

Orchard Management

OPTIMIZING PROFITABILITY FOR EXISTING GROVES



BOUNDARY BEND
OLIVES

CŌBRAM ESTATE

Keys to Optimizing Grove Profitability

1) Number of Olives per Acre

X

2) Average Size of Fruit

X

3) Oil Content % of Fruit

X

4) Harvesting Efficiency

X

5) Processing Extraction Efficiency

=

Per Acre Oil Yield

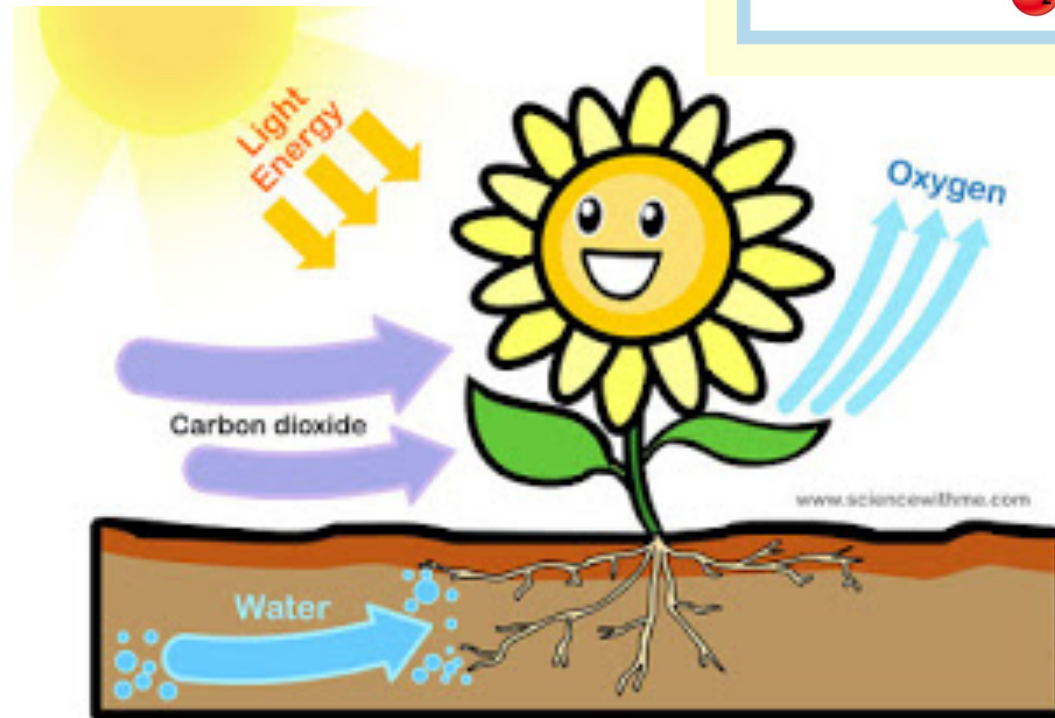
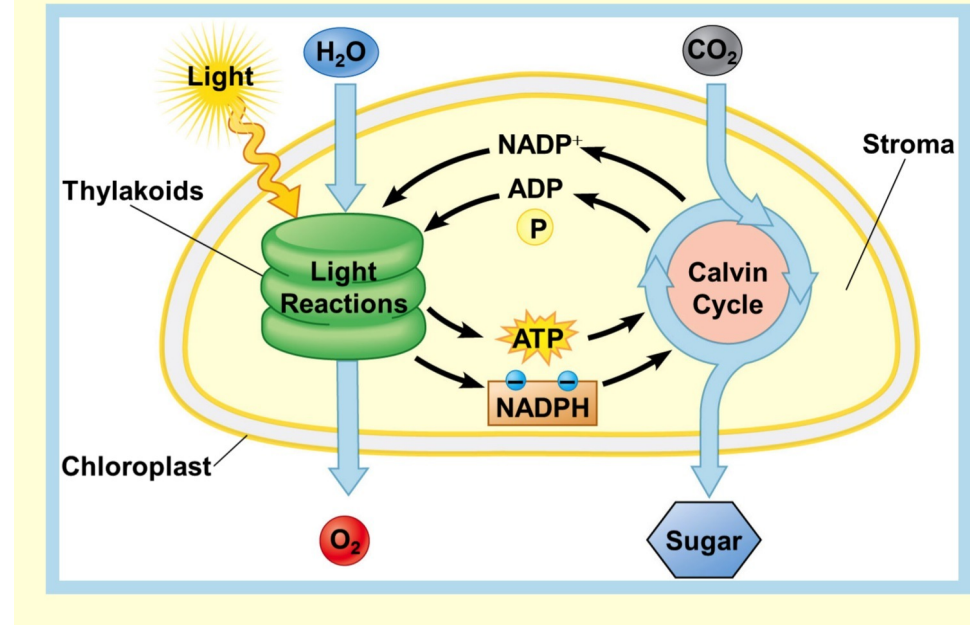
Grove Irrigation



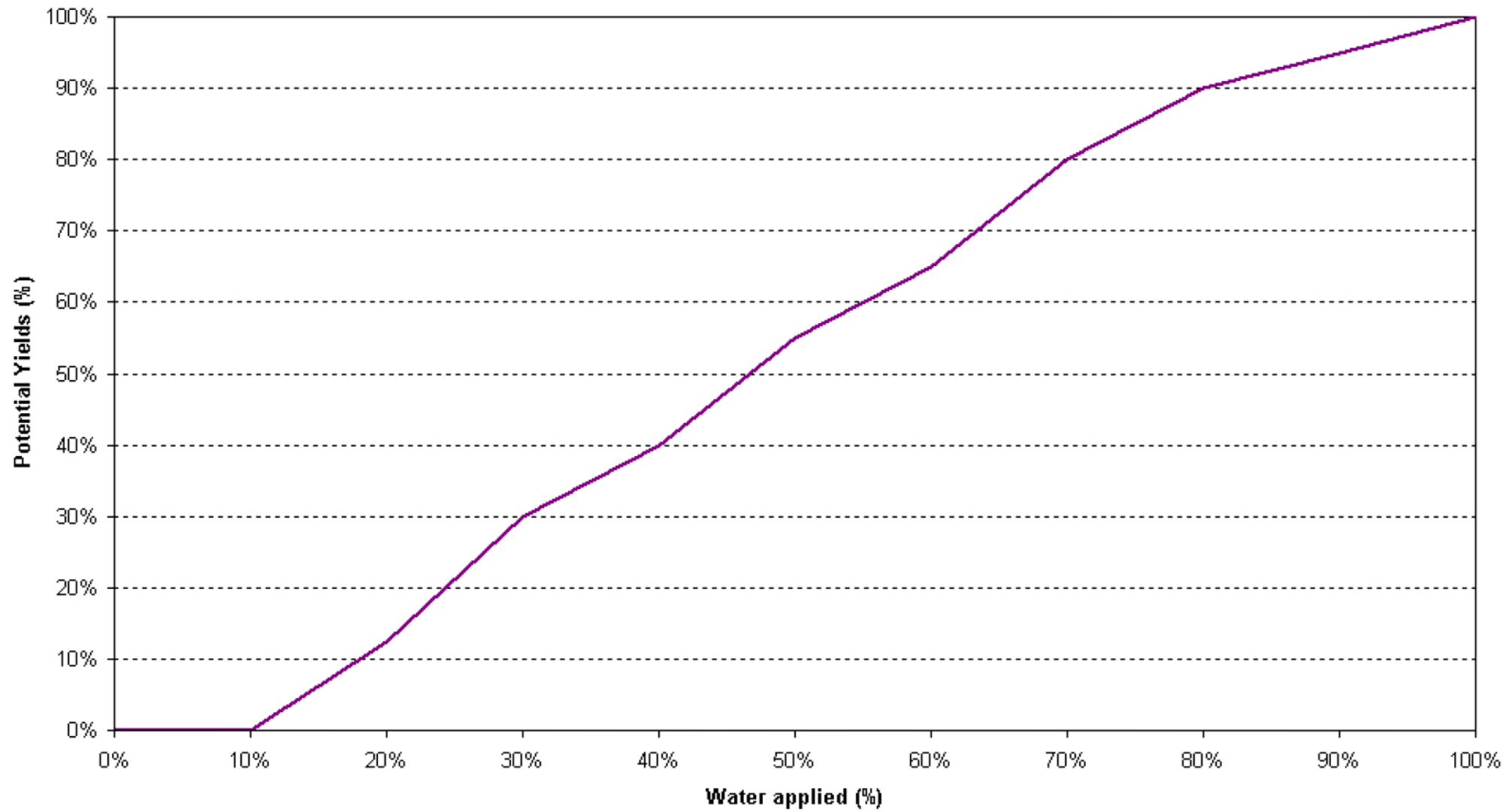
Why Irrigate?

Irrigation is a critical component in photosynthesis

Photosynthesis drives shoot & root growth and fruit development

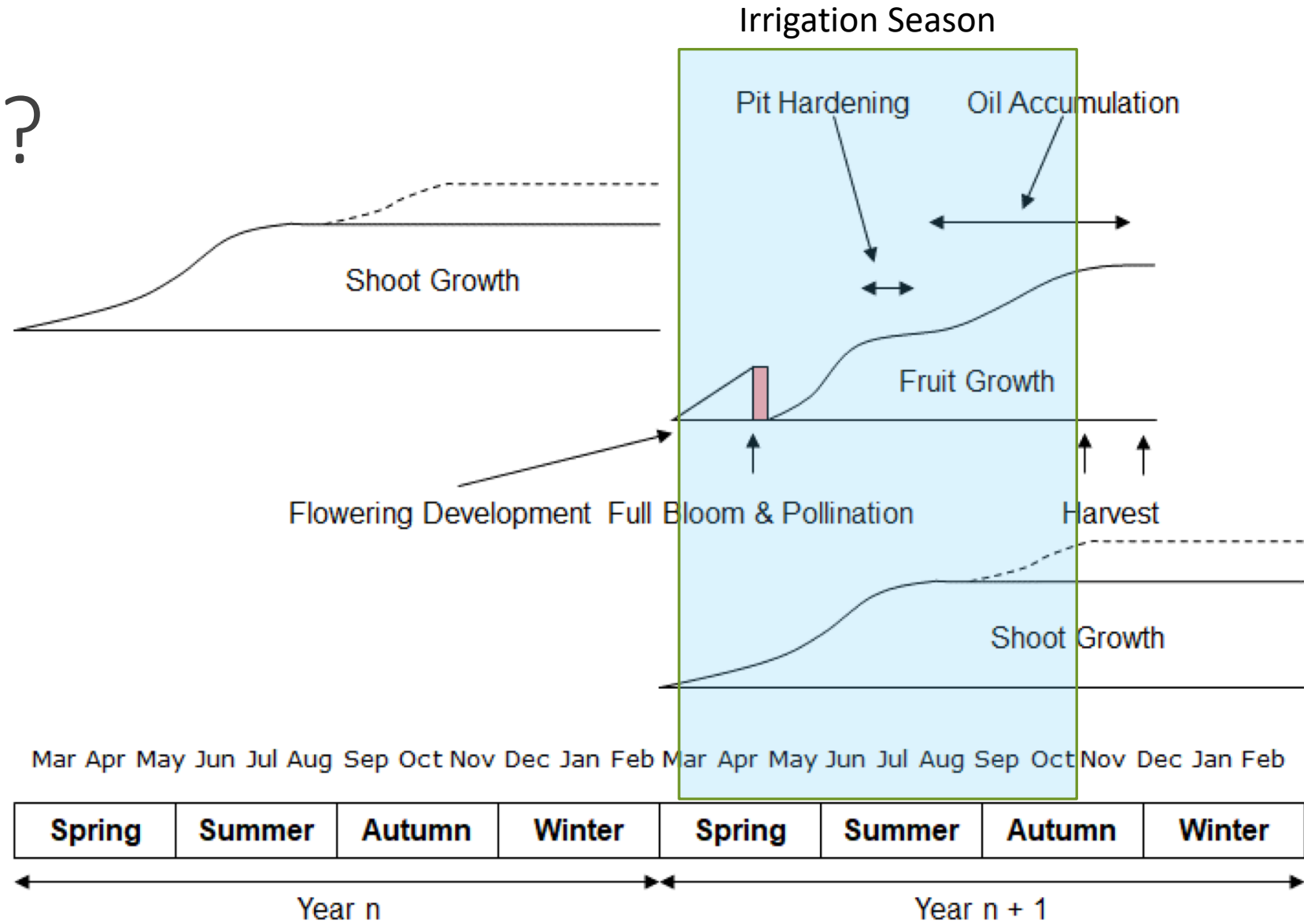


Crop Evolution vs. Deficit Irrigation



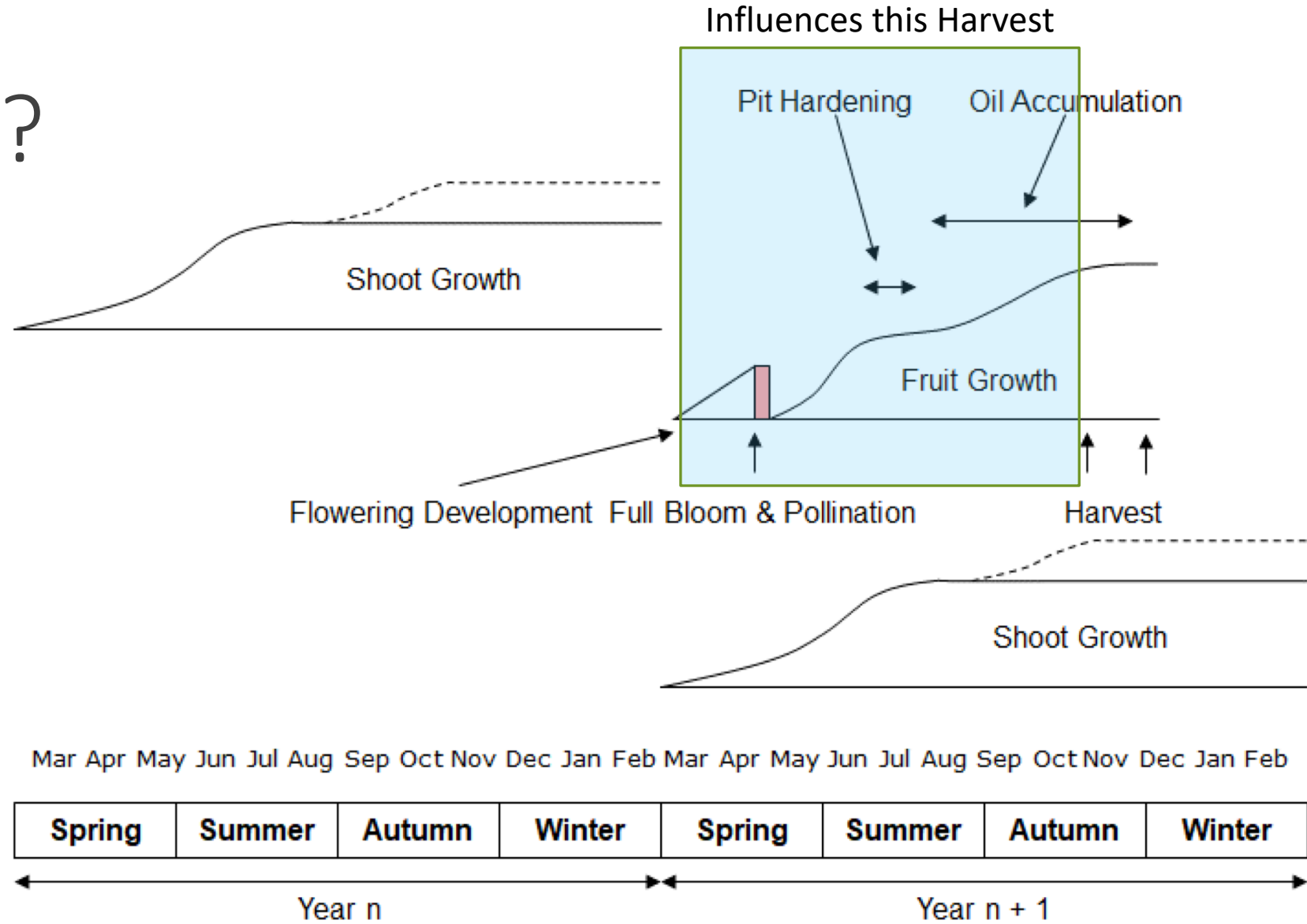
OLIVE GROWING CYCLE – NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

When to Irrigate?



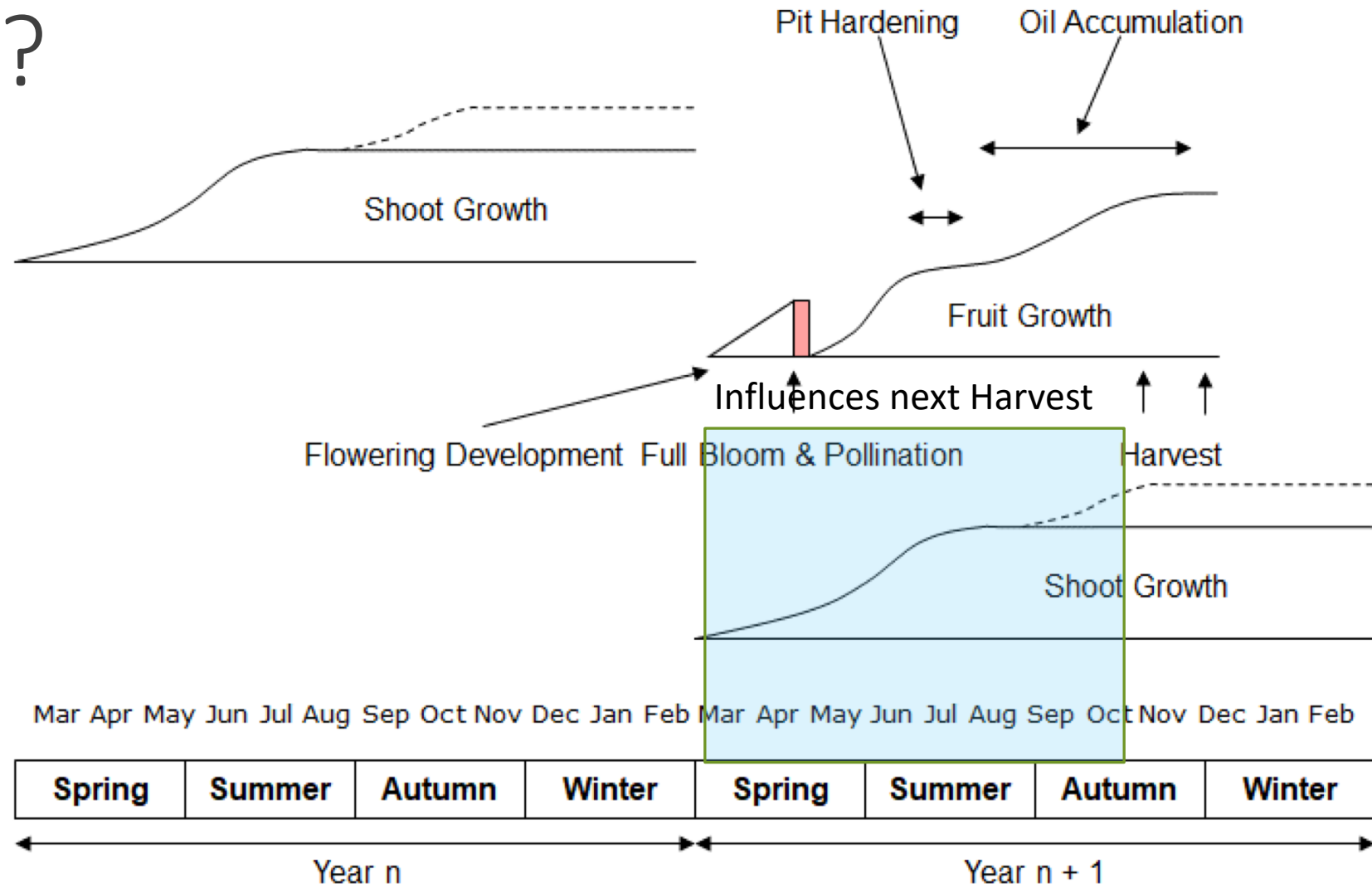
OLIVE GROWING CYCLE – NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

When to Irrigate?

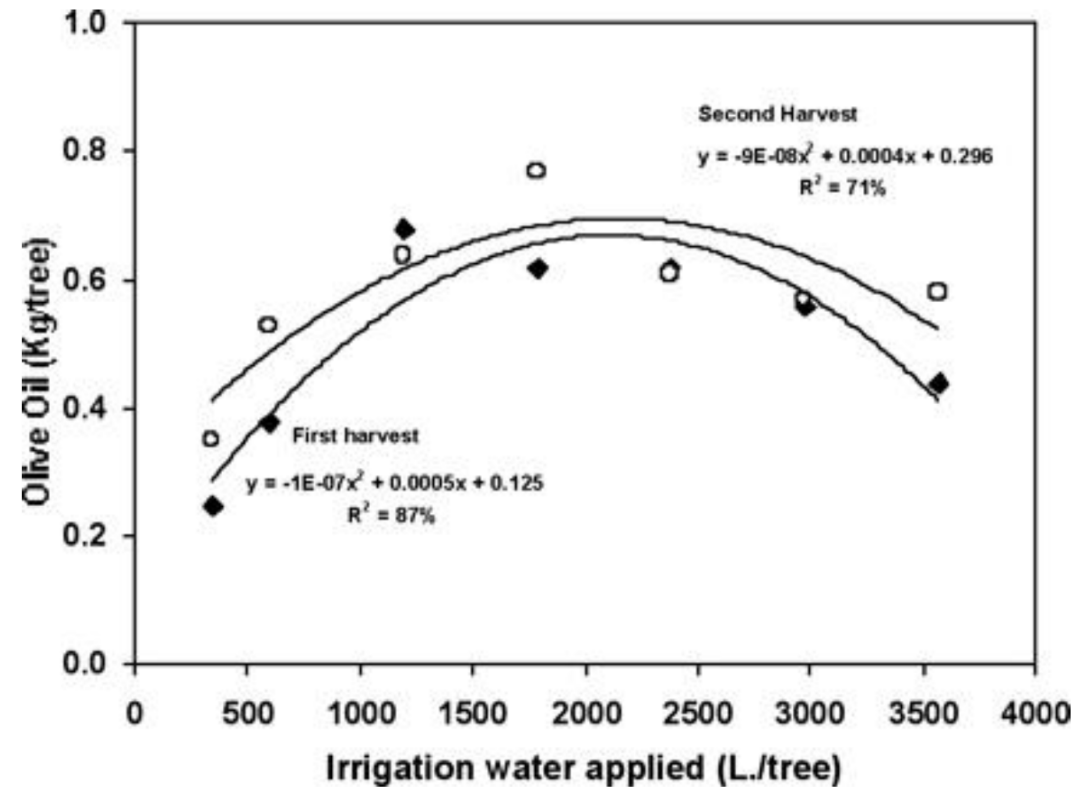


OLIVE GROWING CYCLE – NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

When to Irrigate?



How much to Irrigate?



Source: Olive oil production as influenced by different quantities of applied water; Agricultural Water Management, Volume 85, Issue 1, Pages 133-140; S.R. Grattan, M.J. Berenguer, J.H. Connell, V.S. Polito, P.M. Vossen

How much to Irrigate?

Irrigation Requirements = $E_{To} \times K_c \times K_r \times I.E. - E.R.$

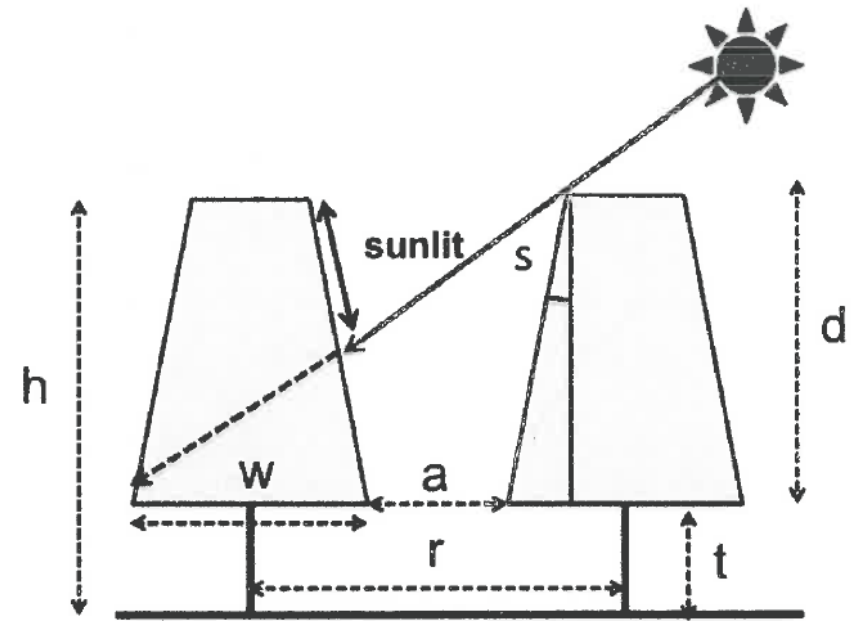
E_{To} : Reference evapotranspiration

K_c : Crop factor

K_r : Tree size factor

I.S.E.: Irrigation system efficiency

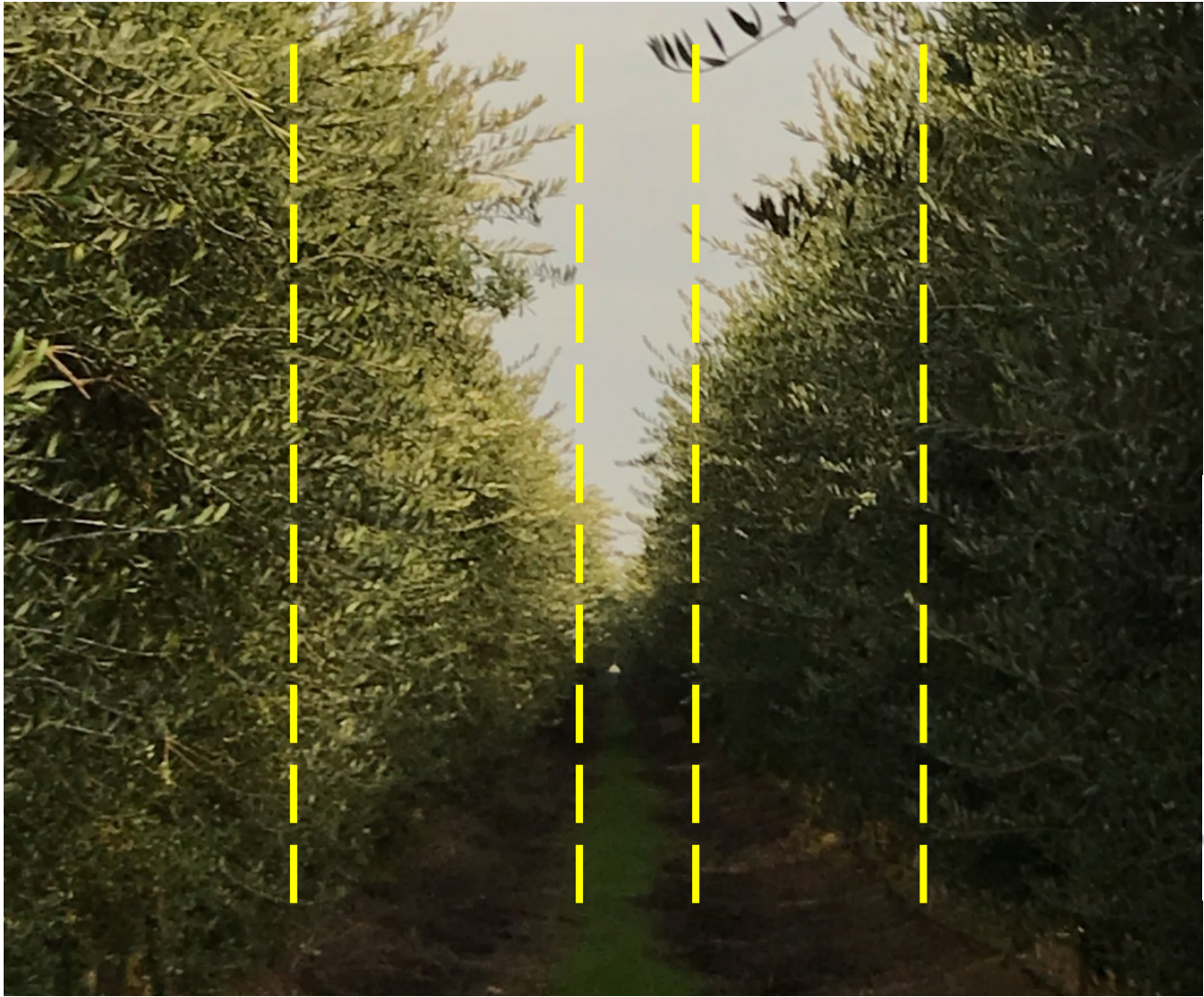
E.R.: Effective rainfall



Canopy Management

“He who ploughs the olive grove, asks it for fruit; he who fertilizes it, demands fruit; he who prunes it, forces fruit out of it.”

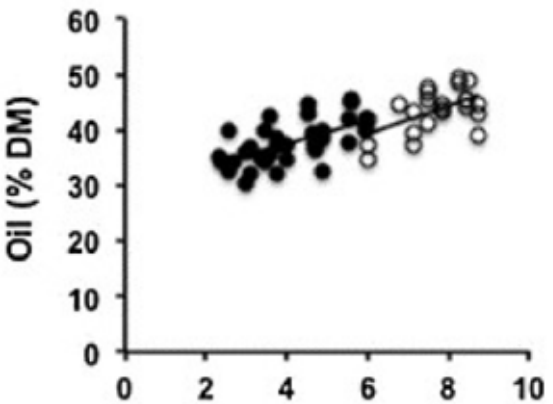
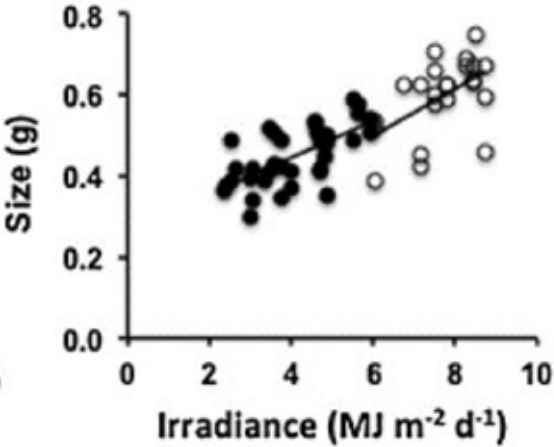
- Lucio J.M. Columela, 3 B.C.



2.0 gr/fruit

1.4 gr/fruit

0.9 gr/fruit



Connor: Structure, management and productivity of hedgerow olive orchards: A review
 Volume 1, Issue 1, Page 77; Connor and Gomez-del-Campo, 2013

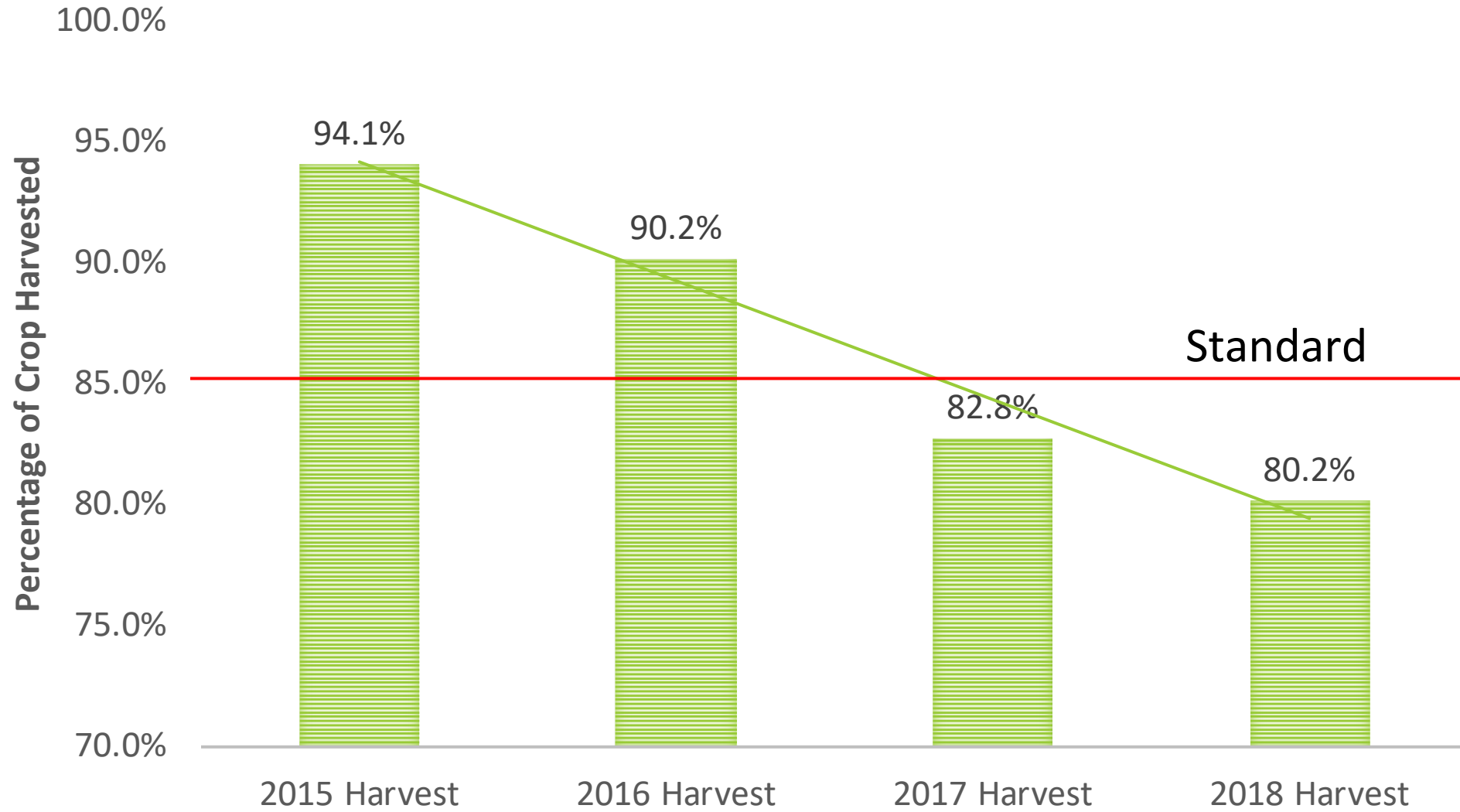
Scenario 1 VS Scenario 2

Variety	Scenario 1 Arbequina	Scenario 2 Arbequina	Difference
Oil Content of Fruit:	19.5%	17.0%	-2.5%
Fruit density	450 fruit/m ²	450 fruit/m ²	0 fruit/m ²
Fruit size	1.4 g/fruit	1.8 g/fruit	0.4 g/fruit
Oil in Fruit:	0.27 g of oil in fruit	0.31 g of oil in fruit	0.03 g of oil in fruit
Oil production per m ²	172 g of oil per m ²	248 g of oil per m ²	76 g of oil per m ²
Canopy surface per Acre	5171 m ²	5171 m ²	0 m ²
Oil Production per Acre	258 gal	372 gal	114 gal
Net Production Per Acre (85% H.E, 85% E.E.)	186 gal	269 gal	82 gal

Harvesting Efficiency



AVERAGE SHD HARVESTER EFFICIENCY



Mummies

- 1.0% mummies (FFA @ 40%) = 0.40% + 0.19% = **0.59%**
- Not all mummies are equal (anthracnose).
- 0.5% mummies (FFA @ 90%) = 0.45% + 0.19% = **0.64%**



HAND PRUNING VS HEDGING (TRIAL)

Control 1 AQ Trial 1 AQ



Economic assessment:

Tree loss difference = **0.8 lbs/tree**

0.8 lbs/tree X 670 trees/ac = **536lbs**

536 lbs/2000 lbs = **.27 tn/ac**

.27 tn/ac X 40 gal/tn = **11 gal/ac**

11 gal/ac X \$20/gal = **\$220/acre**

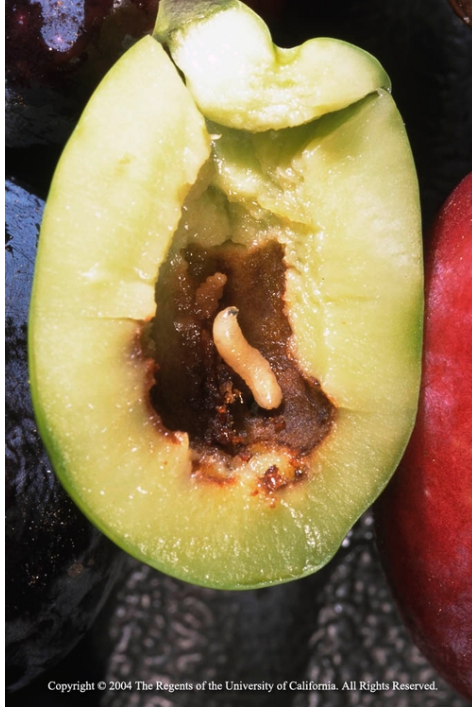
Pest & Disease

Olive Knot (*Pseudomonas savastanoi*)



- Most impactful disease effecting olives in CA
- Bacterial disease
- Primarily transmitted by water to open wounds
- <http://www.oliveoilcommission.org/research/>

Olive Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera oleae*)



- Flies implant egg into olive
- Larva/Pupa feed on olive flesh
- Flies exit olive and leave exposed wound
- Disease and fungus enters into exposed olive
- www.ipm.ucanr.edu/

Remember this!

- ❑ Irrigation impacts nearly every factor that effects grove profitability
- ❑ When you irrigate, you irrigate this year and next year's crop
- ❑ Canopy management is critical for ensuring optimal fruit development and long term cropping
- ❑ Sub-par harvesting efficiency can create problematic mummy conditions and reduce the following year's crop
- ❑ Be careful with sanitation and fungicide applications in controlling olive knot. You'll thank yourself later.
- ❑ Fruit fly damage can decimate the quality of your entire orchard. Monitor and control it!

Last thing...

1) Number of Olives per Acre

X

2) Average Size of Fruit

X

3) Oil Content % of Fruit

X

4) Harvesting Efficiency

X

5) Processing Extraction Efficiency

=

Per Acre Oil Yield

Thank you!

