



# **USING THE DEGREE HOUR SYSTEM FOR MANAGING FIRE BLIGHT TREATMENTS IN PEARS**

## **NEW WORRIES ABOUT BLIGHT?**

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THE PEAR DOCTOR INC  
KELSEYVILLE, CALIFORNIA**



Full Bloom+  
1 Day  
3/30/2017.  
Ruts are  
from earlier  
scab spray.

**During 1972 to 1976, extensive monitoring was conducted for *E. amylovora* in pear blossom samples from the**

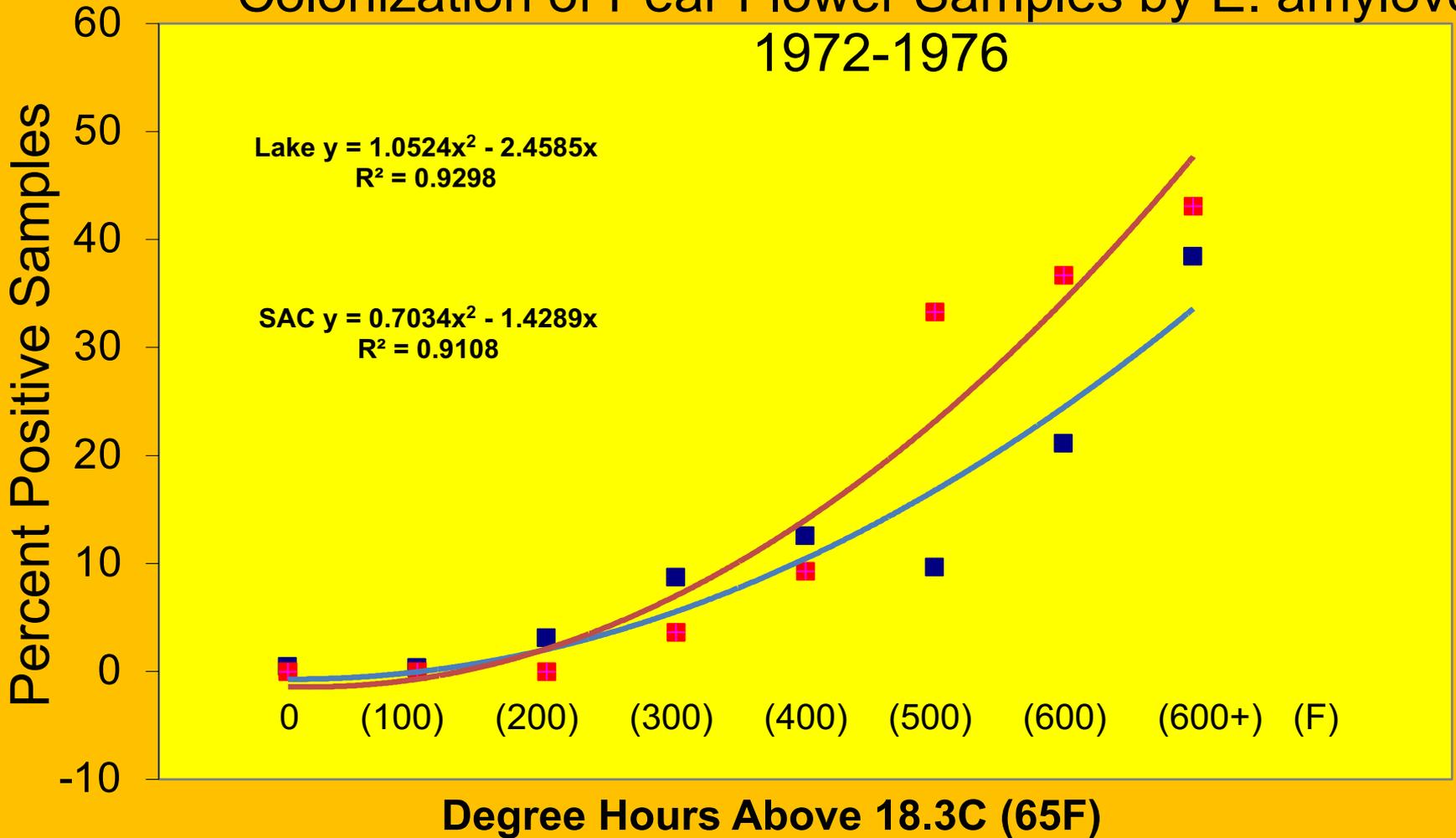
- (1) Lower Sacramento Delta district (Walnut Grove, CA),**
- (2) Upper Sacramento district (Yuba City, CA) and**
- (3) Lake County Coastal Mountain district (Kelseyville, CA).**

**This assessment showed a high correlation of the % samples positive for *E amylovora* with the number of degree hours above 65F accumulated prior to sample collection.**

Van der Zwet, T. B., Zoller, B. G., and Thomson, S. V. 1988. Controlling fire blight of pear and apple by accurate predication of the blossom blight phase. Plant Disease 72 : 464-472.

[http://www.apsnet.org/publications/PlantDisease/BackIssues/Documents/1988Articles/PlantDisease72n06\\_464.pdf](http://www.apsnet.org/publications/PlantDisease/BackIssues/Documents/1988Articles/PlantDisease72n06_464.pdf)

# Colonization of Pear Flower Samples by *E. amylovora* 1972-1976



**Number of Samples**

229  
50

323  
52

129  
28

23  
28

72  
43

115  
6

71  
30

1362 Sac Valley  
248 Lake County

■ Sac Valley

■ Lake County



Cutting Blight from Home Seckel Tree 4-4-2015,  
Rain 3/22 after 616 Degree Hours above 65F

Blight 5/10/2011,  
Infection Period 1-2 weeks earlier





**New Shoot Blight 4/23/2014-  
from Warm Dew 4/19/2014  
at 1350 degree hours;  
Or insect spread from  
Earlier Main Bloom Infections  
started by rain 3/25/2014 at  
385 degree hours**



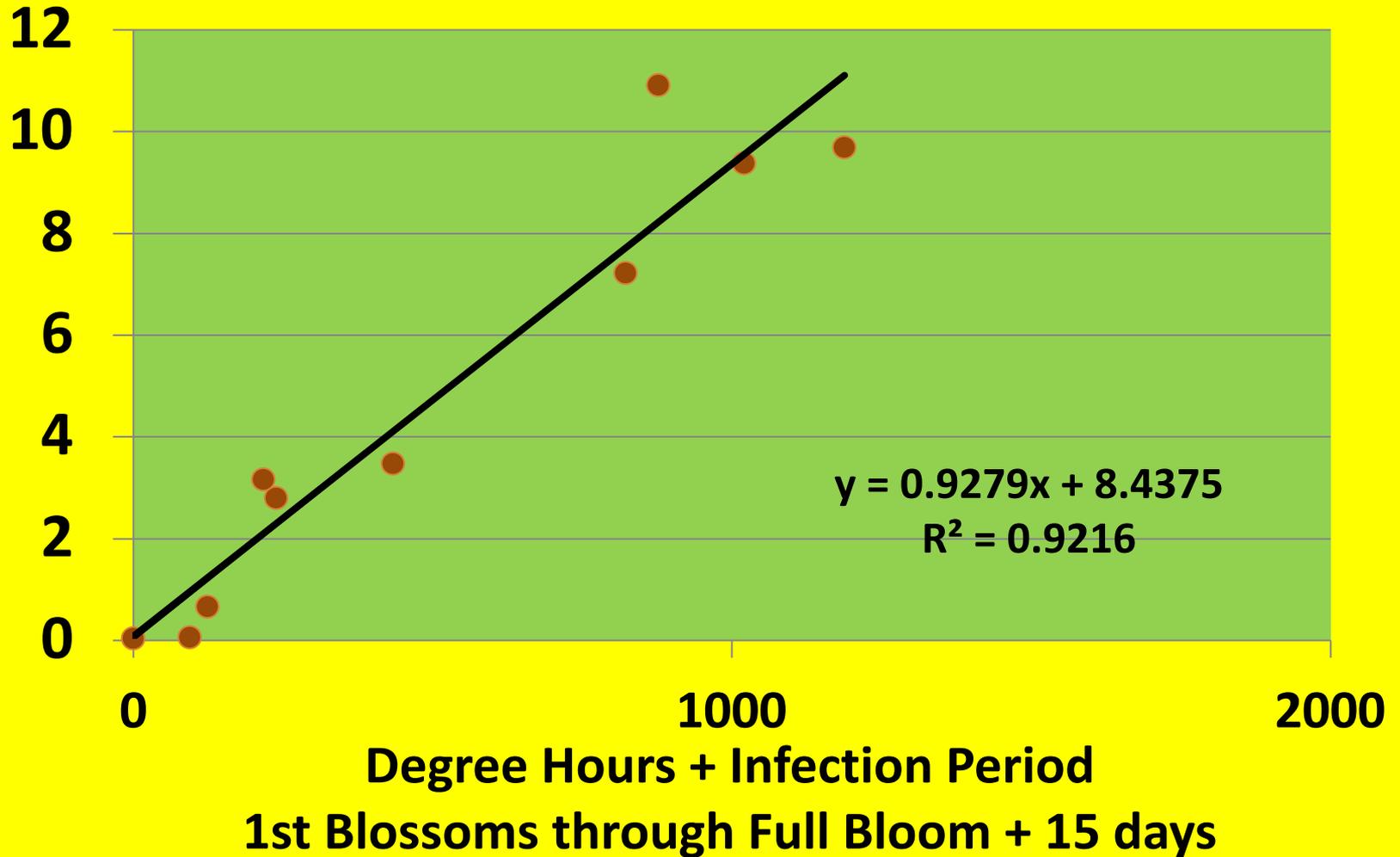
**Ornamental Flowering Pear  
Downtown Kelseyville  
January 2016**



# Mid-Sacramento Valley Blight History

## 1976-1985

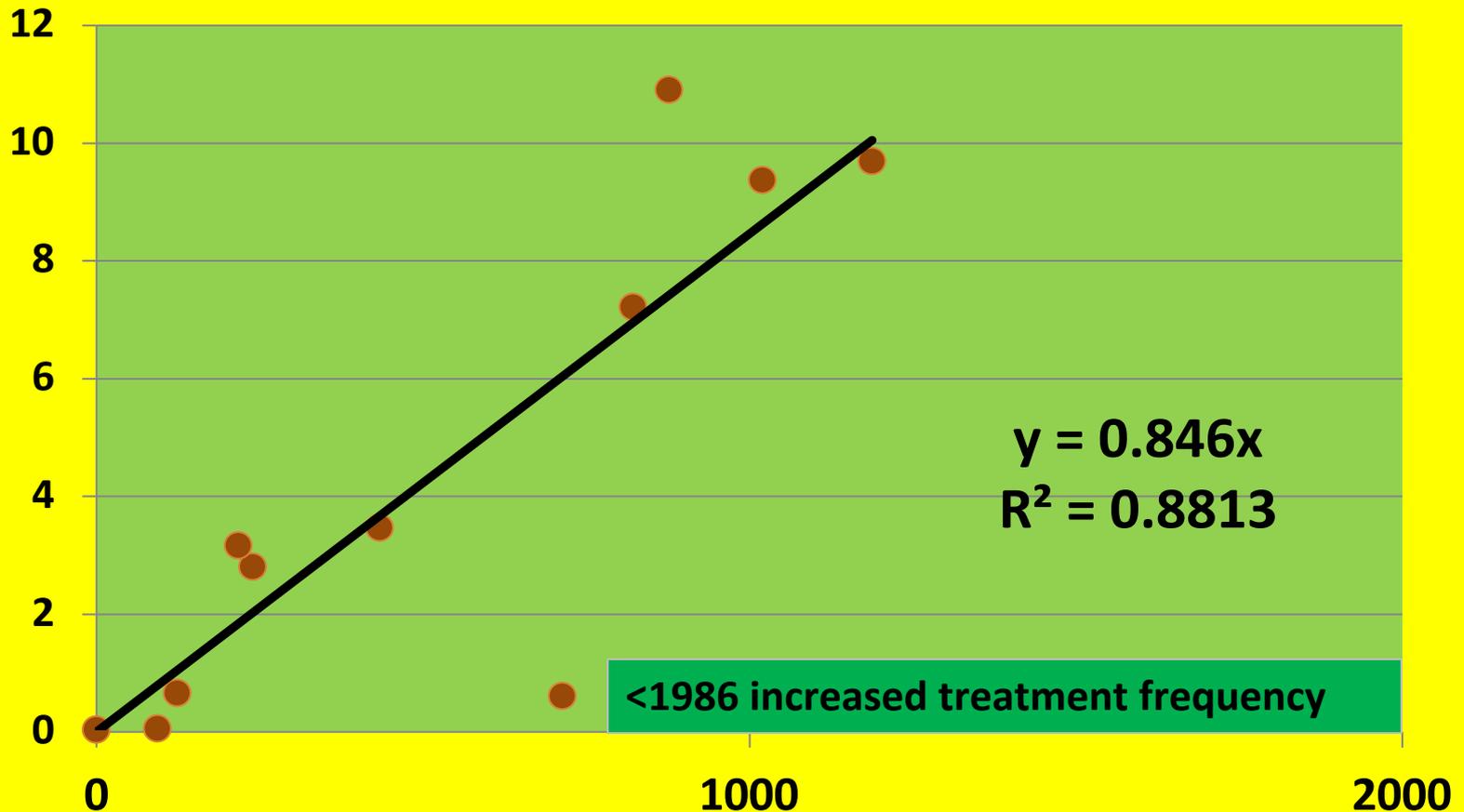
Random  
Blight per  
Holdover



# Mid-Sacramento Valley Blight History

## 1976-1986

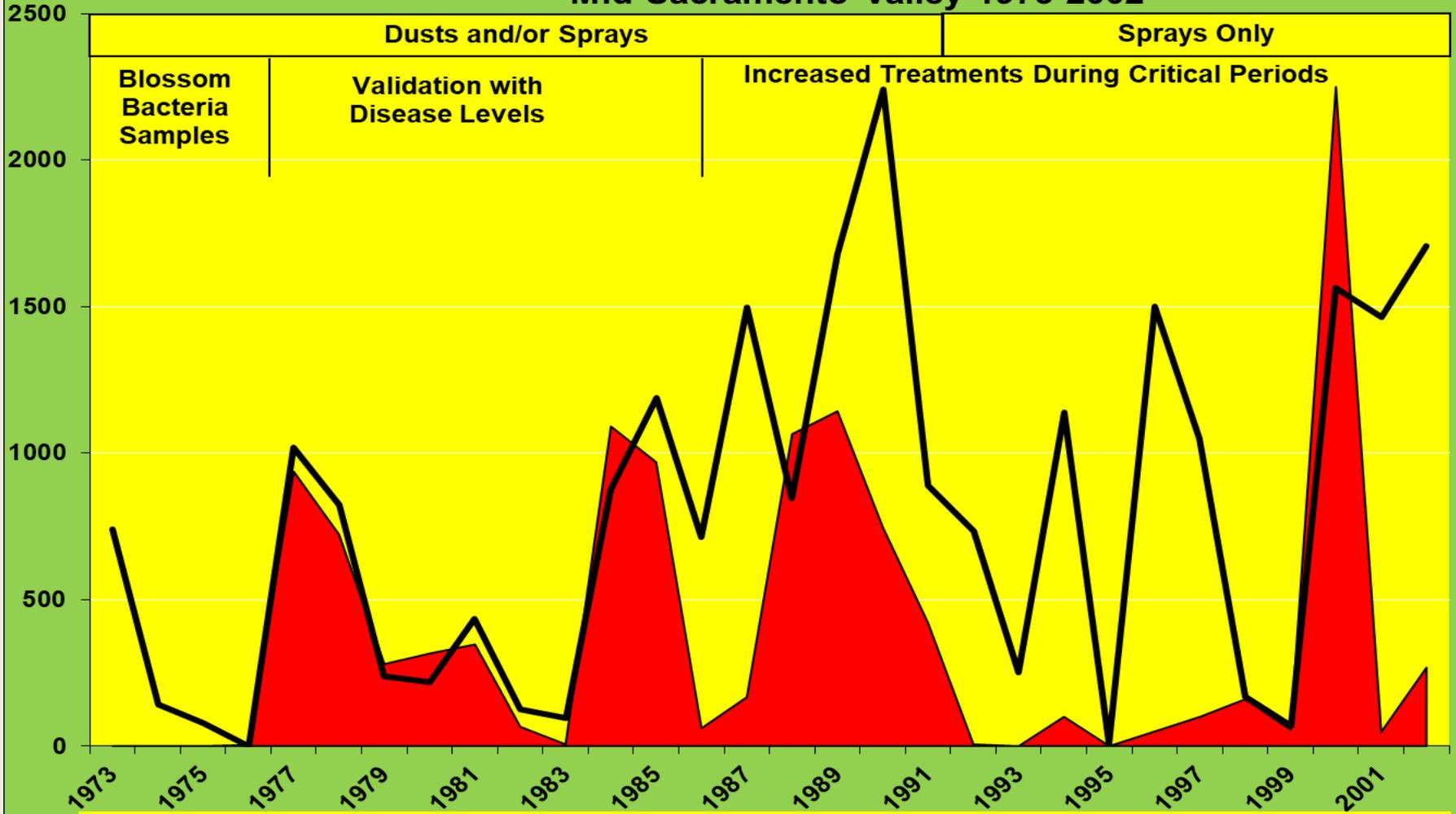
Random  
Blight per  
Holdover



Degree Hours + Infection Period  
1st Blossoms through Full Bloom + 15 days

# Blight History

## Mid-Sacramento Valley 1973-2002

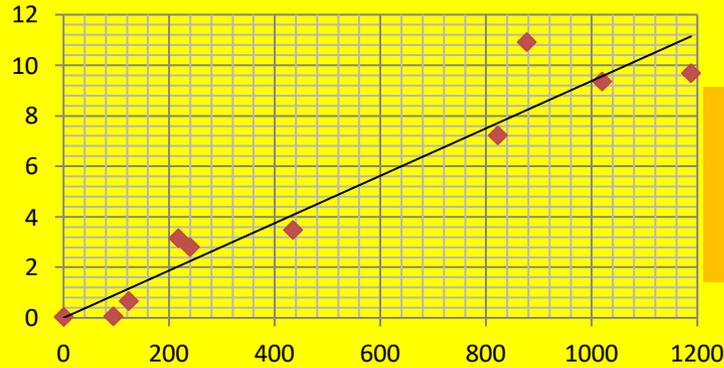


**—** Degree Hours (65F) coinciding with Rain or 57F/90% RH, through FB + 15 Days  
**■** Random New Blight X 100/ Holdover counted in weekly visits through May 31

# Random New Blight/Holdover

## Sacramento Valley 1976-1985

Random New Blight Strikes/  
Holdovers through 31 May



F Degree Hours Above 65F, 0%-FB+15 Days,  
Highest number coinciding with precipitation  
or simultaneous 57F/90%RH conditions

◆ RNB/HO 31-May  
— Linear (RNB/HO 31-May)

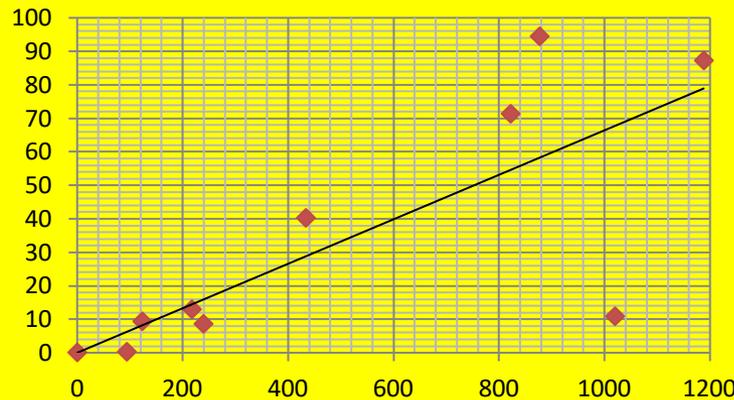
$$y = 0.0093x + 0.0844$$

$$R^2 = 0.9216$$

# Random New Blight

## Sacramento Valley 1976-1985

Random New Blight Strikes  
through 31 May



F Degree Hours Above 65F, 0%-FB+15 Days,  
Highest number coinciding with precipitation  
or simultaneous 57F/90% RH conditions

◆ RNB 31-May  
— Linear (RNB 31-May)

$$y = 0.0657x + 0.6436$$

$$R^2 = 0.5891$$

# Using the Degree System

**One degree-hour equals 1 degree above 65°F for 1 hour.** For example, a temperature of 70°F for 2 hours generates 10 degree-hours.

**Accumulate degree-hours each hour of the day unless 3 consecutive days below 66°F occur.** In this case, the accumulation of degree-hours is then reduced to zero until temperatures again exceed 65°F.

**The accumulated degree-hour total is not reduced by continuous cool temperatures, if the total has surpassed 400 degree-hours and has coincided with precipitation or simultaneous warm, humid infection periods of at least 57°F and 90% relative humidity.**

# Sacramento Valley Degree Hour System Action Thresholds

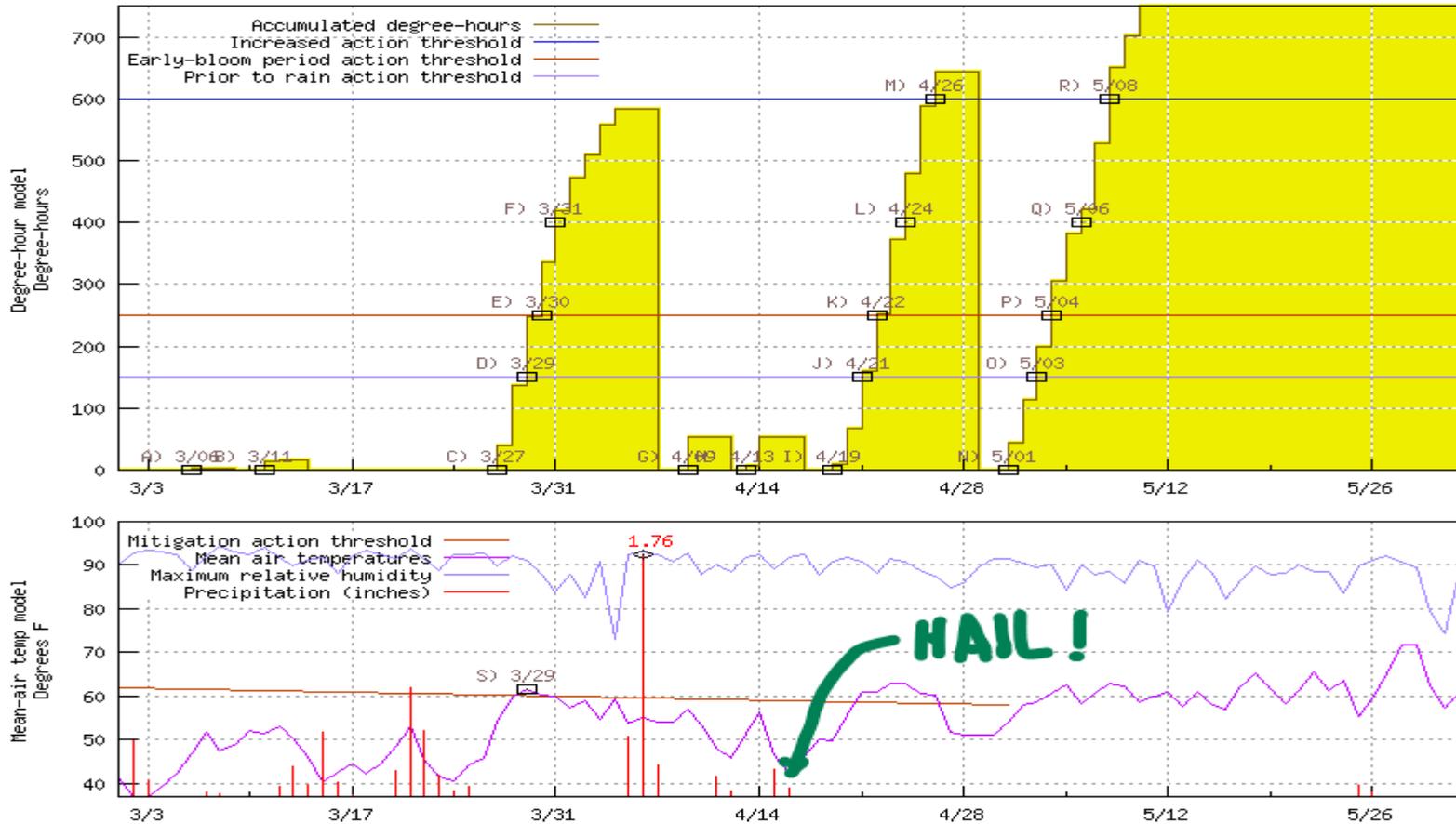
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/MODELS/FBEA/aboutfireblight.html>

<b>Degree-Hours</b>	<b>Weather</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Not relevant</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>1-150</b>	<b>Rain predicted within 24 hours</b>	<b>Spray in the 24 hr. period prior to rain</b>
<b>150-500</b>	<b>Predicted rain or warm, humid weather where the Temperature is at least 57F and Humidity is at least 90%</b>	<b>Repeat treatment every 3-4 days with treatment in the 24 hours prior to predicted conducive weather</b>
<b>Over 500</b>	<b>Predicted rain or warm, humid weather where the Temperature is at least 57F and Humidity is at least 90%</b>	<b>Treat every other day during major bloom</b>

**Treatments are half treatments applied every other row. Higher thresholds (+ 100 added to each threshold) are used in the North Coastal Mountain districts as long as dormant season chilling has been typically greater than in the Sacramento Valley districts.**

# Kelseyville Fire Blight Degree Hour Model 2018

## UCIPM Online

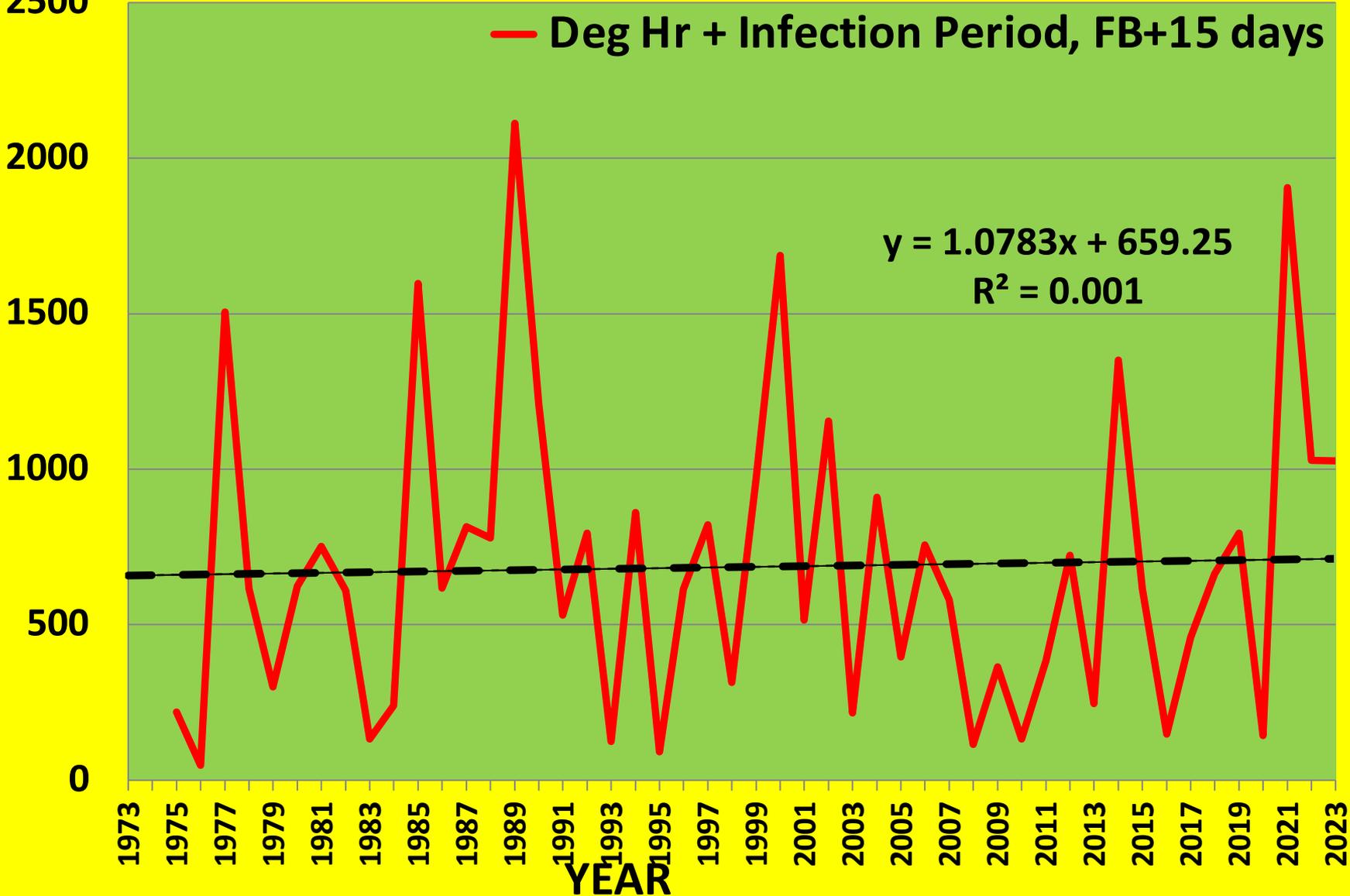


Degree Hours+  
Infection Period

# Kelseyville Bloom Periods 1975-2023



2500



Degree Hours+  
Infection Period

# Walnut Grove 1973-2023

## Bloom Periods



1600

1400

1200

1000

800

600

400

200

0

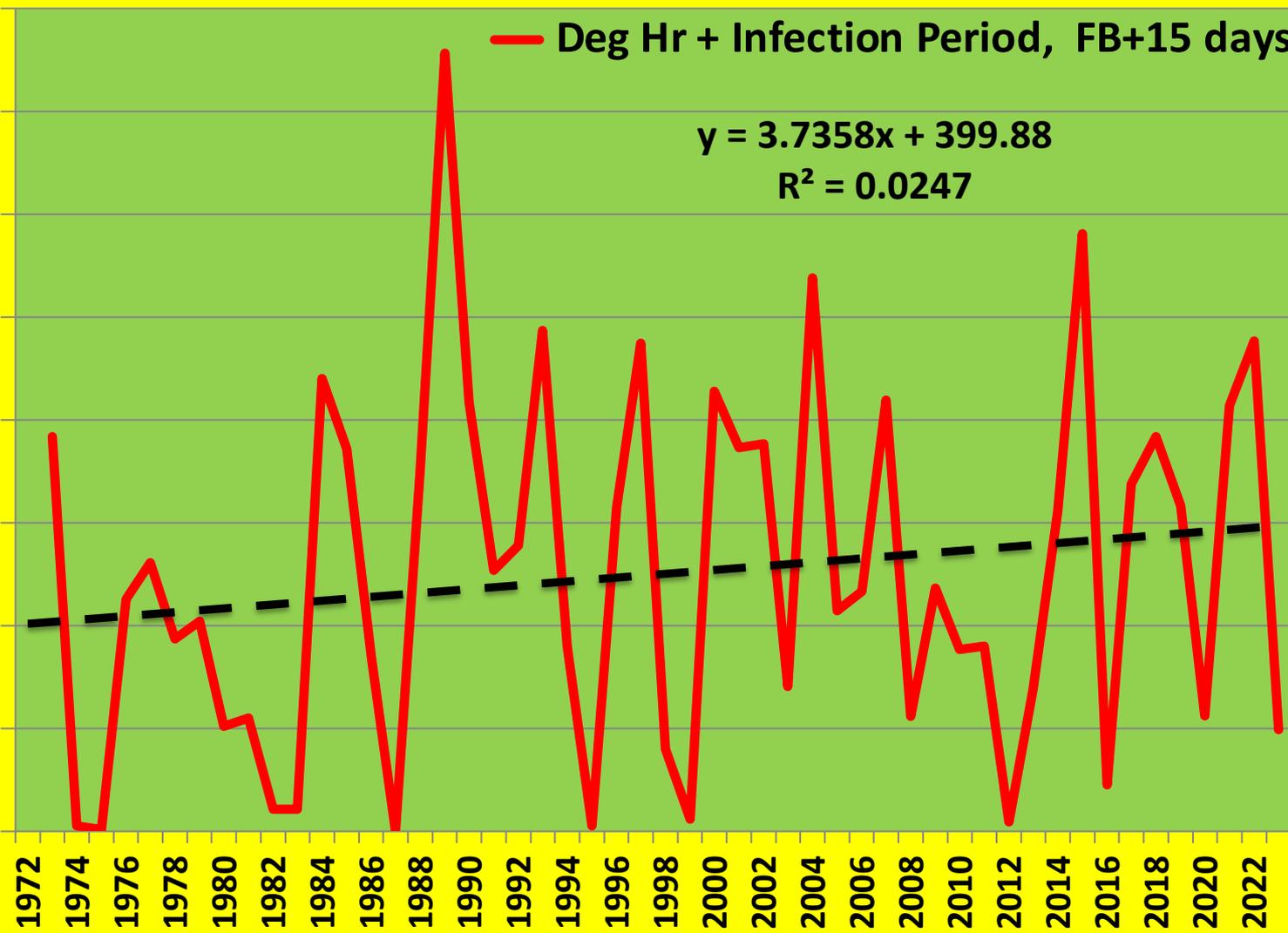
Deg Hr + Infection Period, FB+15 days,

$$y = 3.7358x + 399.88$$

$$R^2 = 0.0247$$

1972 1974 1976 1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020 2022

Year



Degree Hours+  
Infection Period

# Mid-Sacramento Valley Bloom Periods 1973-2021



2500

2000

1500

1000

500

0

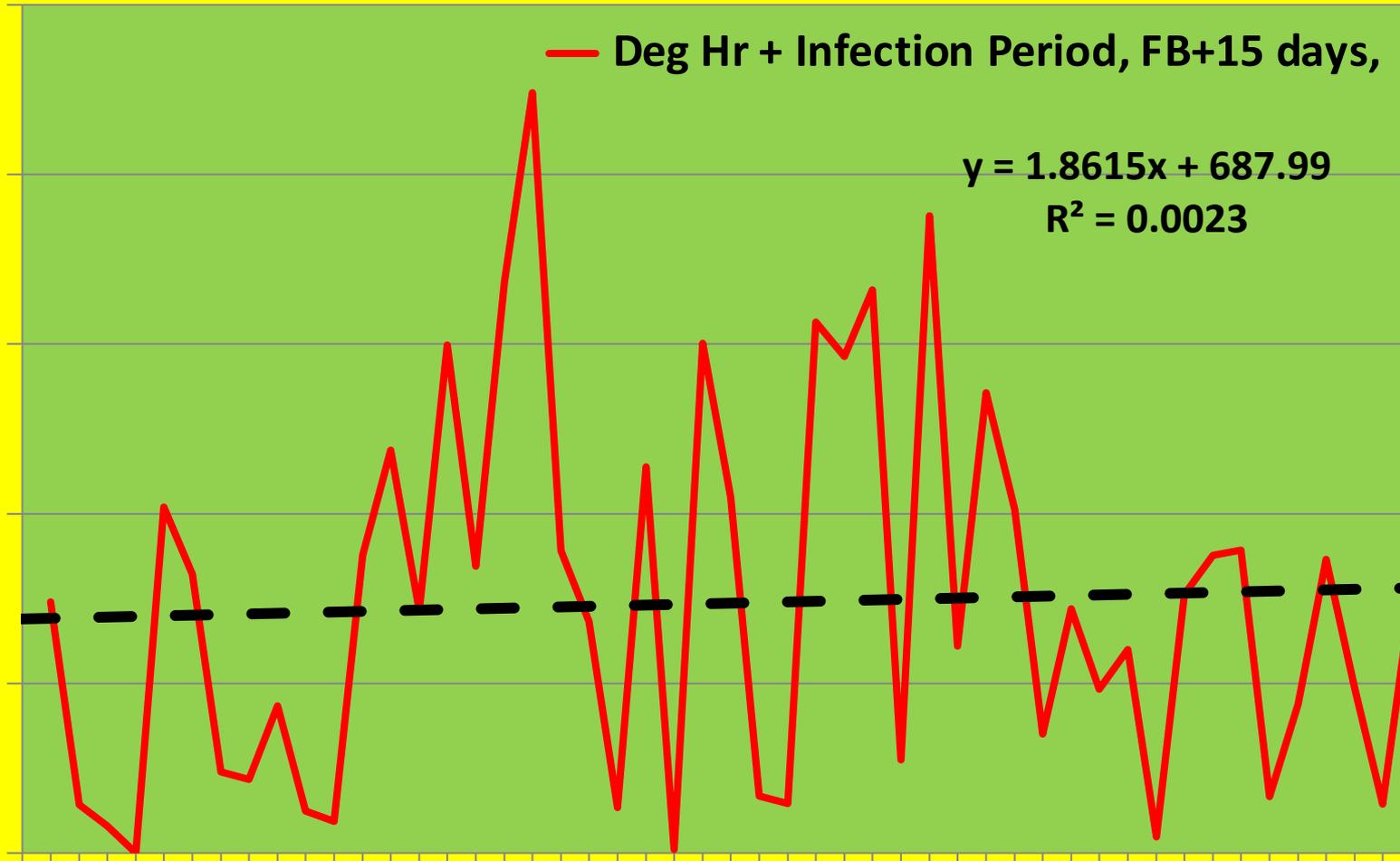
— Deg Hr + Infection Period, FB+15 days,

$$y = 1.8615x + 687.99$$

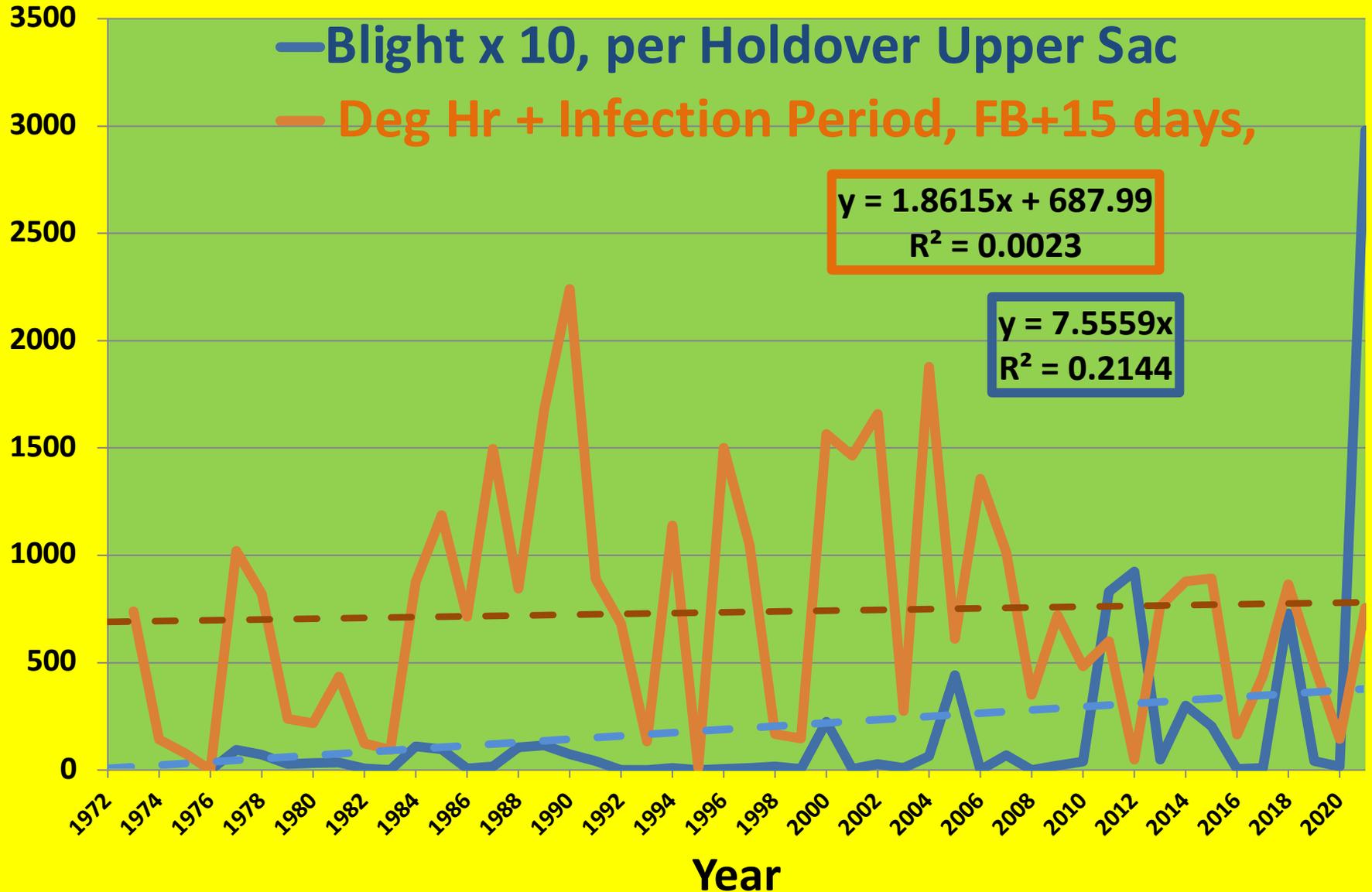
$R^2 = 0.0023$

1972 1974 1976 1978 1980 1982 1984 1986 1988 1990 1992 1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018 2020

Year



# Mid-Sacramento Valley Blight History 1973-2021



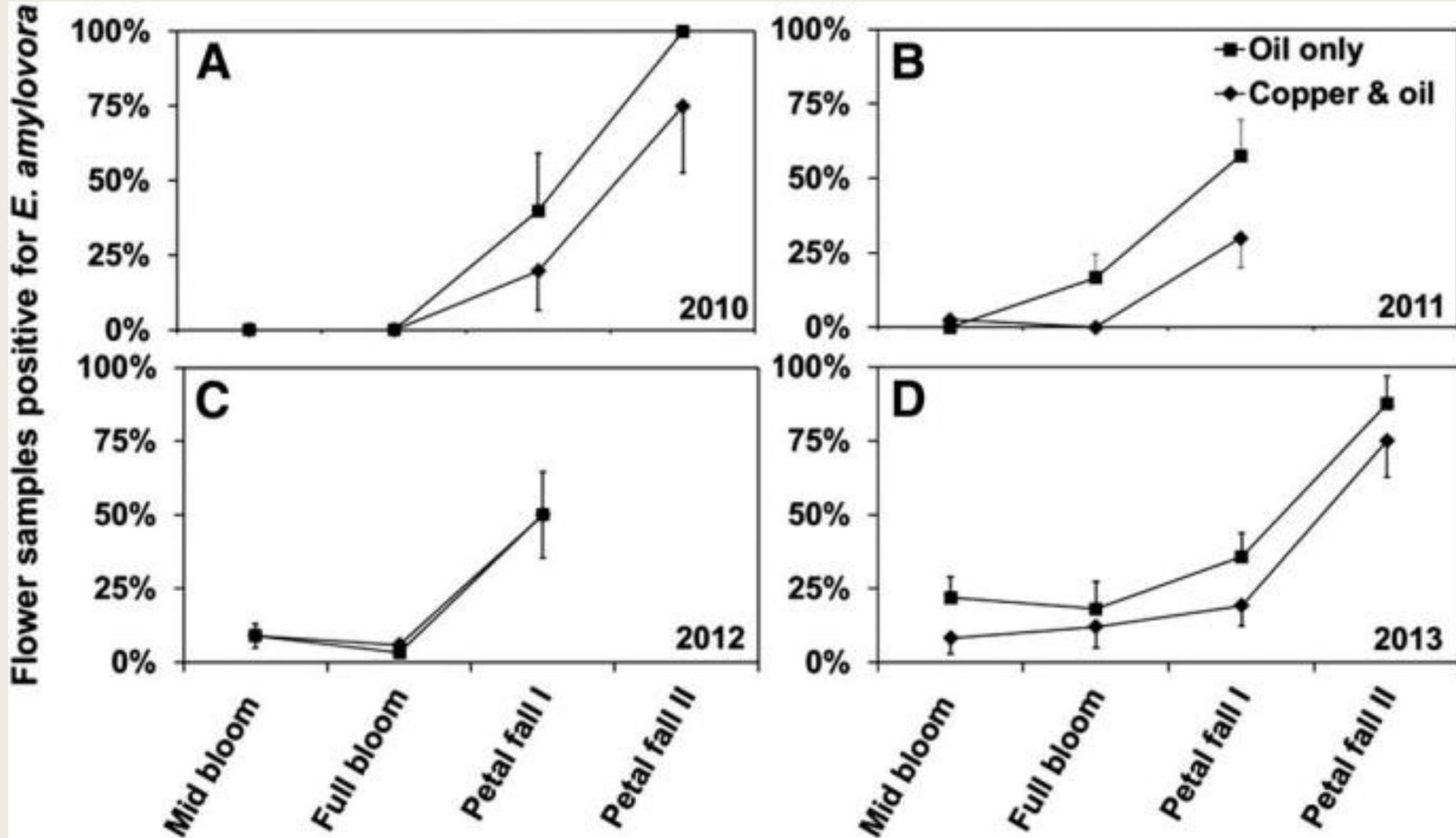
# OTHER CHANGES TO CONSIDER:

1- REDUCTION IN CHILLING HOURS IN THE DORMANT SEASONS?

2- INCREASING RESISTANCE TO OXYTETRACYCLINE?

3- GREATER CONTRIBUTION FROM OTHER HOSTS OF *ERWINIA AMYLOVORA*?

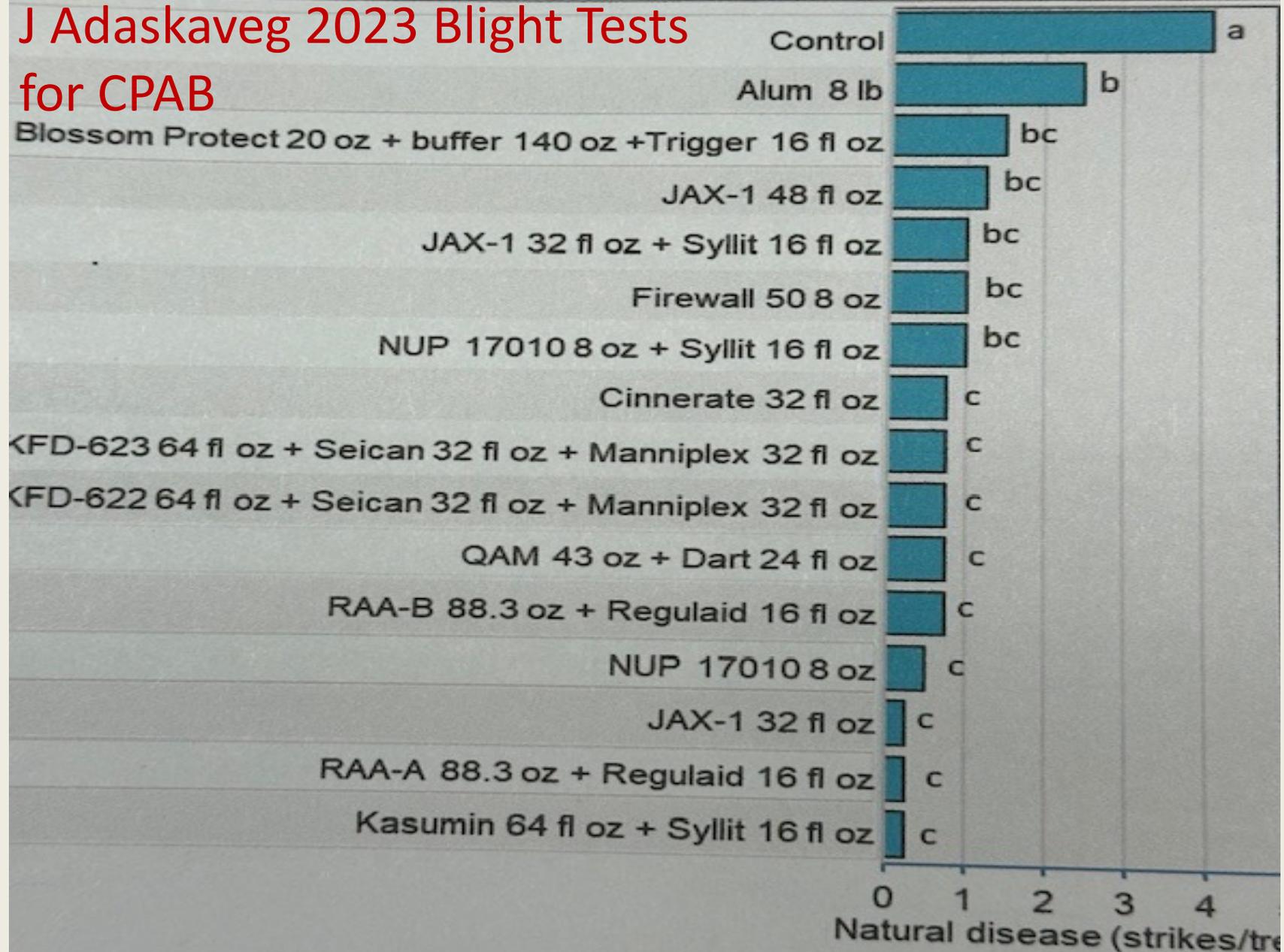
# Delayed Dormant Copper as a Sanitation Tool

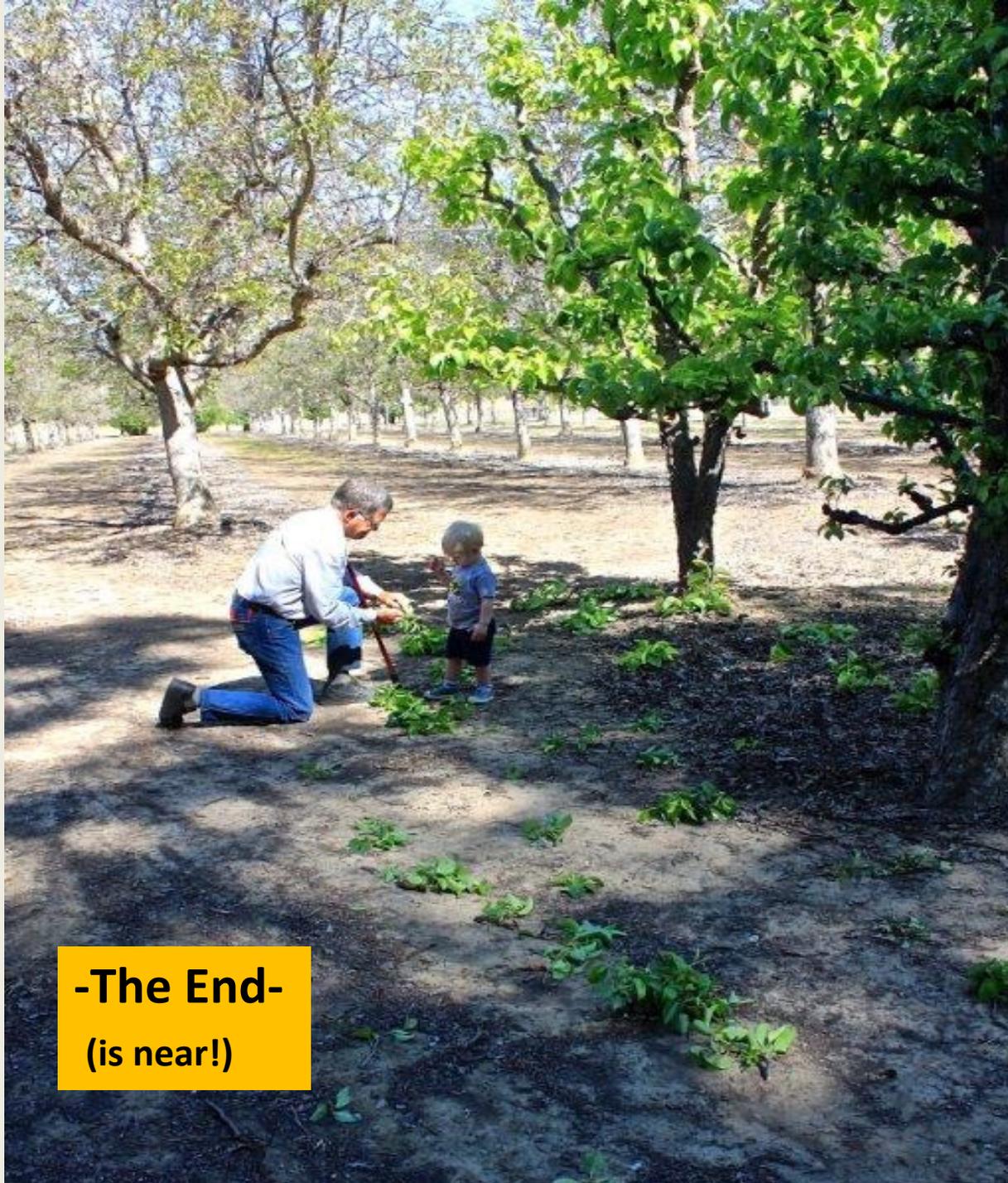


Elkins, R.B. et al. 2015. Plant Disease 99:1147-1152.

3. Efficacy of bactericides for management of fire blight of cv. Bartlett pear

J Adaskaveg 2023 Blight Tests for CPAB





**-The End-  
(is near!)**