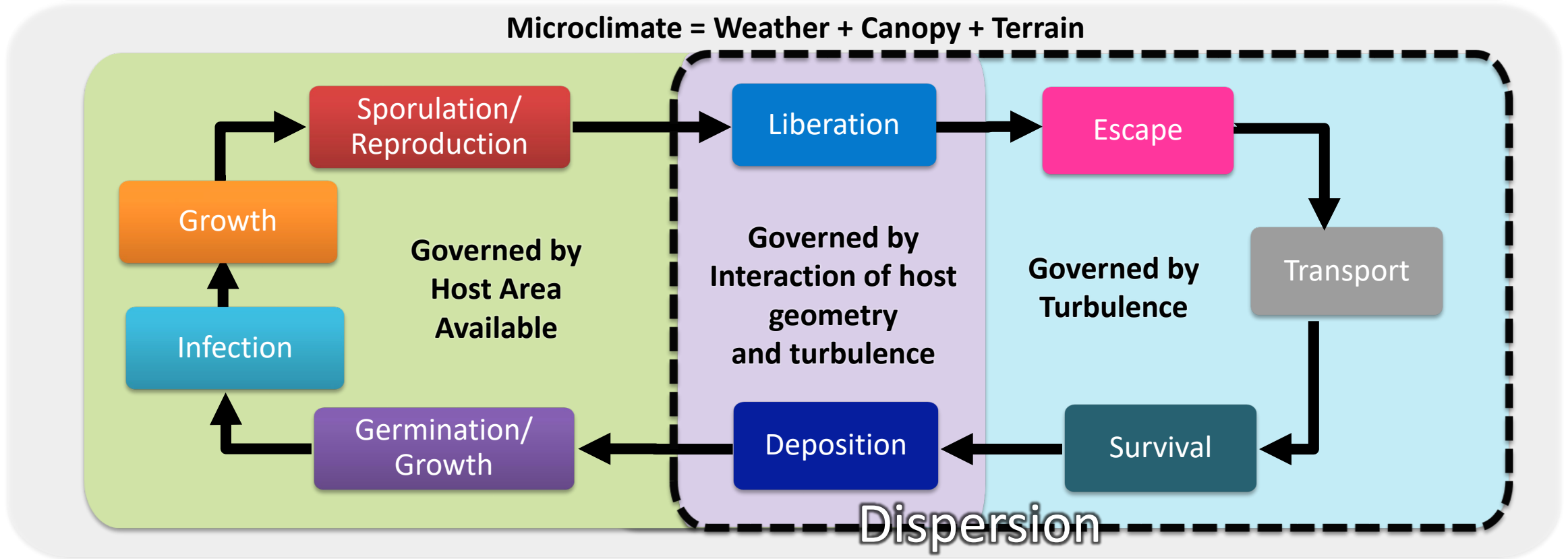
# We aren't very good at seeing it

Sarah Lowder





# Pathogen Life Cycle



Mahaffee et al, 2022. Plant Disease <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-21-2570-FE>

# Inoculum Monitoring



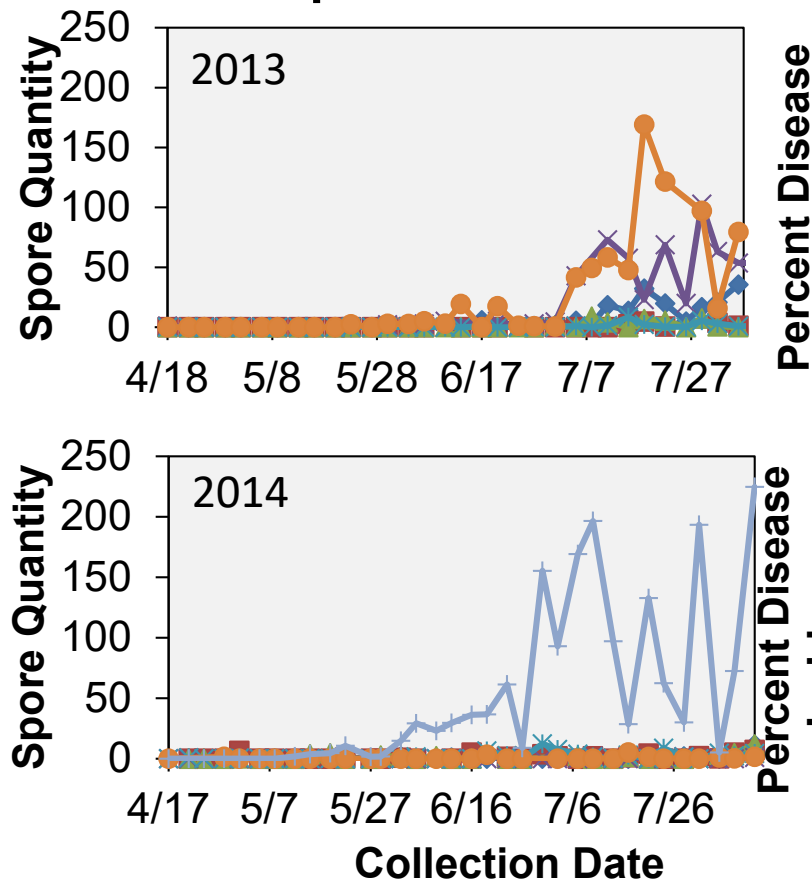
# Inoculum Detection as a Decision Aid for Adjusting Fungicide Intervals

Lindsey Thiessen

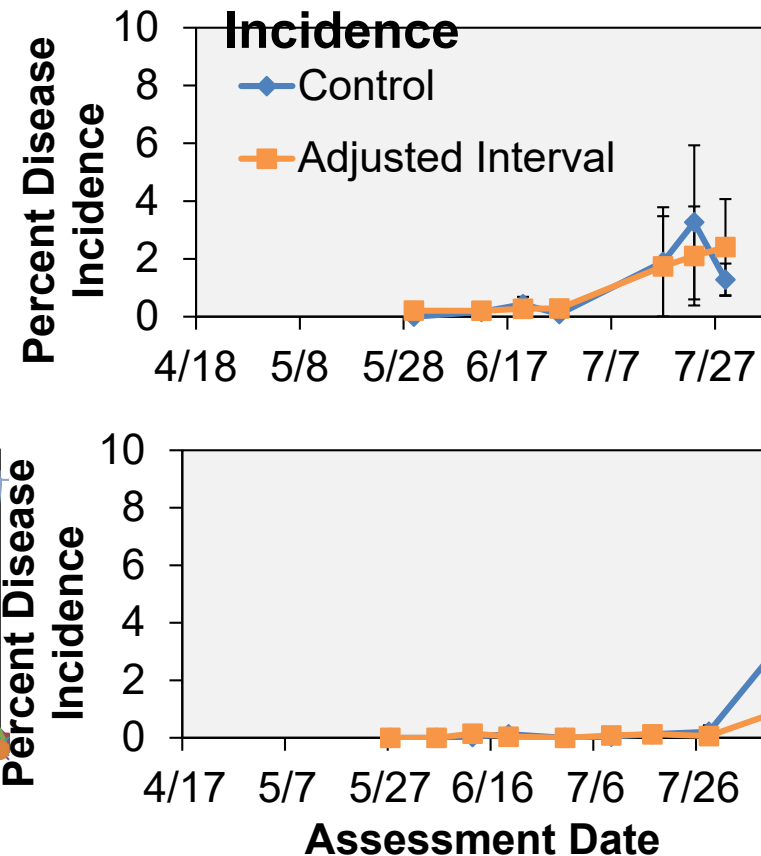
- Program started with first detection and then intervals stretched based on spore number
- Average of 3.8 fungicide applications saved (8 seasons )
- Saving \$150-250/A in fungicide
- Saving >13lbs/A of fungicide
- Currently, over 400 traps commercially deployed



**Spore Detection**



**Field Leaf Disease**



Thiessen 2016 Plant Pathology 65:238-249; 2017 Plant Dis 101:1246-1252; 2018 PeerJ 6:e4639 doi:10.7717/peerj.4639.

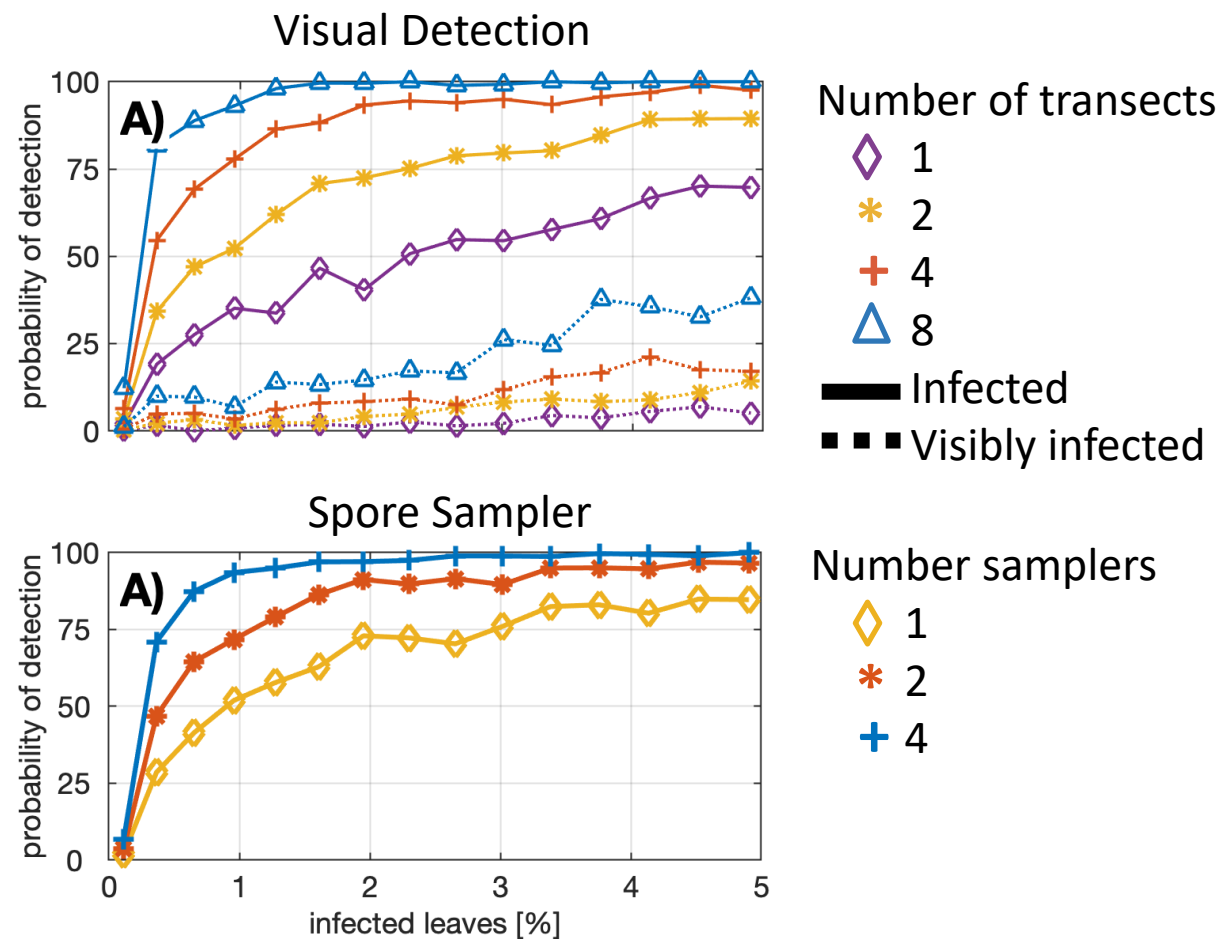


# Simulated Disease Development

Simulated epidemic starting from one disease foci



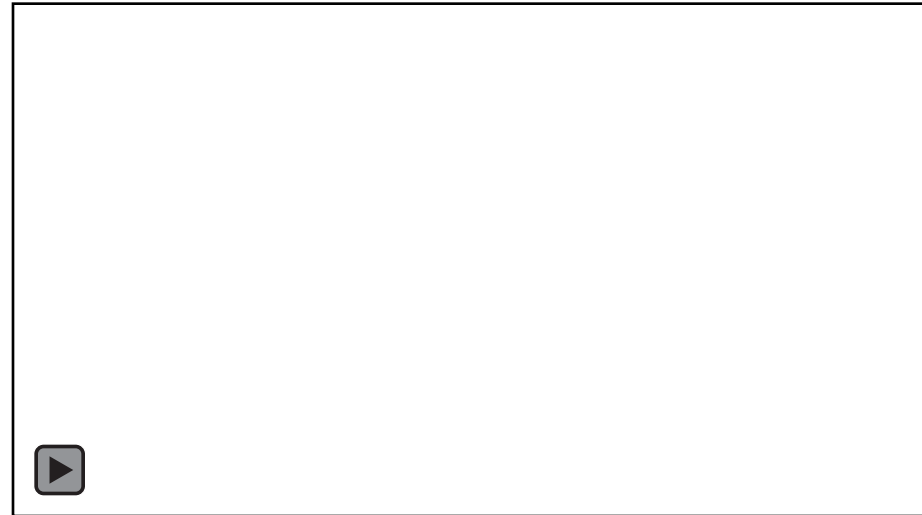
3 Ha (7.4 Acres) - Vine spacing 5'x7'



Data points ensemble of 2000 simulations

# A Different Kind of Spore Trap Glove Swab

Sarah Lowder



# Glove –v– Visual

Sarah Lowder

**Comparison of glove swab and visual assessment for detection of *E. necator* in a row.**

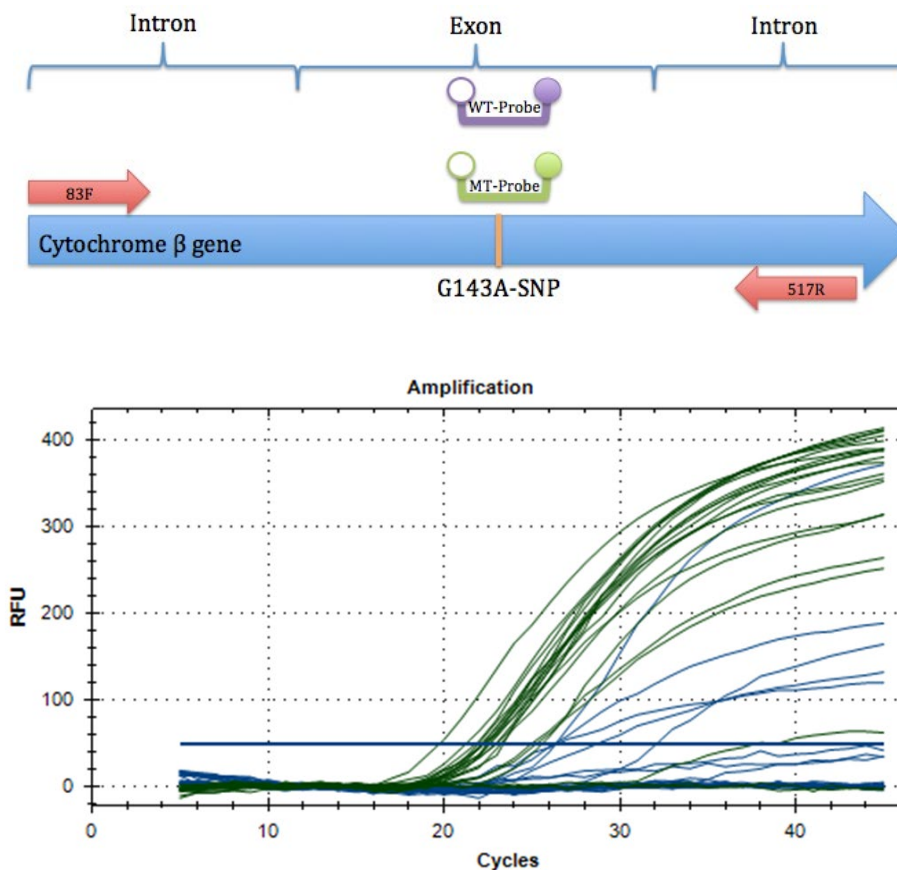
	<b>Glove Detection</b>	<b>No Glove Detection</b>
<b>Visual Detection</b>	247	14
<b>No Visual Detection</b>	199	204

**Fisher's Exact Test, p-value: <0.001**



# Molecular Detection of QoI Resistance

- Single nucleotide mutation (G143A)
- Developed TaqMan qPCR and ddPCR competitive Assays.
- Sensitive to a single spore
- Can detect alleles when >10% of population with qPCR and >5% with ddPCR



Miles et al., 2021

# QoI Resistance Frequency across the Western US Counties sampled

107 vineyards

4857 samples

17 Counties in CA, OR, WA

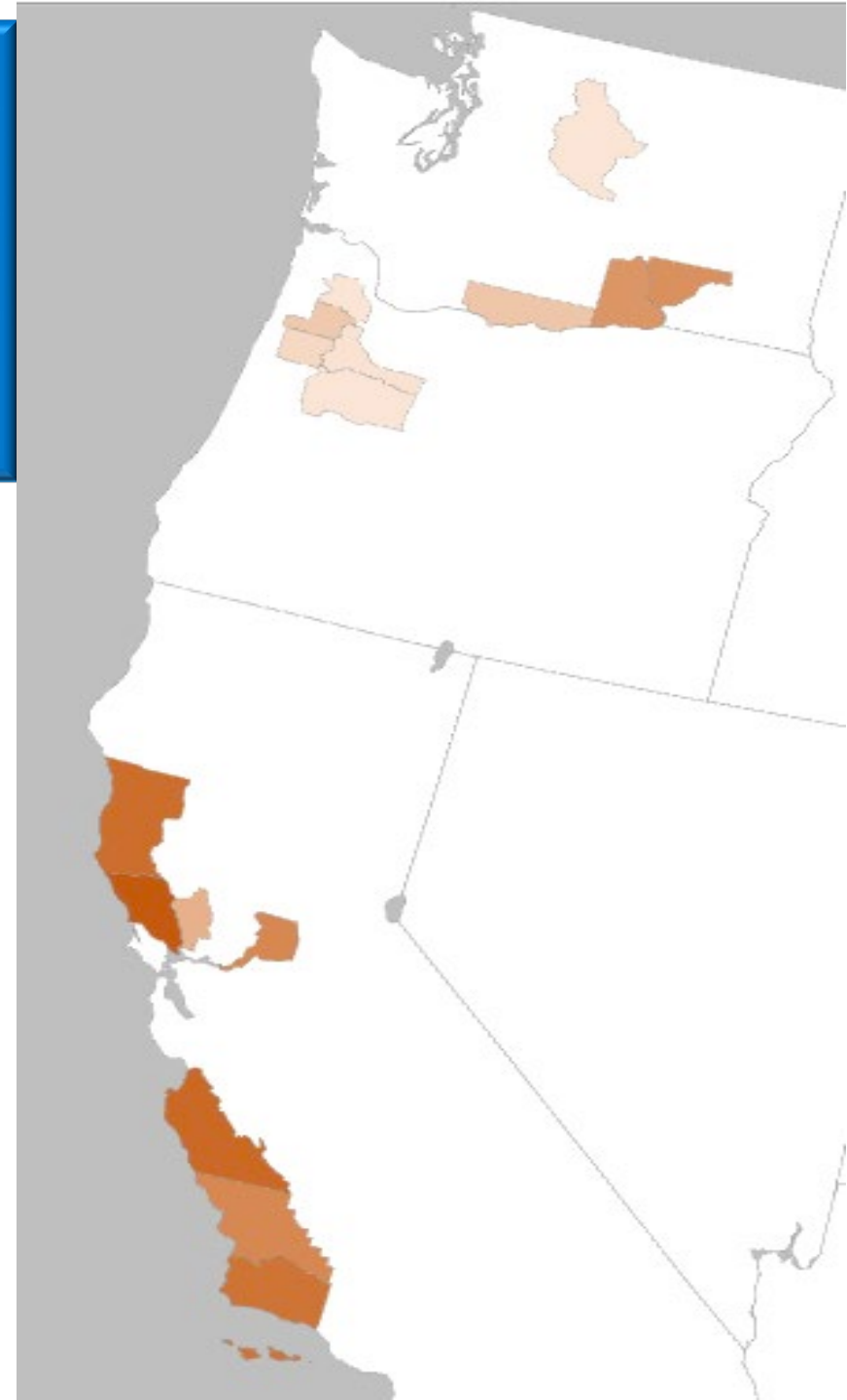
2018-2020

Frequency Resistant

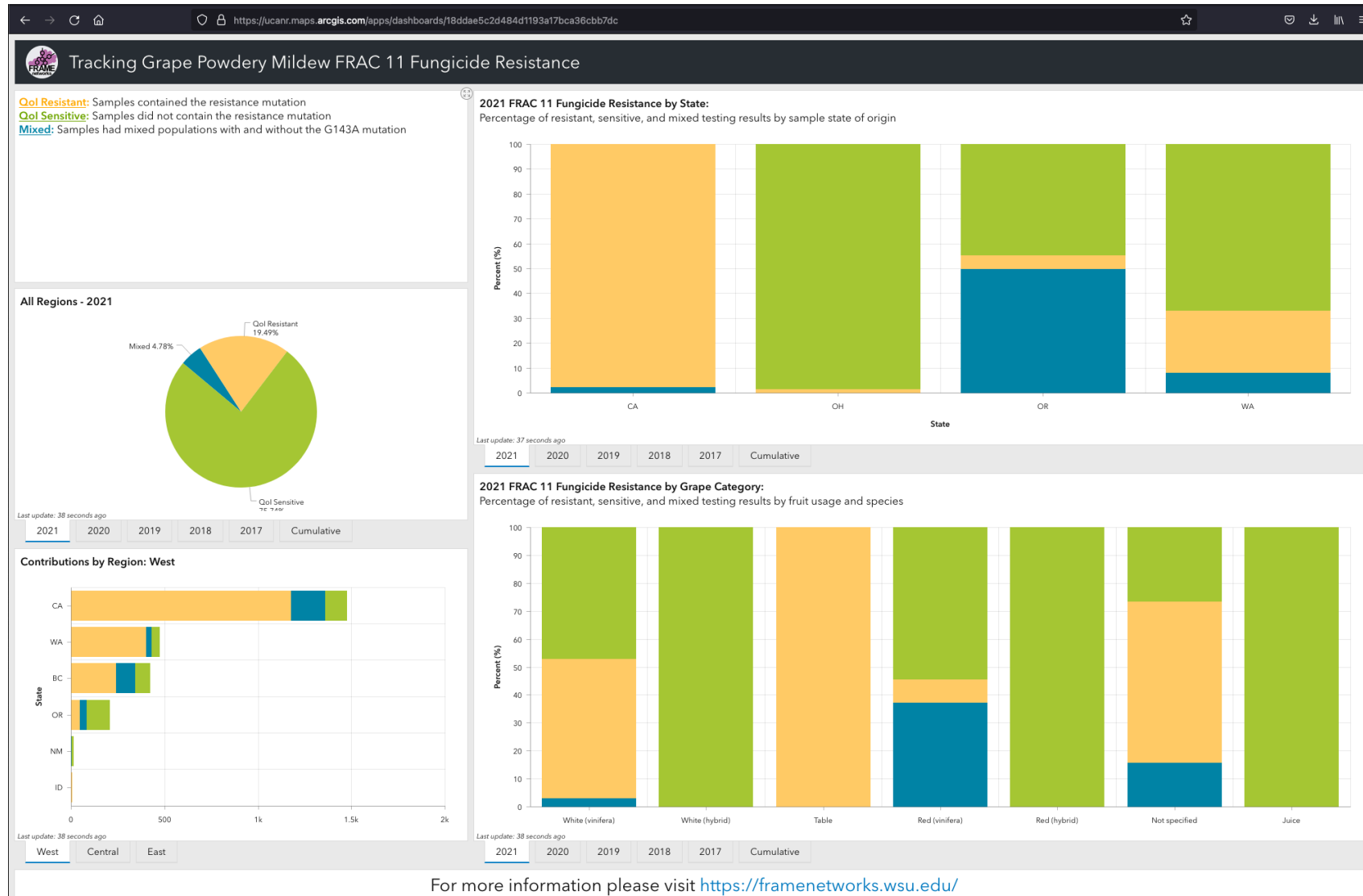


0

0.75

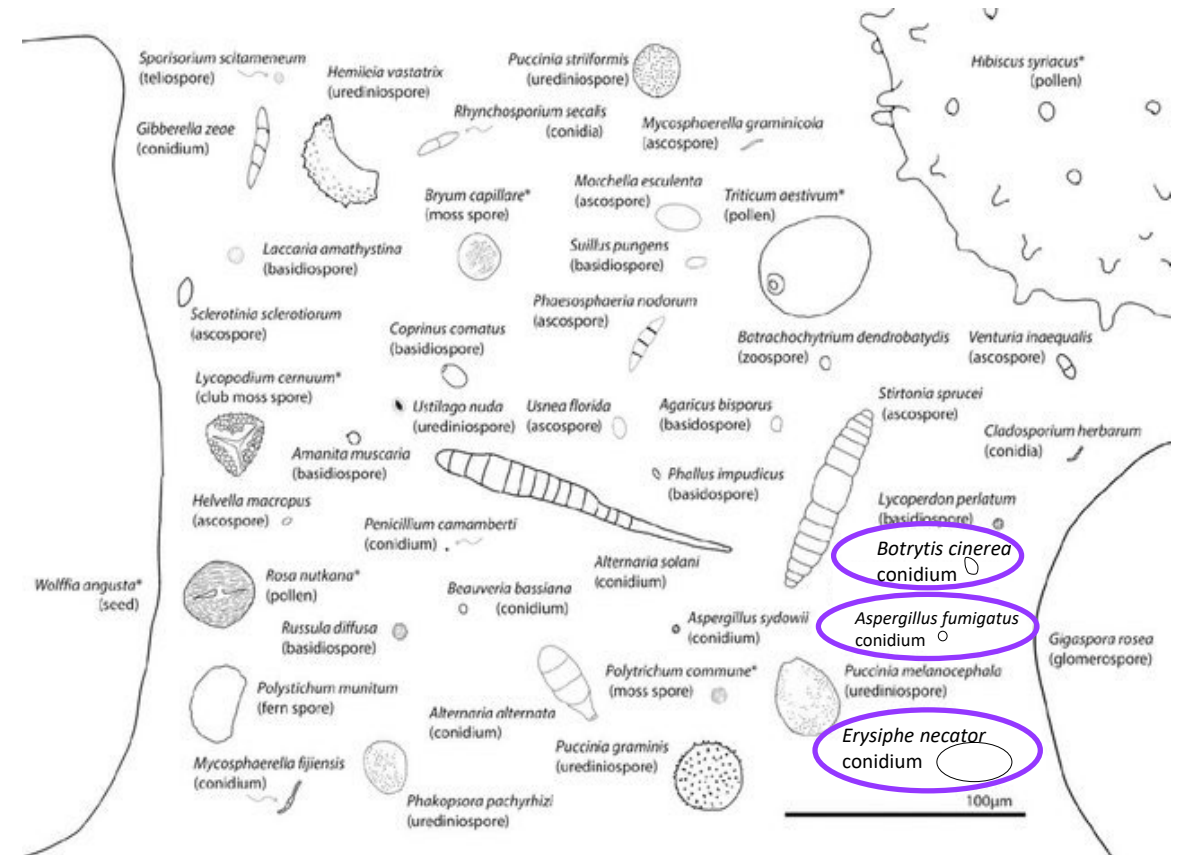


# Public Database of Fungicide Resistance



# Azole resistance present?

- 273 air samples that had the Y136F mutation associated azole resistance in *E. necator*
- No *A. fumigatus* detected using adapted methods for TR34 and TR46
  - Samples spiked with DNA from Azole sensitive and resistant *A. fumigatus* isolates were positive
- Also detected *B. cinerea* conidia.



Adapted from GOLAN & PRINGLE. 2017. DOI: 10.1128/microbiolspec.FUNK-0047-2016

Collaborators – Virginia Stockwell  
Bill Weldon



# 8 days, the time required to treat all blocks



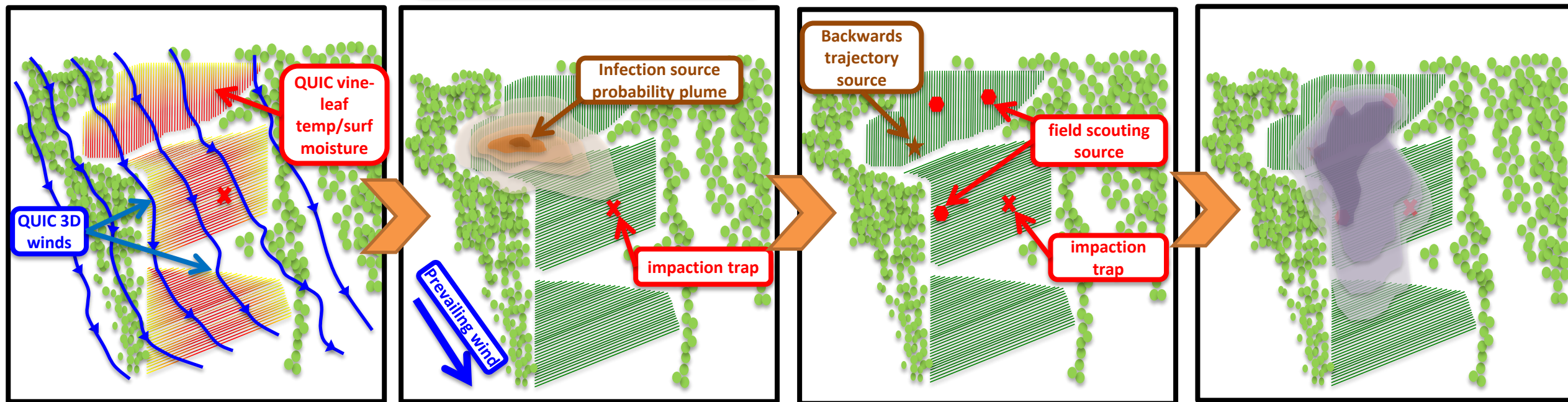
# Can we predict the past (origin) and future (spread)?

Forward simulation of wind, temperature, and water vapor from WRF-QUIC

Backwards in time source location identification using WRF-QUIC output starting from inoculum detection points

Source map using backwards locations, WRF-QUIC vine-leaf temp/surf moisture, and field scouting

Prediction of risk regions for future spread based on source map and WRF-QUIC wind, temperature and H<sub>2</sub>O



Collaborators – Rob Stoll

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# Foliar Pathology Lab 2022

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