

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

Blackberry Irrigation Management

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- *Traditional floricanes 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?*



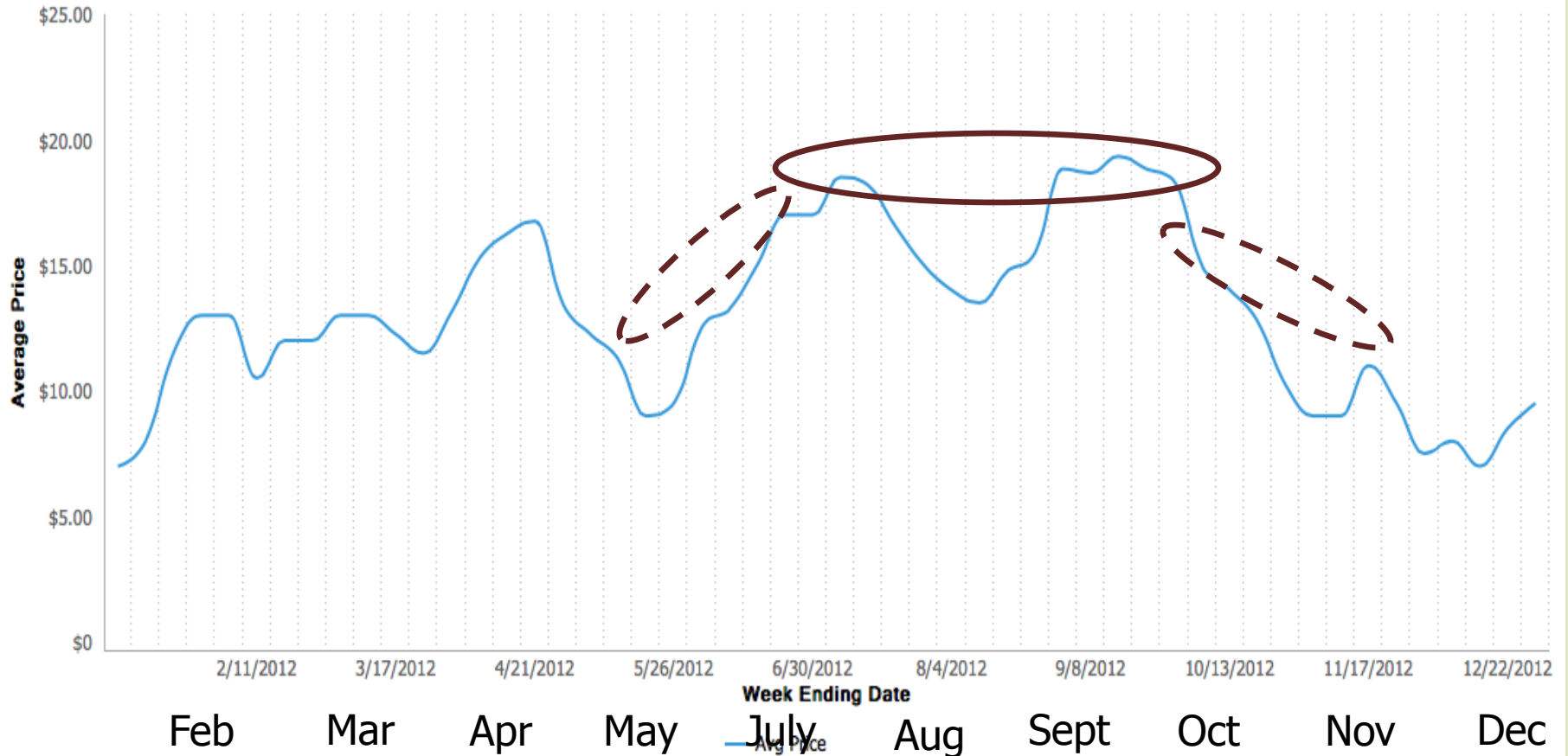
2013 Primeark 45 pruning / tipping trials

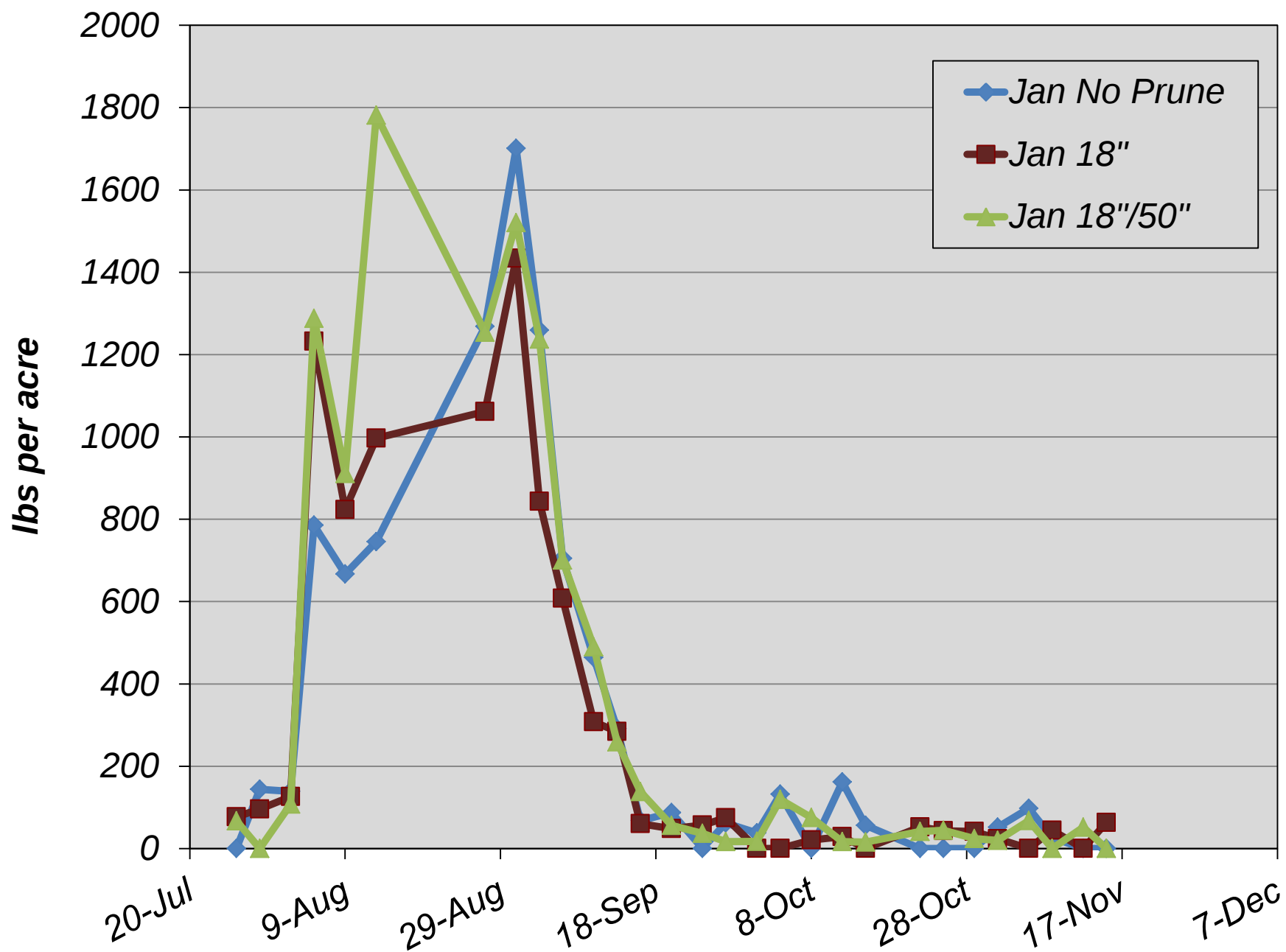
- *Two sites*
***Nipomo** – open field until June*
***Los Alamos** – tunnel from beginning*
- *Mow-down at varying times – January to April*
+ floricanes – Los Alamos
- *Tipping height (Nipomo)*
 - 18"
 - 50"
 - 18' 50"
 - none

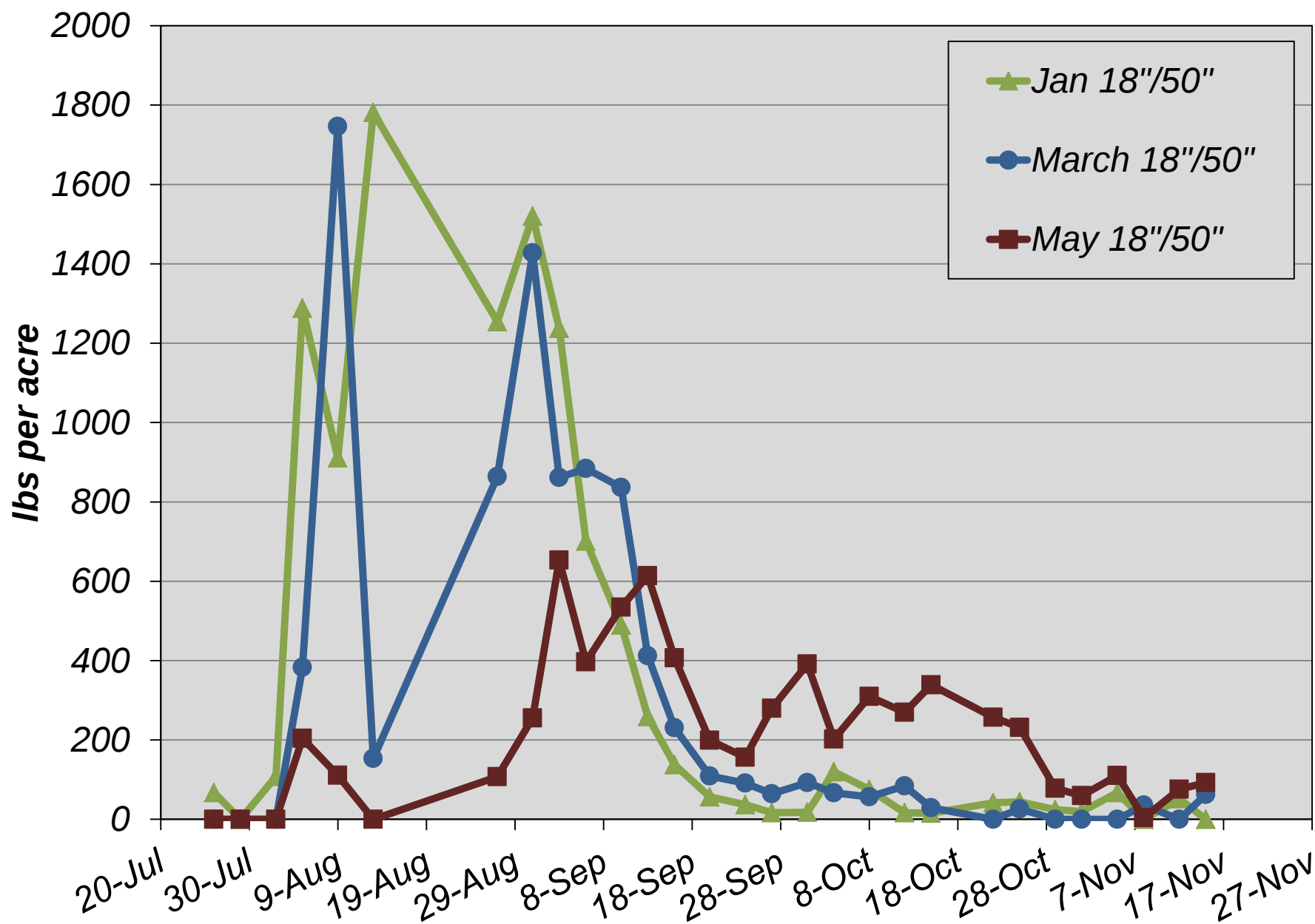
All Shipping Points

\$14.05

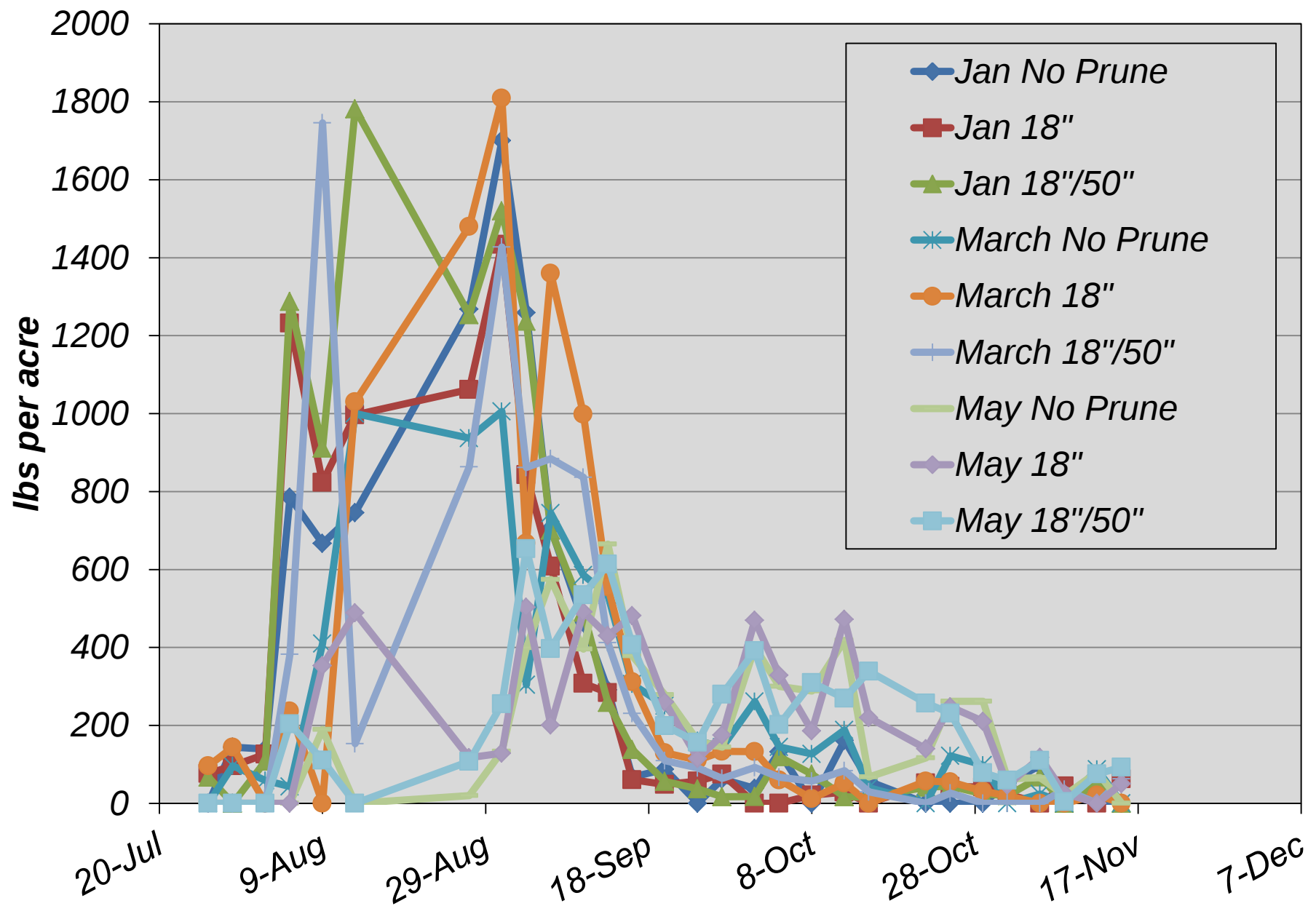
Average Price Trend







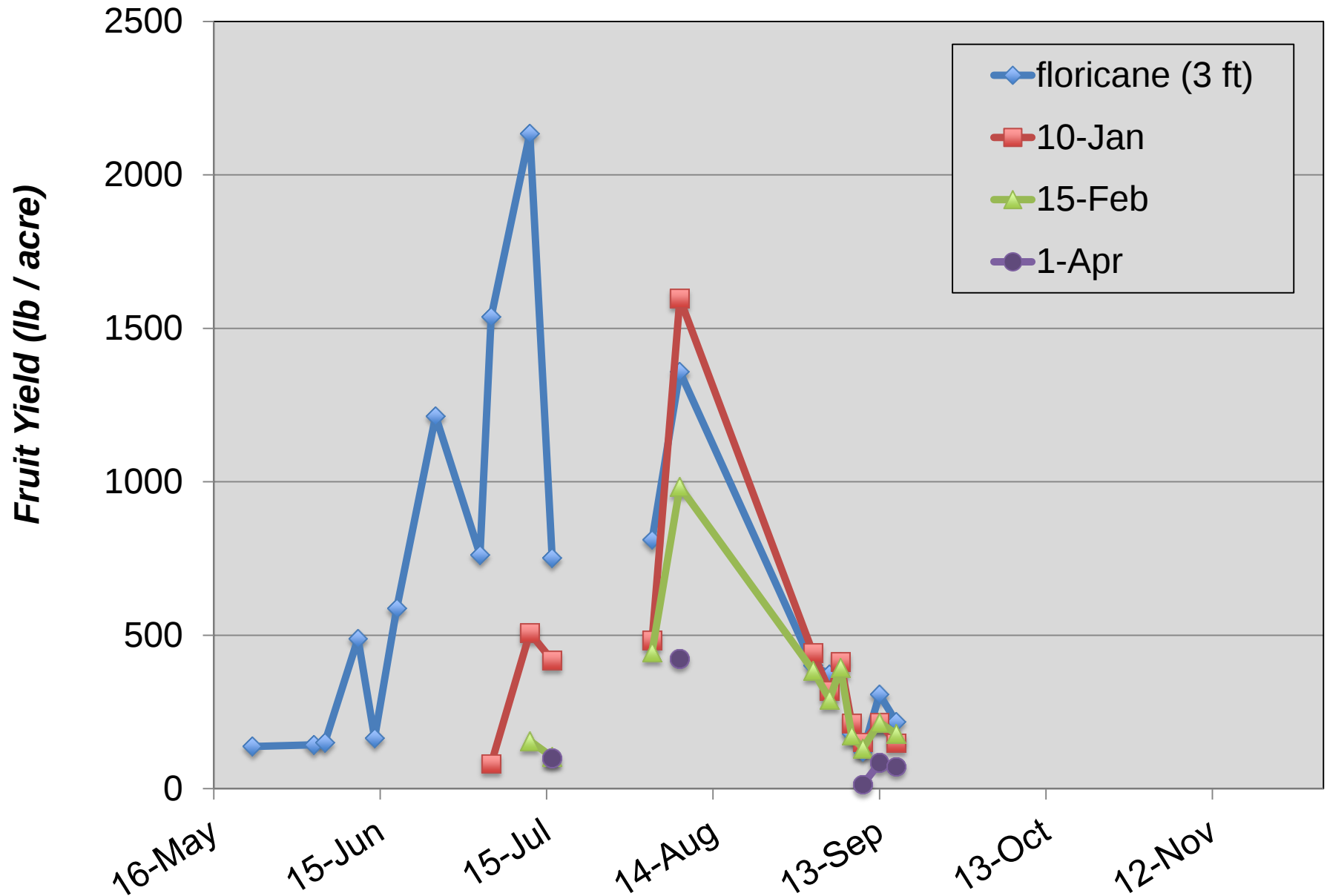
Response to mow-down and tipping regimes



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

Weekly marketable blackberry production from tunneled Primeark 45 blackberry with varying mow-down periods – 2013 season, Los Alamos, CA



Primocane vegetative growth may be excessive in warm tunnels



Questions for future trials

Florican 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 florican pruning?*

In-season pruning?

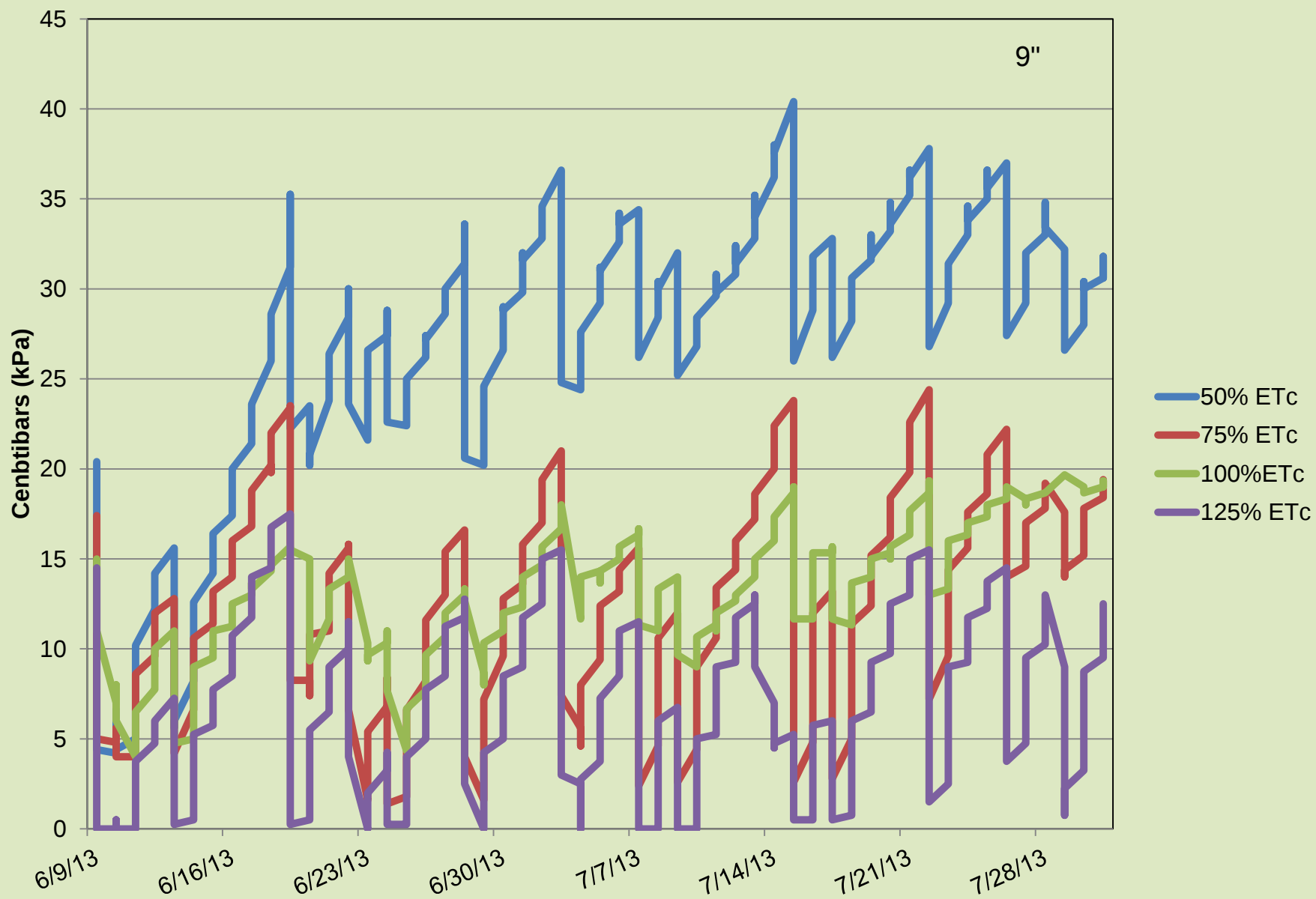
- *What about late season pruning?*
 - *will August cut back to 3 ft increase October production?*

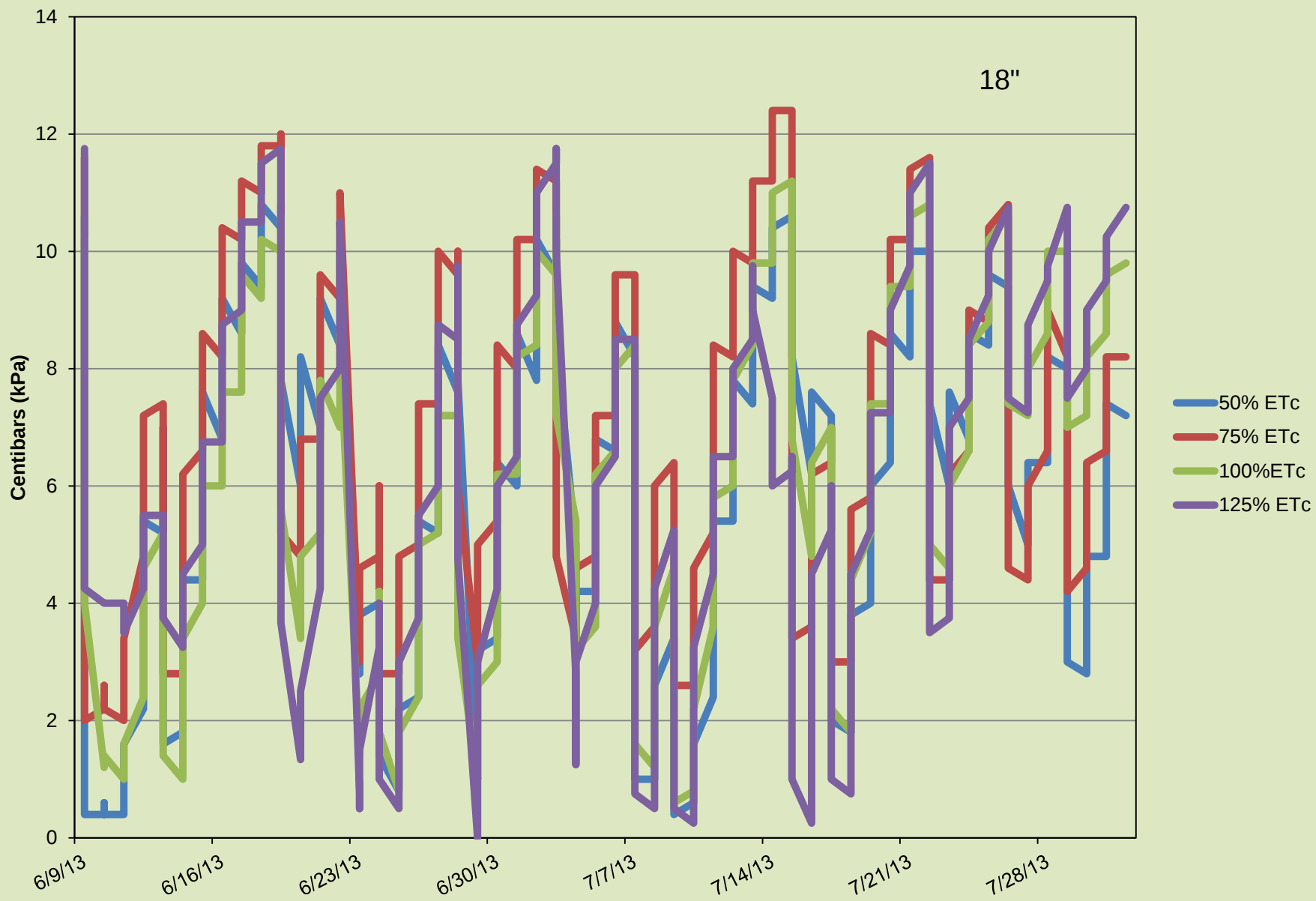
Effects of tunnels, heating?

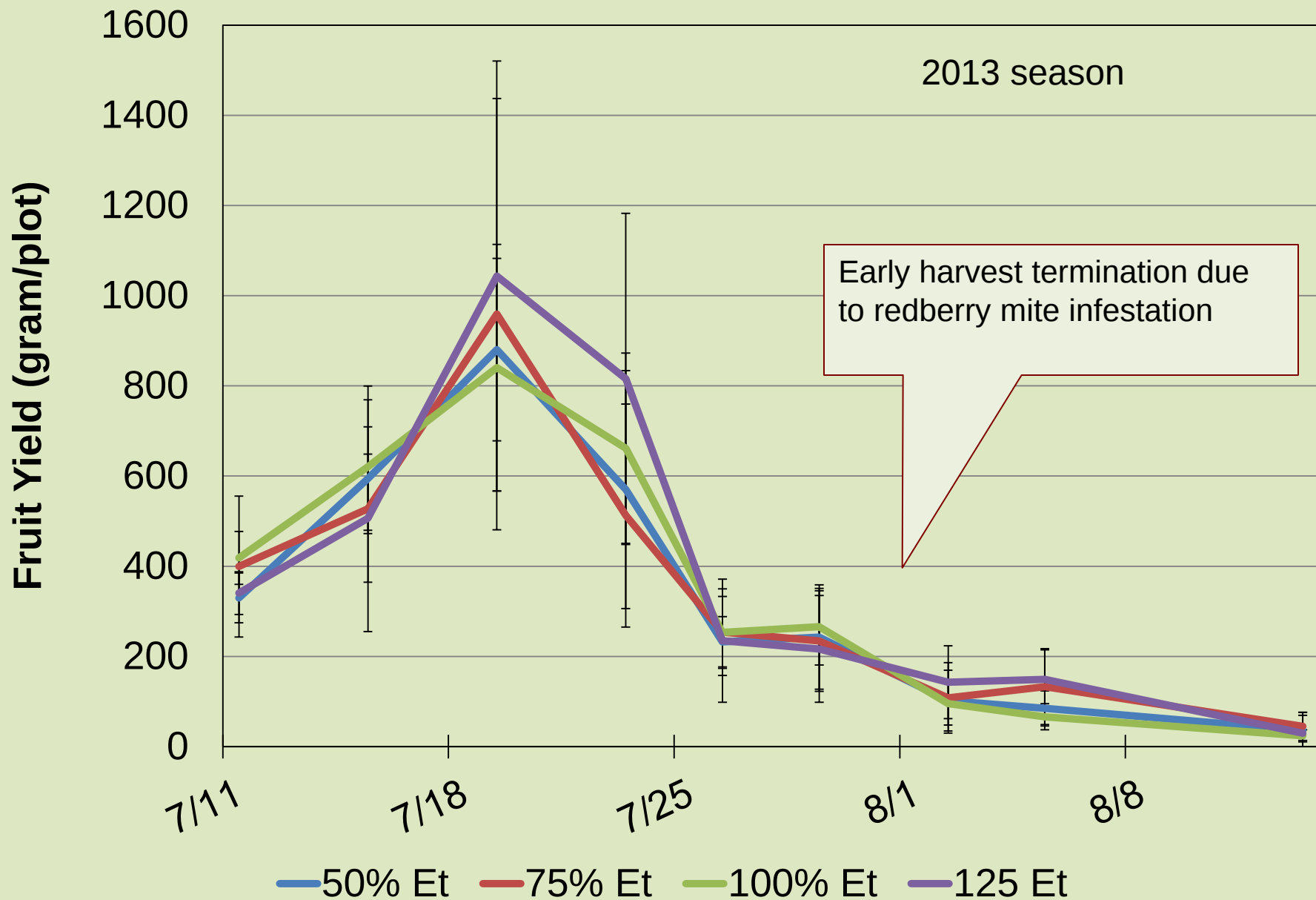
- *Put up plastic as late as possible to minimize vegetative growth, reduce fruiting height?*

2013 Ouachita Irrigation Management

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









Acknowledgements

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