BLUEBERRY TIP MIDGE
2013 update

symptoms
life history
ecology
damage potential

Symptoms

look like thrips…but leaf curls are not as red, not as tightly curled, pock marked, AND curls are ONLY found on terminal leaves

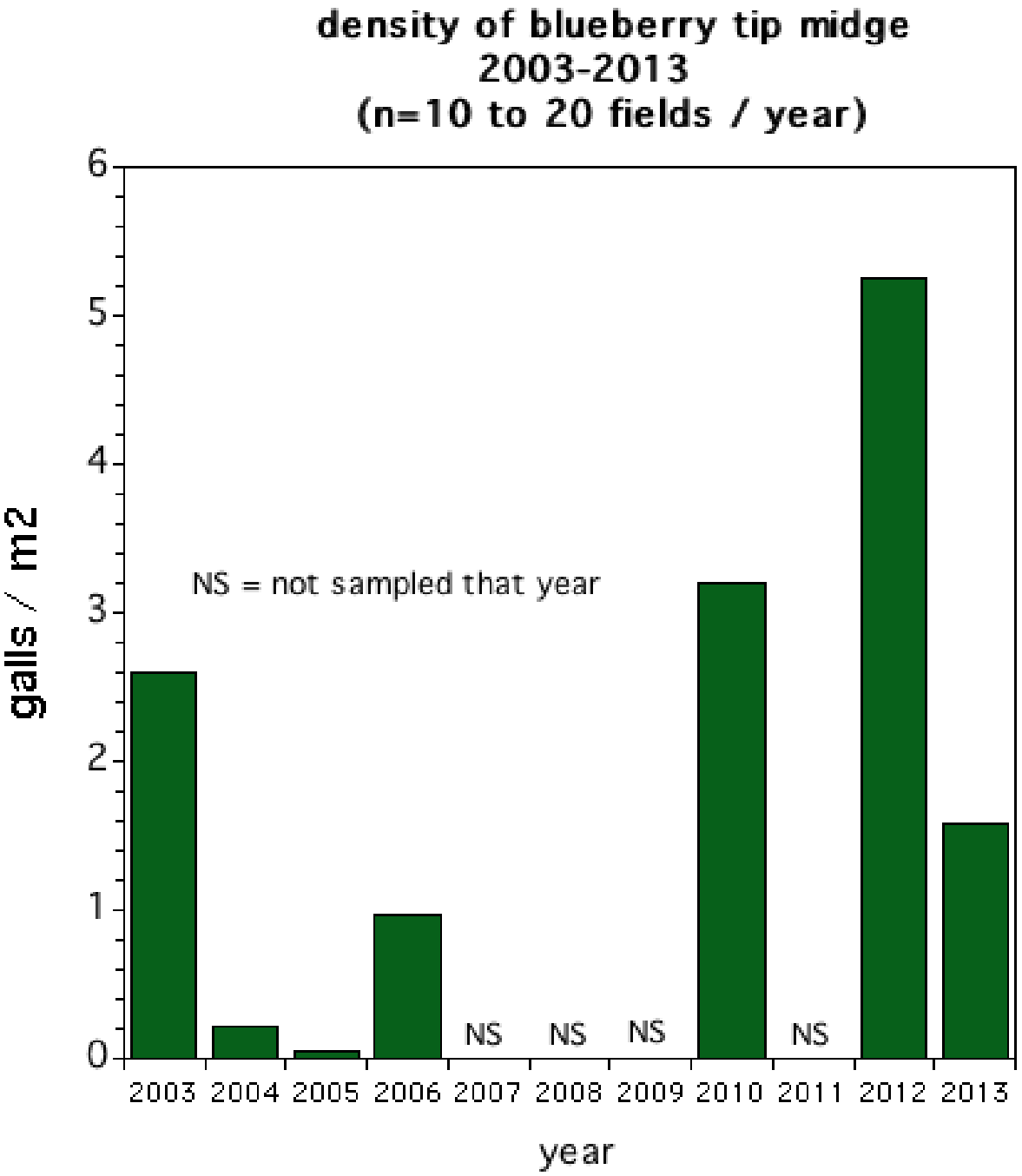
Life stages of the BEAST

Hypothesized life cycle of *Dasineura oxycoccana* aka " blueberry tip midge "

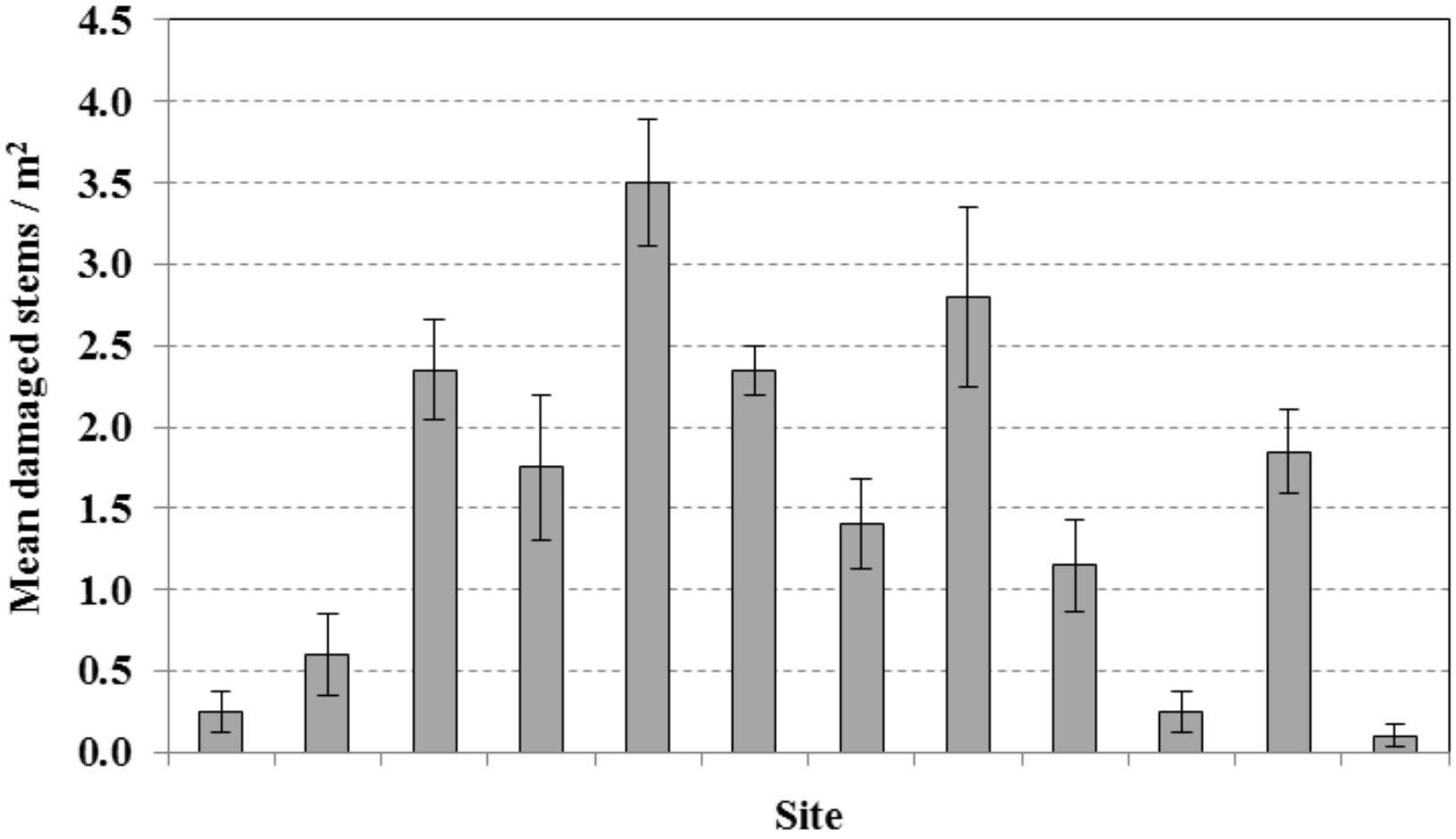
- pupae overwinter in duff layer
- adult flies emerge mid-May - early June (live 4-6 days)
- flies lay eggs singly on top terminal leaves
- eggs hatch in a few days (temperature dependent)
- larvae go through three larval instars (7- 10 days)
- pupae stay in soil a week before adults emerge
- several generations / yr … in cranberry, but blueberry? Only appears to be ONE generation.

damage over time –

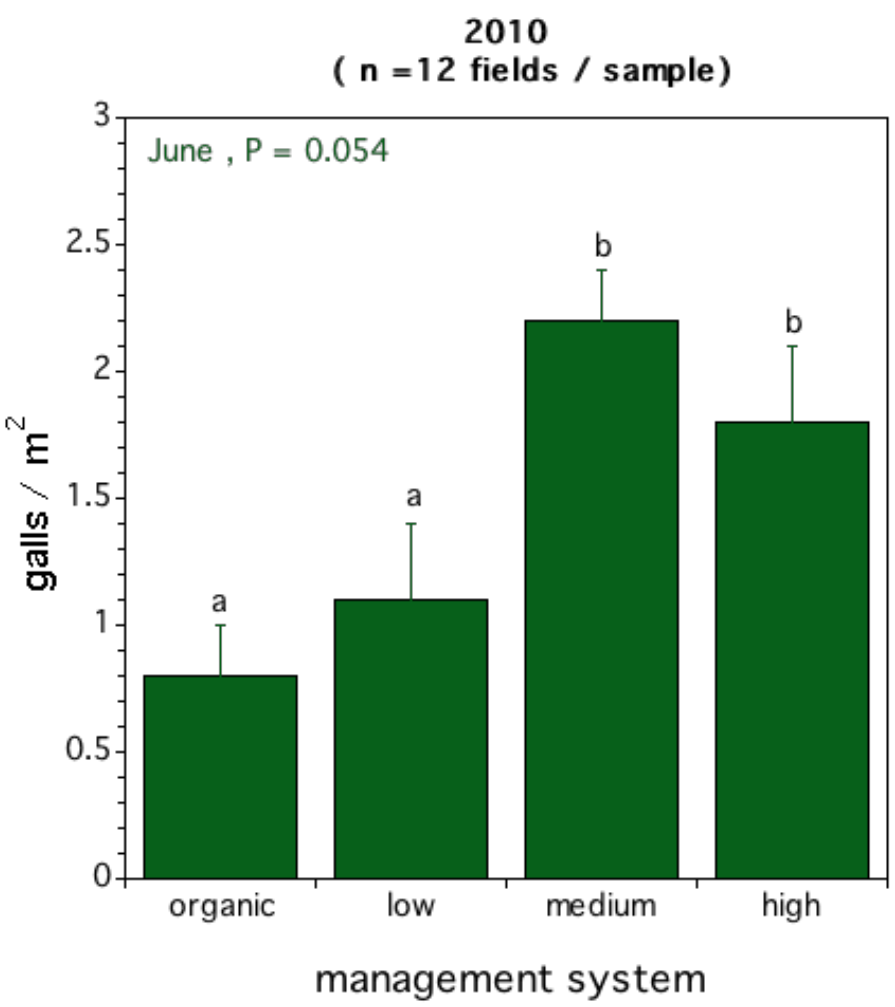
quite varied

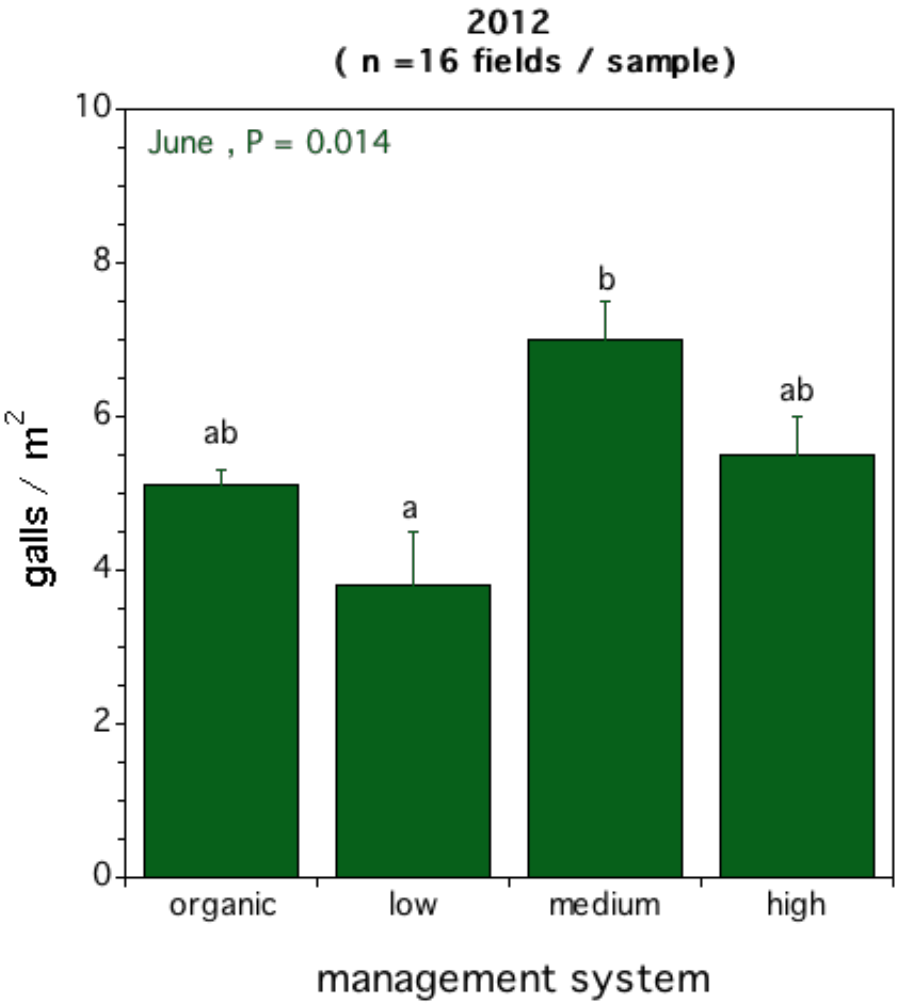


2013 survey of blueberry tip midge damage in lowbush blueberry fields – quite variable field to field



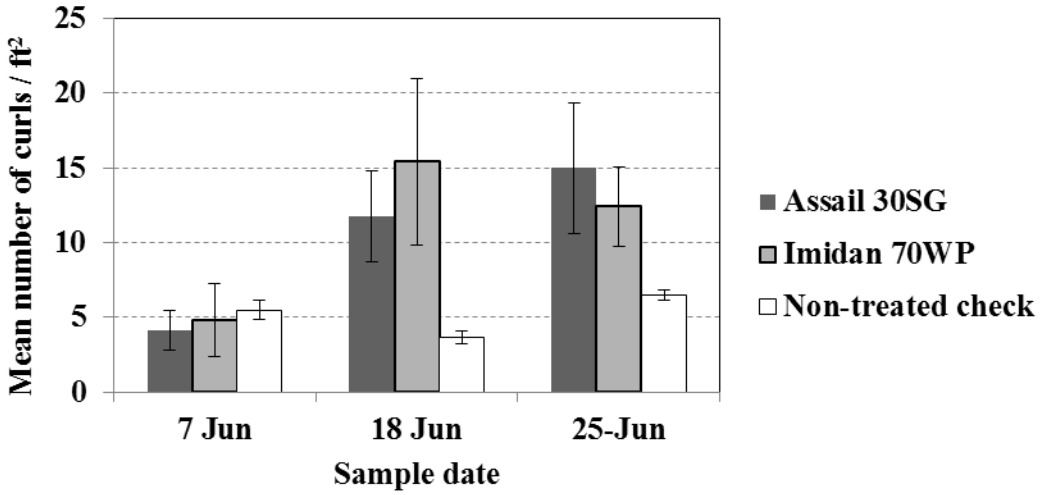
Effect of management system



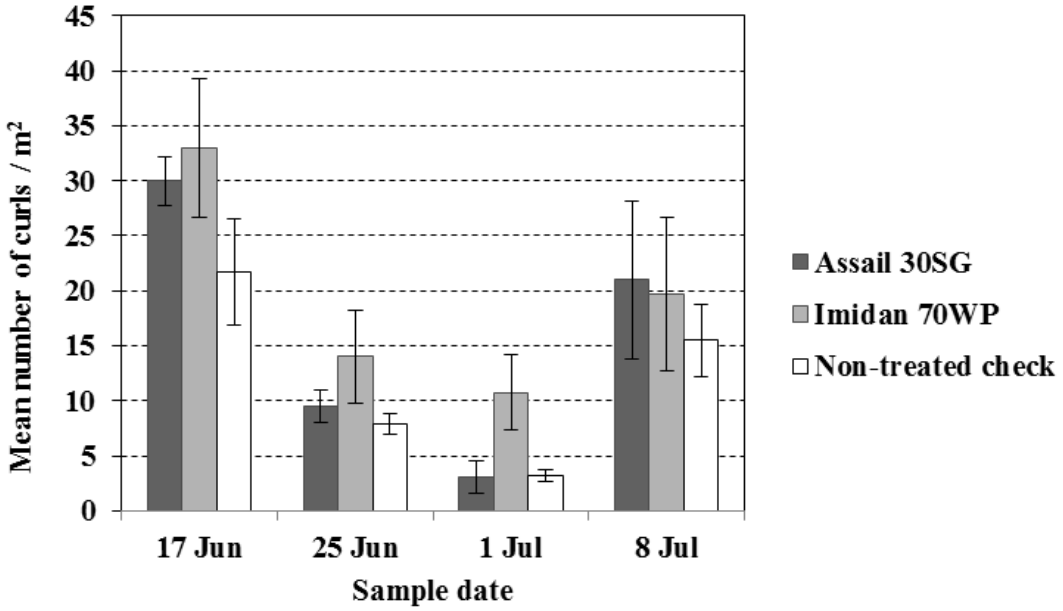


Blueberry tip midge control with foliar insecticides

2012



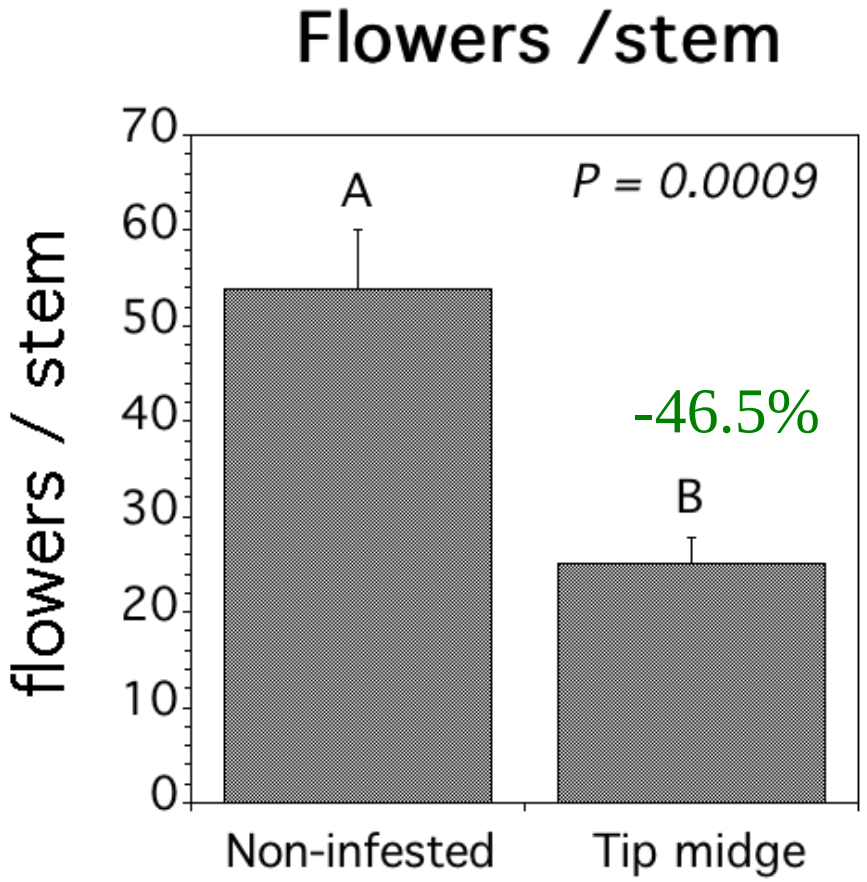
2013



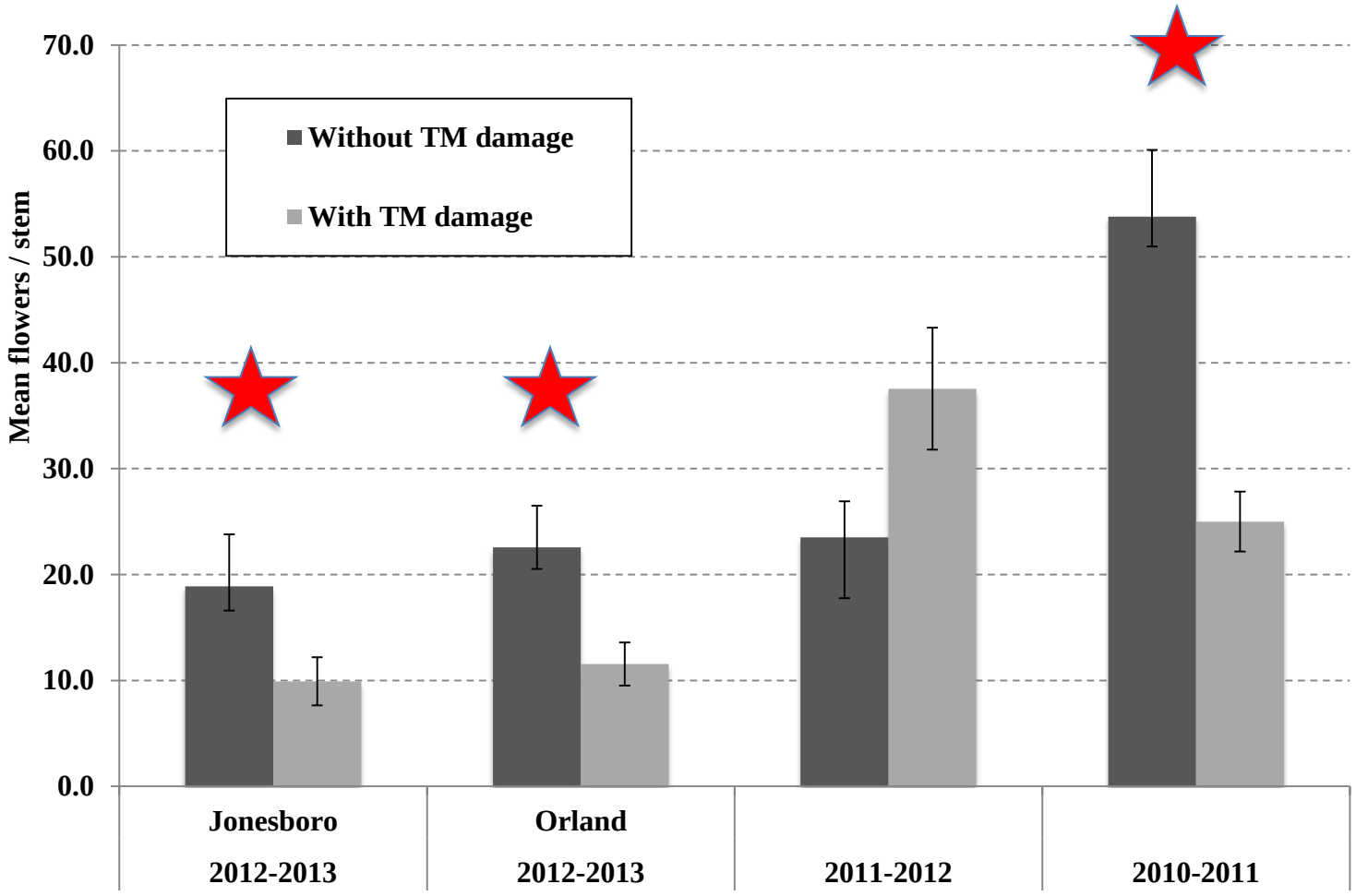
Potential damage

- **blueberry (a minor pest in lowbush?)**
  - **reduction of flower buds the following year**
  - **non-viable flowers**
  - **less branching**

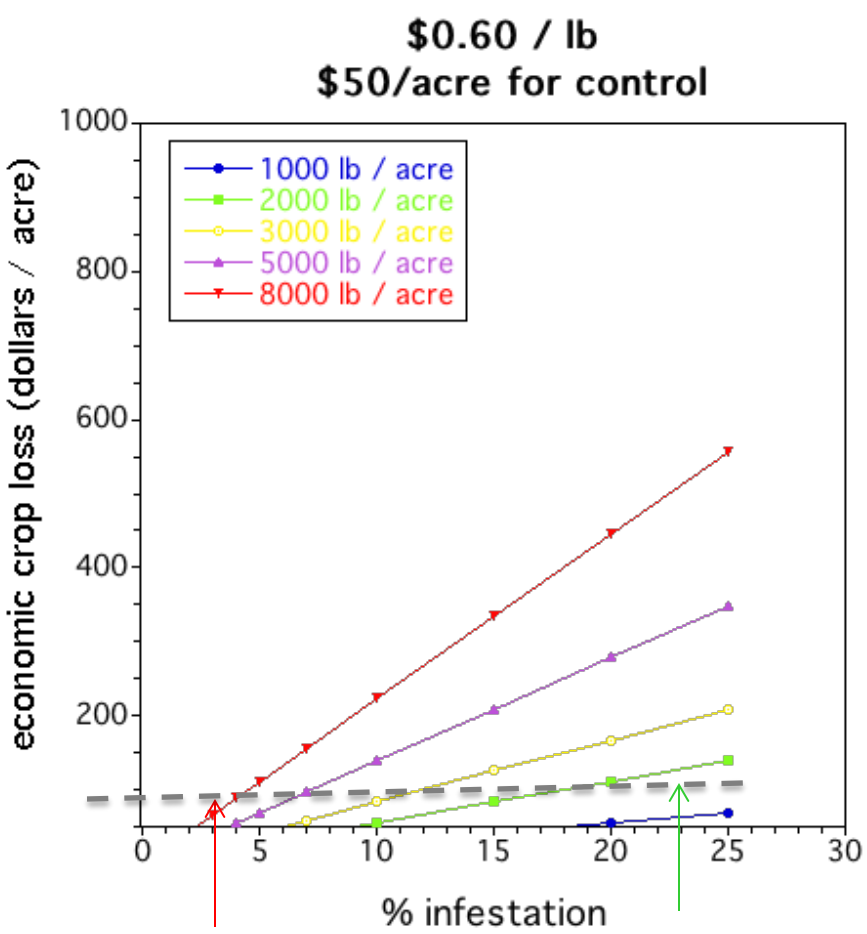
Damage potential
2010 - 2011

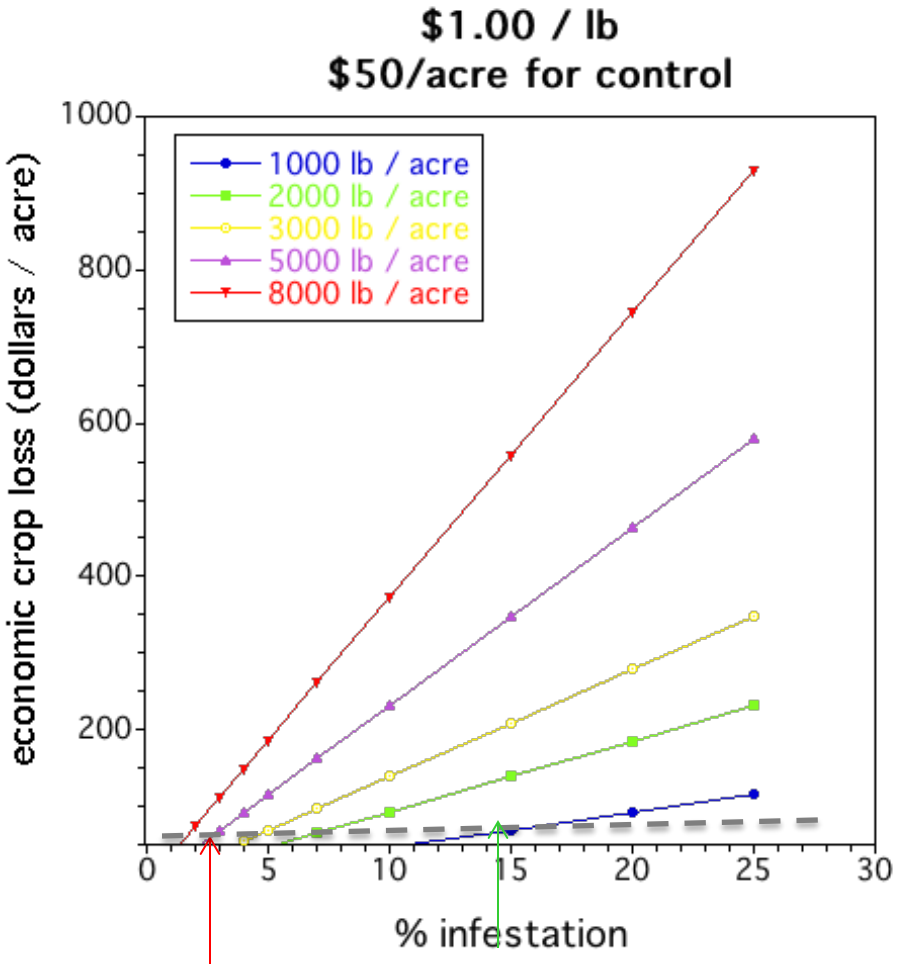


Damage
(3 in 4 trials…50% decrease in flowers)



Economic thresholds
IF 46.5% damage is typical





Future research

- **Continue to survey…is it increasing in severity?**
- **Develop an integrated pest management program**
  - **monitor midges with yellow bowl traps for time of attack**
  - **test more insecticides, but a focus on growth regulators: Dimlin, Rimon and their timing**
  - **delayed burn management**

Questions ?