



# **Management of Nitrogen in Almonds and Pistachios**

## **New Leaf Sampling and Nutrient Budgets for Almond and Pistachio**

- Questions**
- Opportunities**

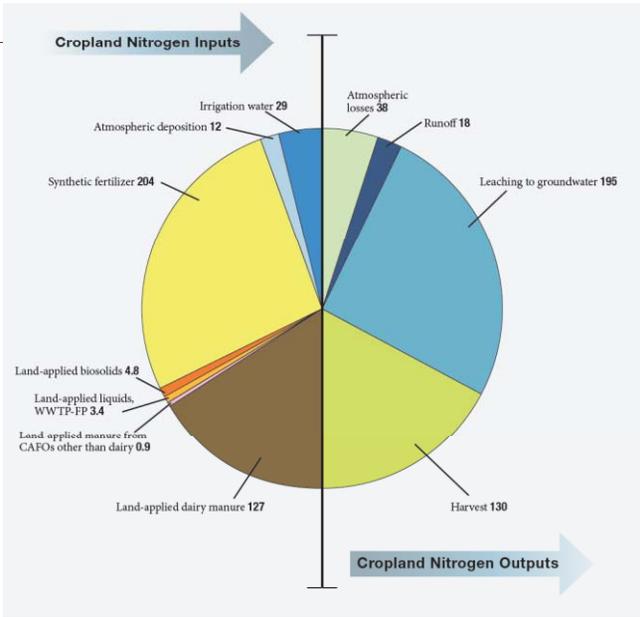
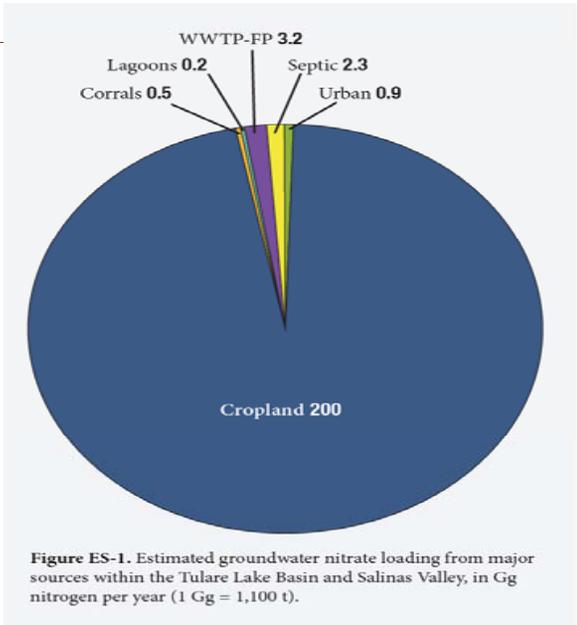
**Patrick Brown, Professor,  
Department of Plant Sciences  
University of California, Davis**



Nitrogen is essential for productivity but when managed poorly N results in environmental problems.

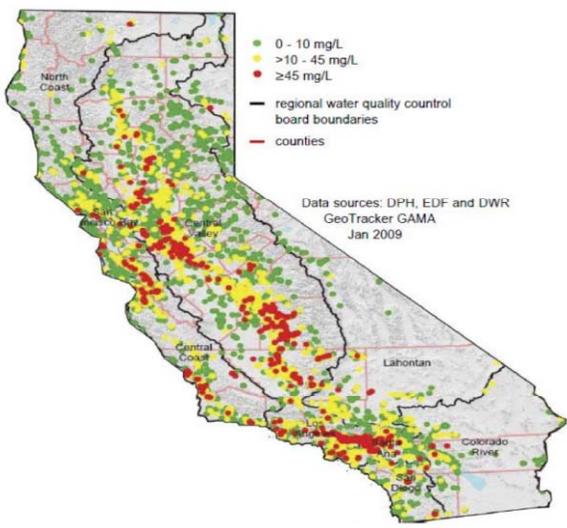


# Historical N applications have Exceeded Crop Demand Resulting in Groundwater Contamination



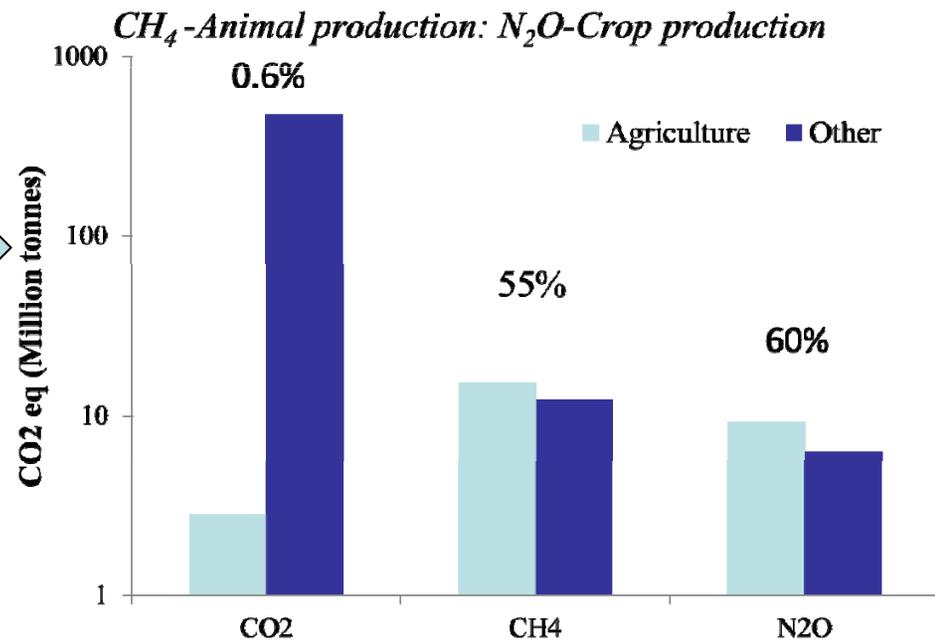
Nitrogen is essential for productivity but when managed poorly N results in environmental problems.

30 + % of wells exceed EPA drinking water levels (45 mg/L nitrate) and 250,000 people in SJV do not have access to 'safe' water.



(Ek Dahl and others, 2009; Harter Report, 2012)

Agriculture is a major source of N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>



# Legislative Response: Mandated Nitrogen Management Planning

- Application rates will be based upon field specific crop N budget estimations, accounting for all applied N x 'efficiency factor' (60-80%).
  - New techniques for N budgeting
  - Maximizing nitrogen use efficiency will be critical
- Certified Crop Advisor sign off required.
  - Training and certification process under development
  - Post season verification and reporting.
- Will require enhanced efficiency of N use. Site (orchard) specific management. In season monitoring and adjustment.
  - New techniques for leaf sampling
- In the short term this will be a self-reporting industry driven activity.
  - However, if improvements in ground water resources are not realized then a tightening of these regulations can be expected.

**Whenever there is a problem, there is  
also an opportunity...**

...Improving the Efficiency of Nitrogen use  
will Reduce Production Costs and Reduce  
Environmental Impact



# Efficient Nitrogen Management

## -the 4 R's-

Apply the **Right Rate**

- Match supply with tree demand (all inputs- fertilizer, organic N, water, soil).

Apply at the **Right Time**

- Apply coincident with tree demand and root uptake.

Apply In the **Right Place**

- Ensure delivery to the active roots.
- Minimize movement below root zone

Use the **Right Sampling and Monitoring Procedures**

*The 4 R's are specific to ever individual orchard and every year.*

# How do we estimate the 4 R's in Almonds?

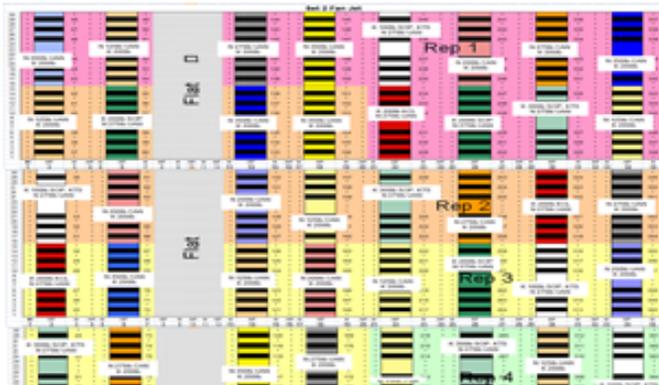


## Manipulative Experiment for five years

- Treatments
- 4 Nitrogen rates – 125, 200, 275 and 350lb/ac
- 2 Nitrogen Sources- UAN 32 and CAN 17
- 3 Potassium Rates- 100, 200 and 300lb/ac
- 3 Potassium Sources- SOP, SOP+KTS and KCl @200lb/ac
- Irrigation Types
- Fan Jet and Drip

### Fertigation

- 4 times during the season
  - 20, 30, 30 and 20% in February, April, June and October
- Samples Collection
- Leaf and Nut samples collected from 768 individual trees five time in season
- All trees individually harvested



Large experiment covering approximately 100 acres.

768 trees individually monitored for nutrients, yield, light interception, disease, water.

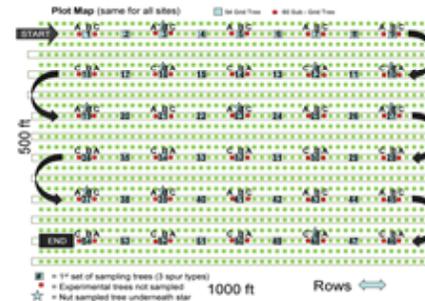
Trees were 9 leaf in 2008.

Nonpareil - Monterey

## Observational Experiment for four years



### Design and Sampling



•114 trees x 4 Sites x 3 years.

•Yield.  
(About 1,130 data points)

•5 in-season nutrient samples.  
(8,500 x 11 = 93,500 data points)



# Efficient Nitrogen Management

## *-the 4 R's-*

Apply the **Right Rate**

- Match supply with tree demand (all inputs- fertilizer, organic N, water, soil).

Apply at the **Right Time**

- Apply coincident with tree demand and root uptake.
- CONTROLLED RELEASE?

Apply In the **Right Place**

- Ensure delivery to the active roots.
- Minimize movement below root zone

# Determining the Right Rate and Timing

## Nutrient Budget Approach

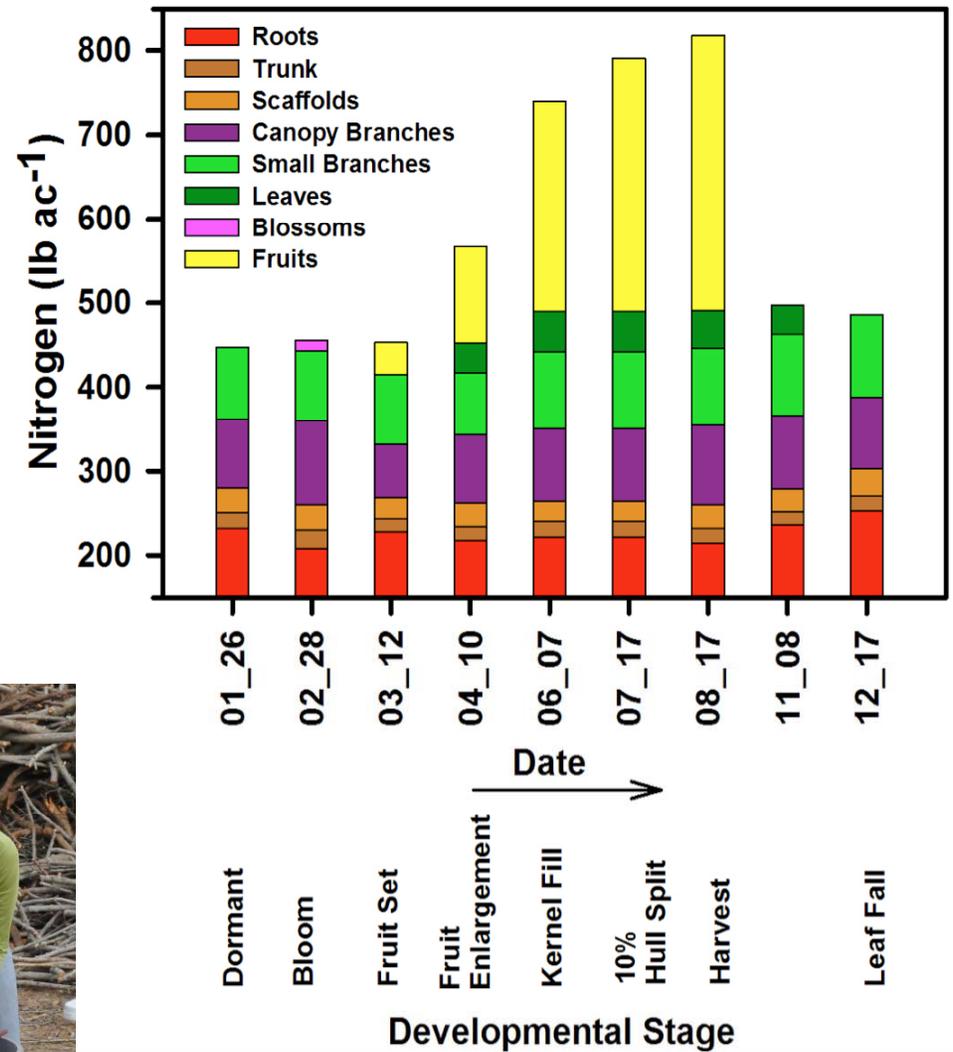
- What is the total annual tree demand?
- When during growth and development does uptake occur?

### Approach:

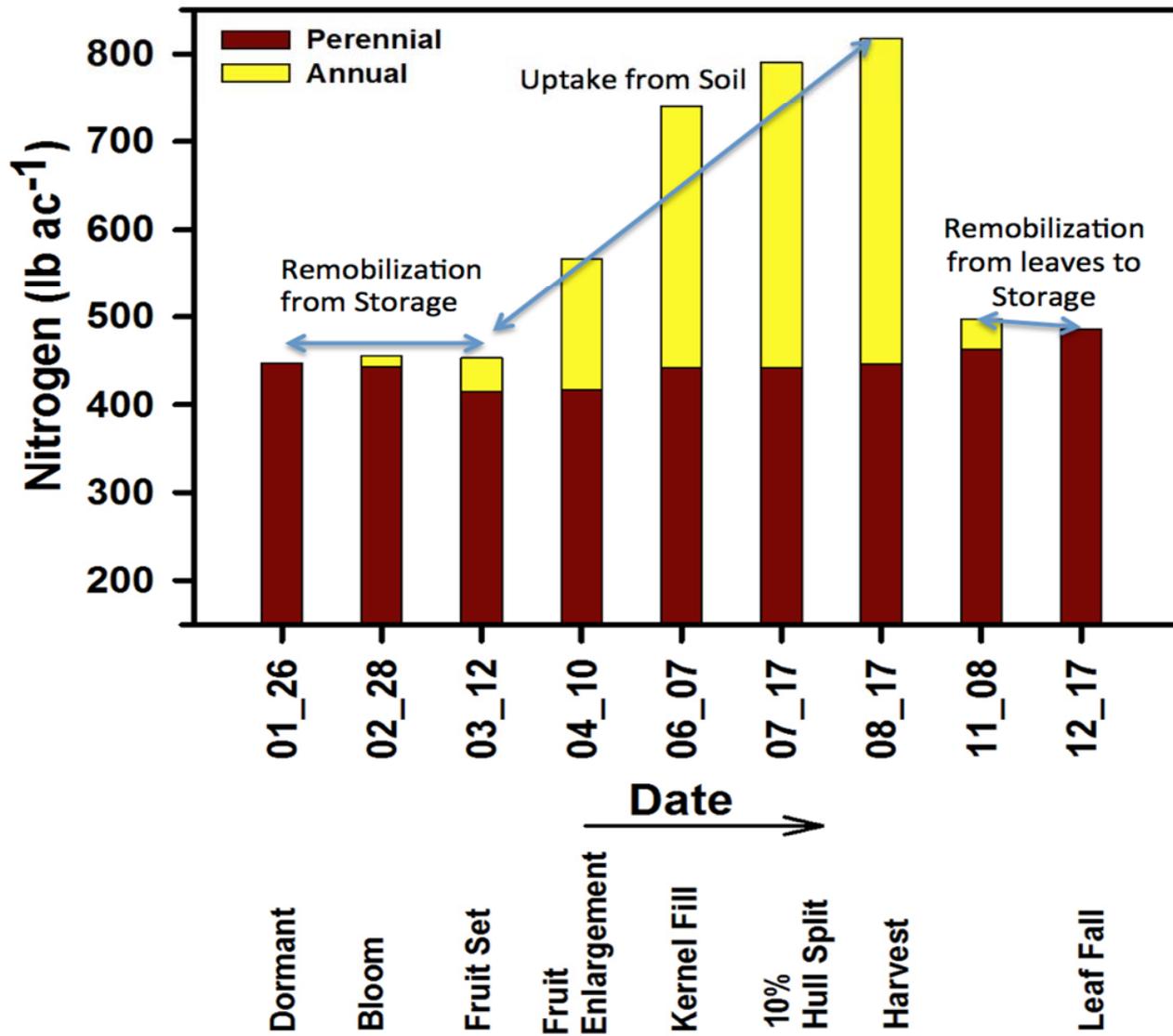
- Whole tree excavation, trunk coring, sequential nut collection and analysis, yield measurements- 1000's of individual trees at multiple sites and years



# Total Nutrient Demand and Timing



# Total and Annual Dynamics of N in Mature Almond Tree (data from 12 year old trees)



Annual accumulation (Yield: 4,700 lbs)

2011: (320 lb N total)

Nuts = 90%

Leaves = 2%

Bloom = 4%

Perennial = 5%

Around 20 lbs/acre of N were needed to support growth in this 12 year old 85% canopy cover orchard. In younger orchards and in low yield years the demand for N for growth may reach 40 lbs/acre.

# Nutrient Demand is Determined by Yield

## Almonds

### Nutrient removal Per 1000 lb Kernels

#### Nonpareil

- N removal 68 lb per 1000
- K removal 80 lb per 1000
- P removal 8 lb per 1000

#### Monterrey

- N removal 65 lb per 1000
- K removal 76 lb per 1000
- P removal 7 lb per 1000

### Growth Requirement

- Yield 2,000 to 4,000 = 0 lb N
- Yield 1,000 to 2,000 = 20 lb N
- Yield <1,000 = 30 lb N

## Pistachios

### Nutrient removal Per 1000 lbs (**Dry CPC Yield**)

- Valuable for estimating demand or replacing nutrient export
- Provides insight into efficiencies
  - N removal 28 lbs per 1000
  - K removal 24 lbs per 1000
  - P removal 3 lbs per 1000
- 25 lb N and 22 lb K per acre, per year is required for tree growth (Rosecrance et al 1998)

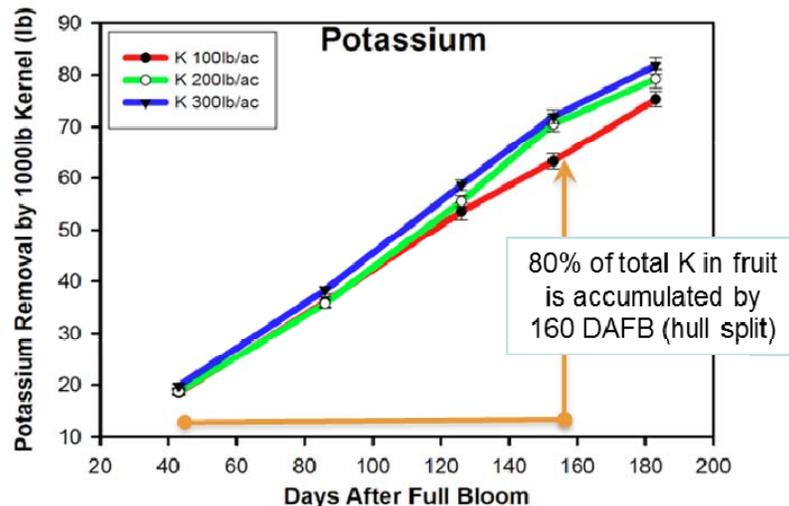
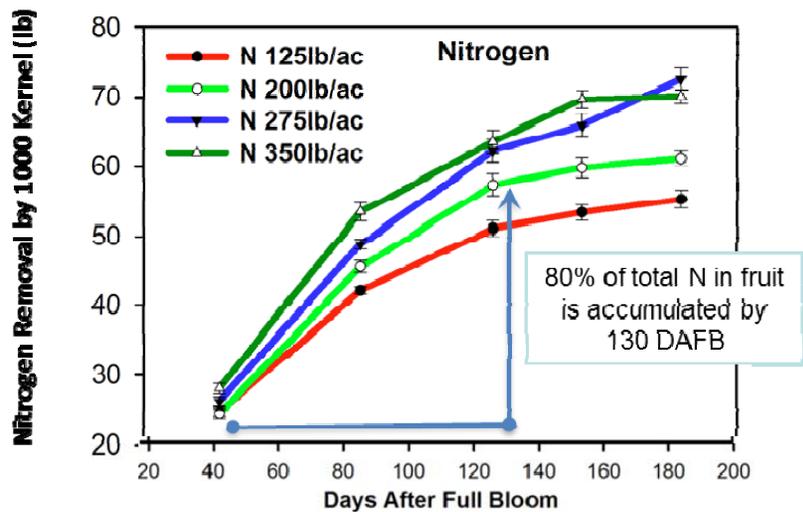
# Applying at the Right Time

- When during the season should I apply my N and in what proportion?
- Need to:
  - **Understand fruit development**
  - **Know the shape of nitrogen demand through the season**
  - **Know when uptake from the roots occurs**
  - **Know the periods of higher leaching potential**

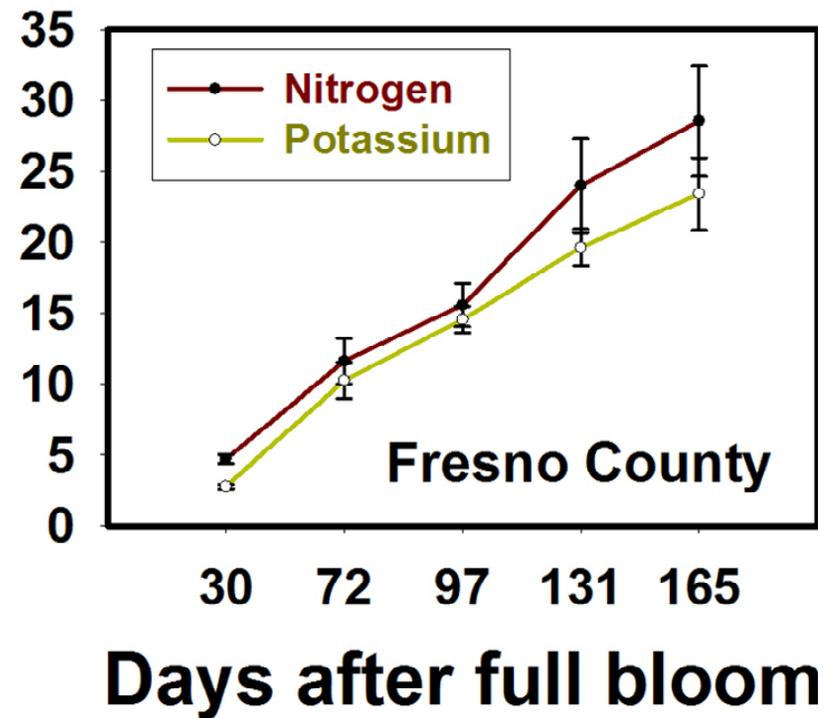
# What is the shape of N demand through the season?

## Almonds

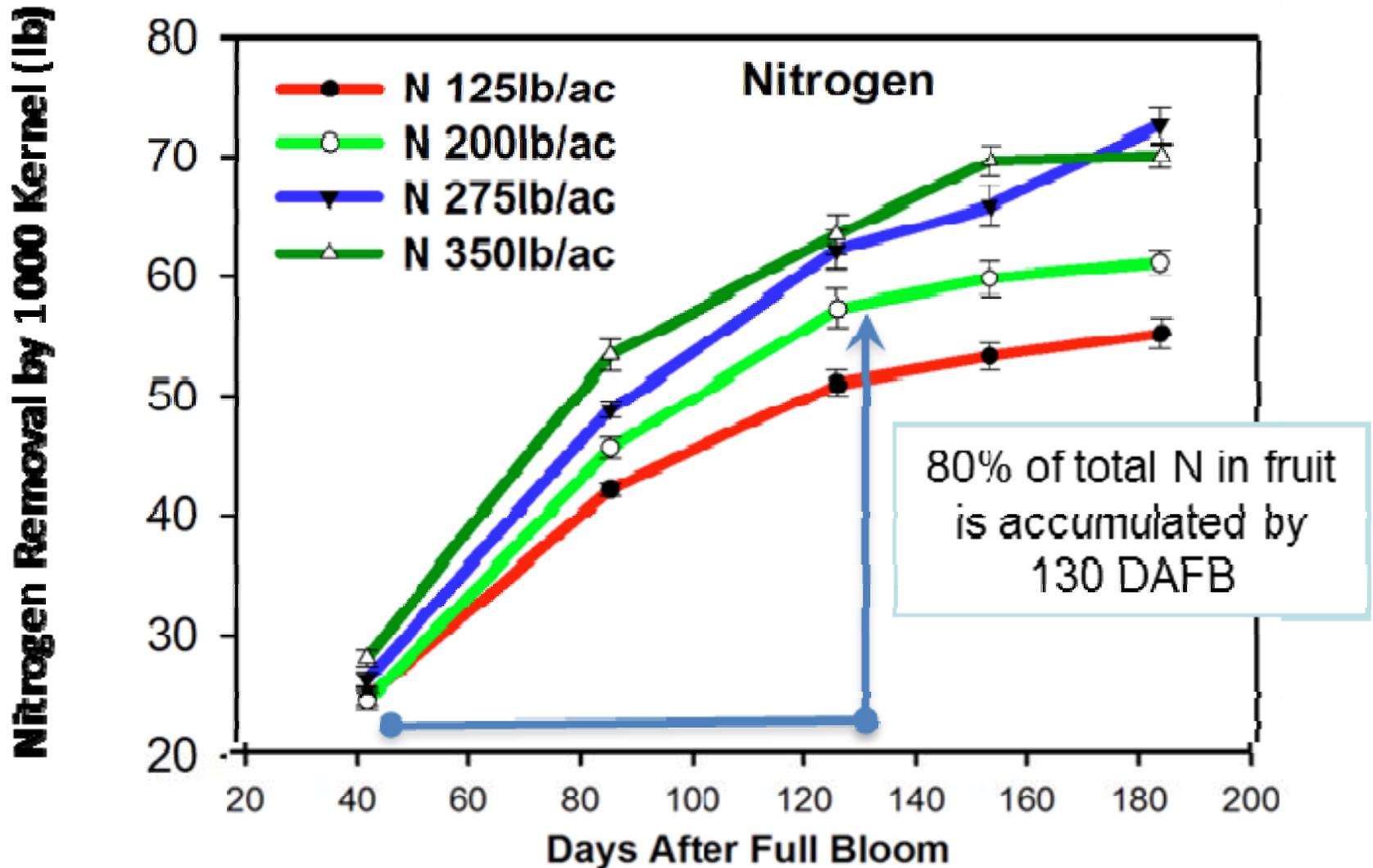
## Pistachios



Nutrient Removal per 1000 lbs dry yield (CPC)



# What is the shape of N demand through the season? Almonds





# Change text as Follows

kernel of up to 87 kg was observed (Table 1).

Sequential analysis of annual and perennial organs demonstrates that the majority of whole tree macro and micronutrient uptake occurs between anthesis and kernel fill with 35-50% of total N uptake occurring before 40 days after full bloom (DAFB) and 80-90% of the total N being accumulated by 112 DAFB with kernel filling. Over 70% of the total P and 65%-80% of the total K was accumulated in fruits by mid season. Ninety percent of total S, 80-90% of total Ca and

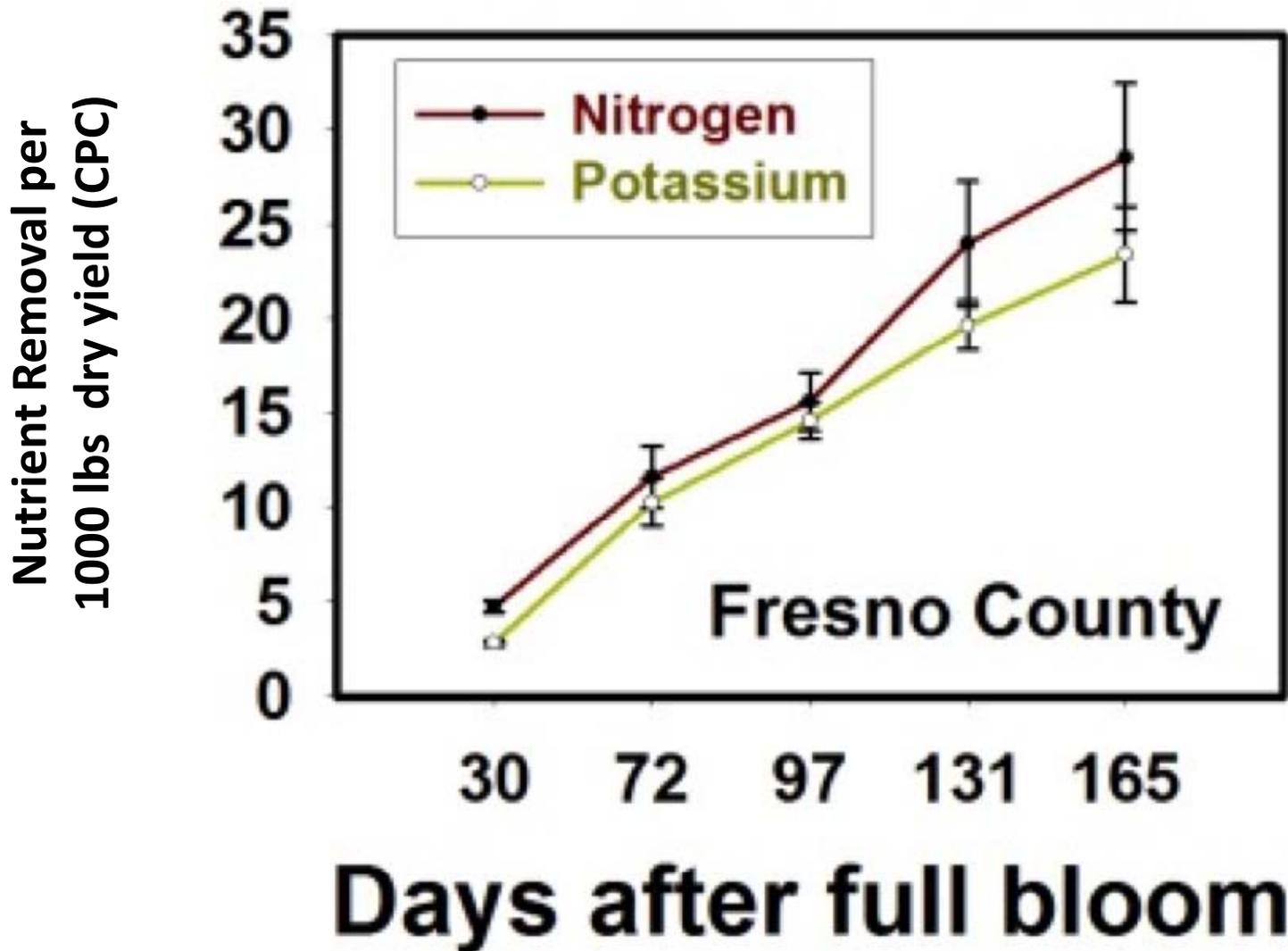
30 %

130DAFB

- Change 112 DAFB to 130 DAFB

# What is the shape of N demand through the season?

Pistachio



# Summary Right Rate

- How much Nitrogen do I need to apply for each pound of yield produced?
  - Account for fruit demand
  - Account for vegetative demand
  - Account for total N inputs (water N; fertilizer N; organic N):
    - Consider N in water and other sources.
  - Optimize application efficiency:

How efficient can we be?

# How efficient can we be?

Experiment initiated in 2008 – 2013 utilizing best practices based on 4 R's and detailed monitoring:

Applying the **Right Rate**

- Match demand with supply (all inputs- fertilizer, organic N, water, soil).

At **Right Time**

- Fertigate coincident with demand.

In the **Right Place**

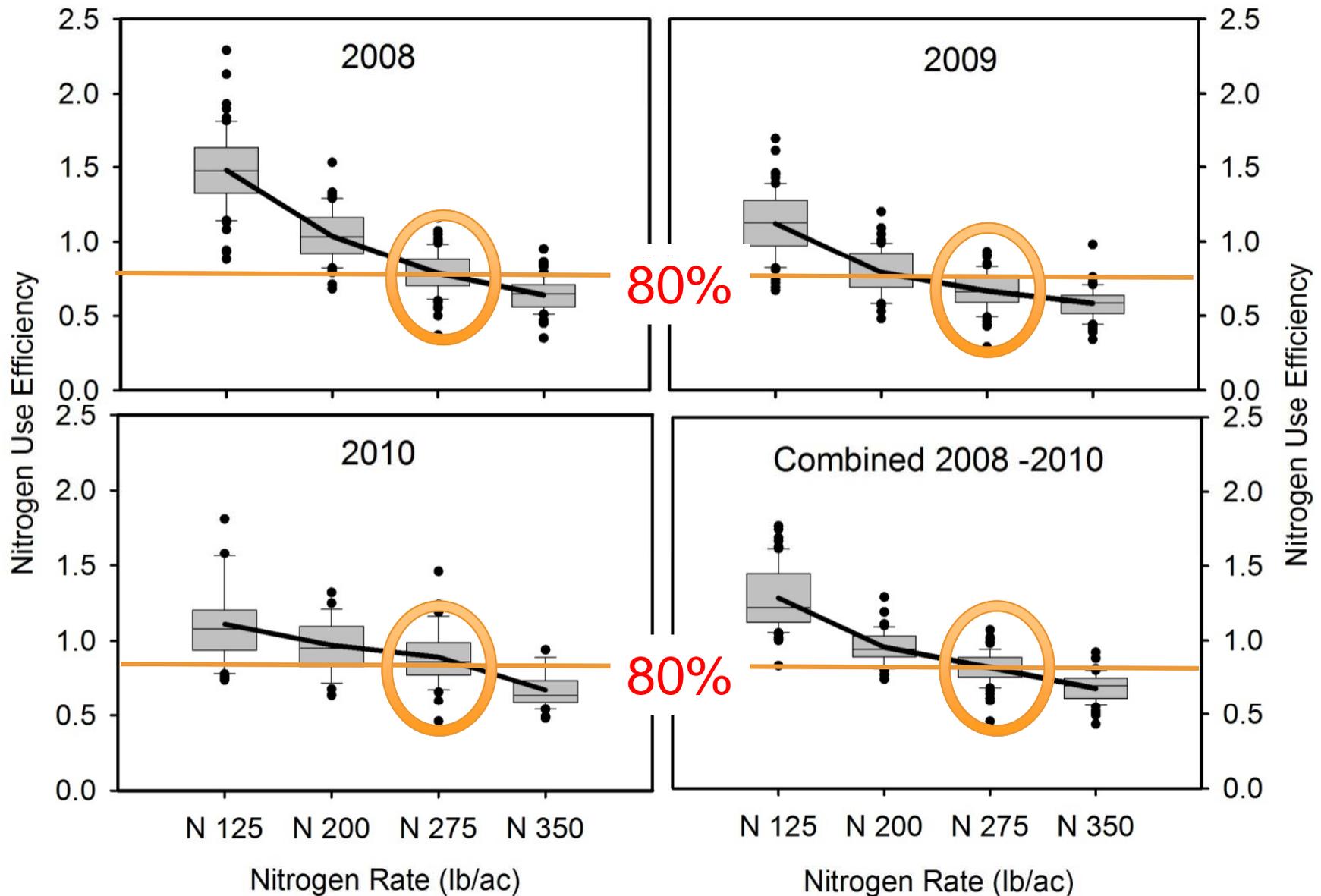
- Ensure delivery to the active roots.

Using the **Right Source**

- Soluble, compatible and balanced.

New Sampling Methods

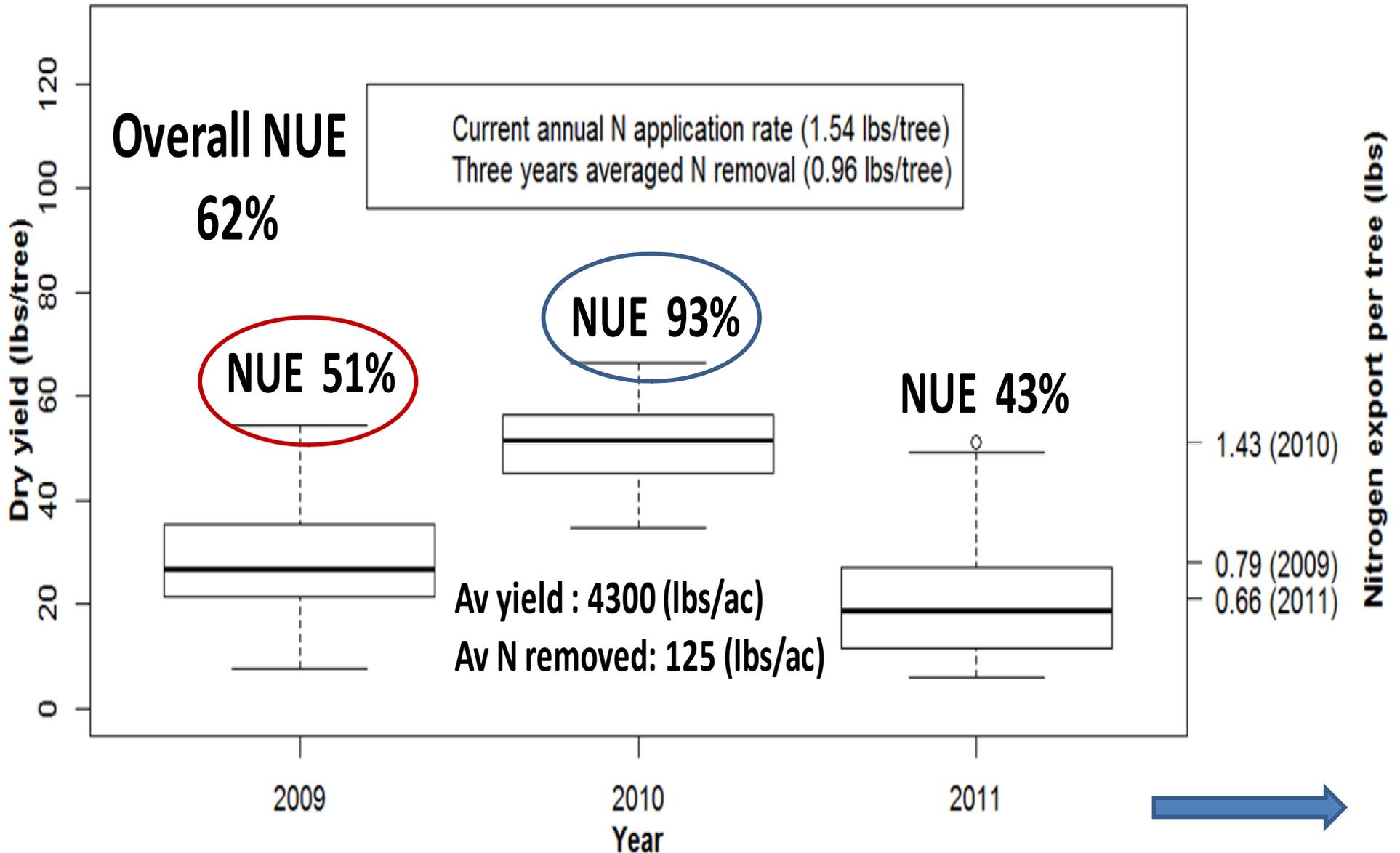
# Nitrogen Use efficiency 2008 = 2010 under optimum treatment (N 275) was >80%. : ALMONDS



NUE = N Export in Fruit/N Applied

# Pistachios

## Yield and Nitrogen Demand in Pistachio (SITE 1)



Fate of unused N?- Lost? In Profile? In high EC sub-soil?

# How do we monitor our trees?

Early Leaf Sampling

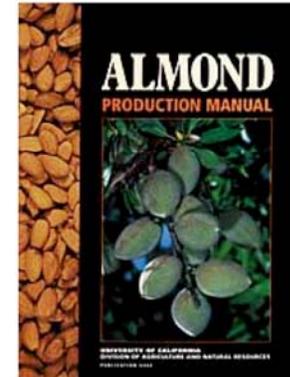
# What do we know and how do we manage?

## Leaf Sampling and Critical Value Analysis



**Table 26.2** Critical nutrient levels (dry-weight basis) in almond leaves sampled in July.

Nitrogen (N)		
Deficient below		2.0%
Adequate		2.2–2.5%
Phosphorus (P)		
Adequate		0.1–0.3%
Potassium (K)		
Deficient below		1.0%
Adequate over		1.4%
Calcium (Ca)		
Adequate over		2.0%
Magnesium (Mg)		
Adequate over		0.25%
Sodium (Na)		
Excessive over		0.25%
Chlorine (Cl)		
Excessive over		0.3%
Boron (B)*		
Deficient below		30 ppm
Adequate		30–65 ppm
Excessive over		300 ppm
Copper (Cu)		
Adequate over		4 ppm
Manganese (Mn)		
Adequate over		20 ppm
Zinc (Zn)		
Deficient below		15 ppm



\*Critical values for boron deficiency and toxicity are currently being revised. Hull boron >300 ppm is excessive. Leaf sampling is not effective to determine excess boron.

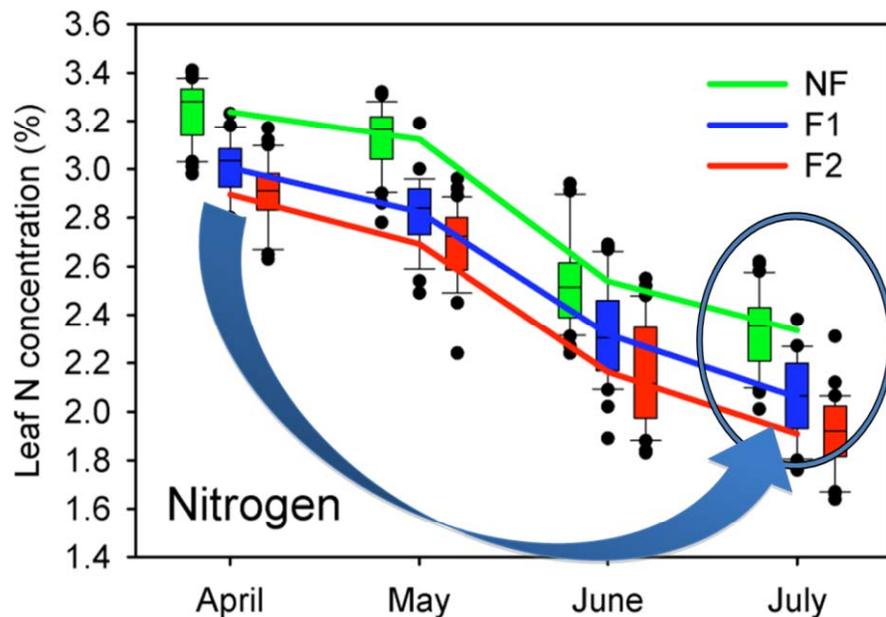
# **Three Problems exist with the summer leaf sampling practices**

- **No guidance on how to take sample to properly represent field**
- **Timing of the sampling is too late to make in season adjustments**
- **Variability of the orchard was not included in the interpretation of the leaf nutrient values**

# Improved Leaf Sampling and Interpretation

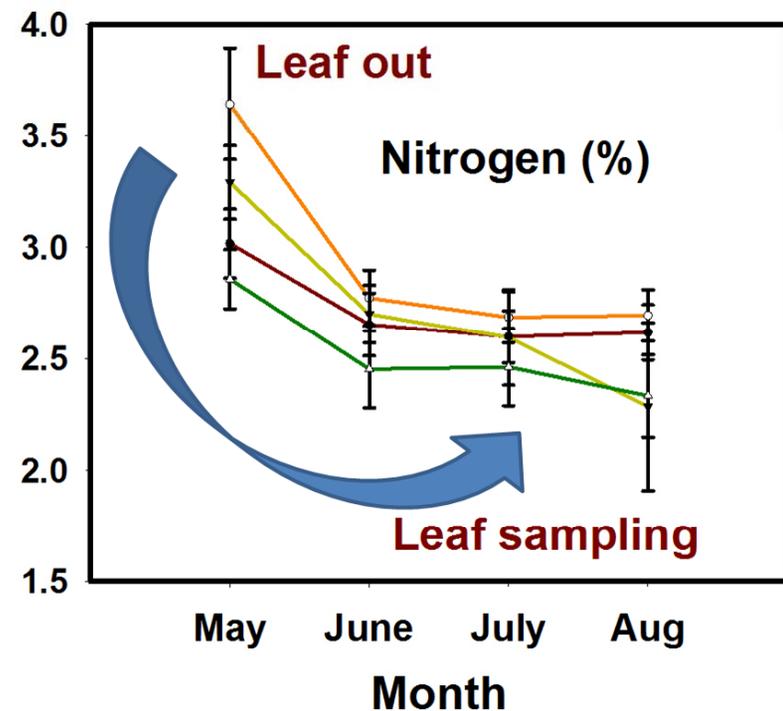
- Develop methods to sample in Spring and relate that number to Summer critical value.
- Improve sampling guidelines

## Almonds



Approach: Multi site, multi year, multi tissue and multi element analysis.

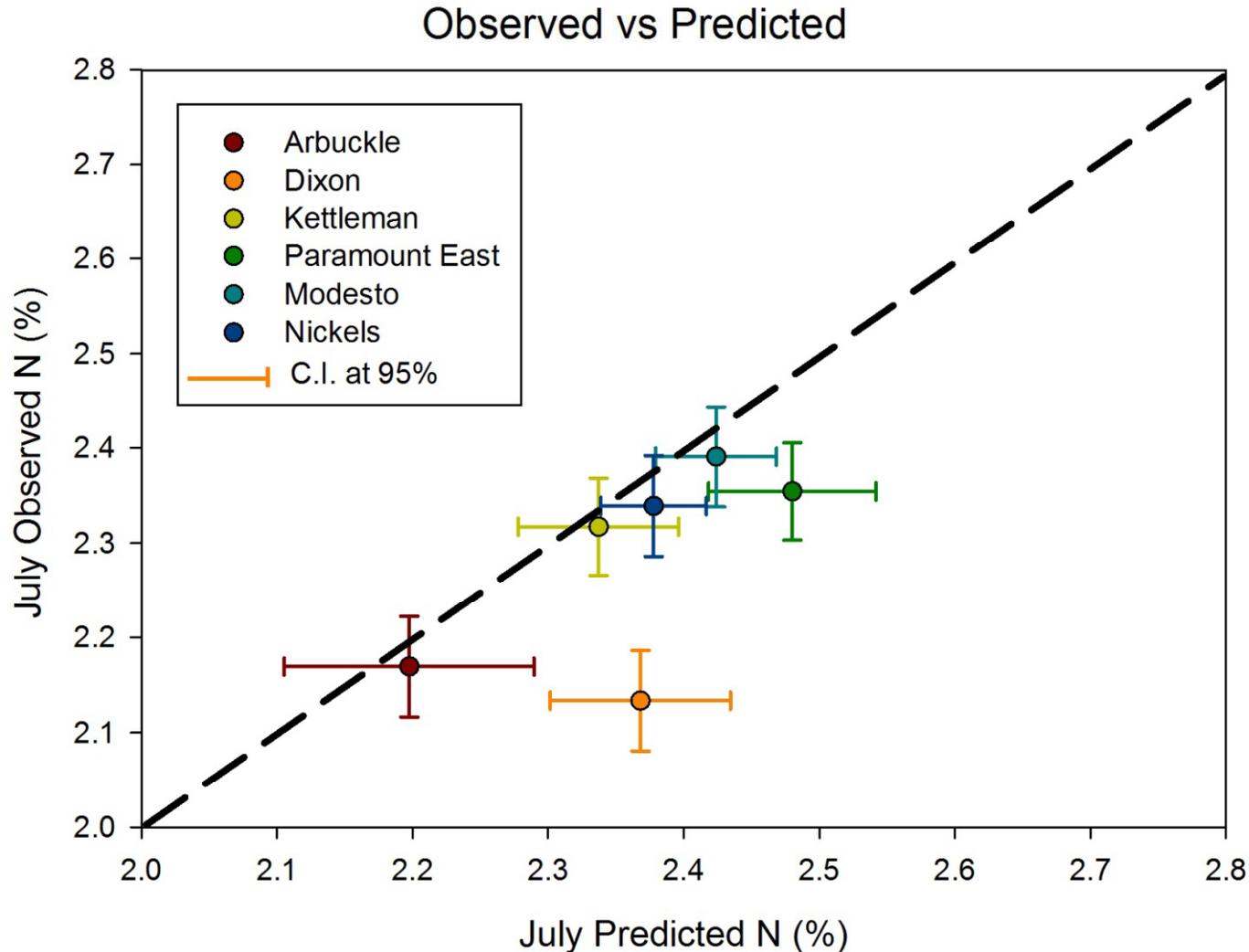
## Pistachios



# In Almonds....



# Predicting July N leaf concentration from April Leaf Samples.



This model requires the collection of non fruiting Spur leaves in April.

# Sampling Criteria

- Collect leaves from 18 to 28 trees in one bag (depending of the confidence level and on the number of acres).
- Each tree sampled at least 30 yards apart.
- In each tree collect leaves around the canopy from at least 8 well exposed spurs located between 5-7 feet from the ground.
- In April, collect samples at 43 days after full bloom (DAFB) +/- 6 days).
- **SUBMIT SAMPLES TO A LAB THAT HAS ADOPTED THE UCD-ESP GUIDELINES FOR EARLY SEASON SAMPLING OR A VALIDATED INTERNAL METHOD OR GO TO THE UCD MODEL PAGE TO CALCULATE JULY LEAF N**
- If you would like to collect samples in July, then collect samples at 143 DAFB +/- 4 days. SAME RULES!

# In Pistachios...



Site	County	Year	Summer Observed leaf N	Summer predicted leaf N (from spring samples)
Buttonwillow (B1)	Kern	2012	2.9	2.8
Buttonwillow (B2)	Kern	2012	3.0	2.8
Buttonwillow (B3)	Kern	2012	2.9	2.8
Buttonwillow (NO1)	Kern	2012	2.8	2.8
Buttonwillow (NO2)	Kern	2012	3.0	2.8
KammA				
Madera				
Madera				
Madera (NO1)	Madera	2012	2.6	2.5
Madera (NO2)	Madera	2012	2.7	2.6
Paramount (B1)	Kings	2012	2.6	2.6
Paramount (B2)	Kings	2012	2.7	2.7
Paramount (B3)	Kings	2012	2.5	2.7
Paramount (NO1)	Kings	2012	2.9	2.7
Paramount (NO2)	Kings	2012	2.7	2.7

AN EFFECTIVE MODEL HAS BEEN ALSO DEVELOPED TO PREDICT JULY TISSUE N FROM AN EARLY SEASON SAMPLE IN PISTACHIO

# Sampling Strategies for Pistachio

✿ **What leaf type**: Sub terminal exposed non-fruiting branches. Collect 10 leaves per tree at 6-7 ft height- around the tree canopy.

✿ **Leaves from** 18-20 trees for NPKMg.

✿ **At what distance**: Samples should be 25 yards apart in an orchard of average variability.

✿ **When**: Between 30-45 days after full bloom.

✿ Samples can be pooled in one bag for analysis ( SAVE MONEY).

✿ Analysis of the plant nutrients required: N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Cu. APPLY UCD-PPM MODEL

## **Non-Uniform Orchard:**

✿ Repeat this process in each orchard zone of similar performance.



[http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather\\_Services/Nitrogen\\_Prediction\\_Models\\_for\\_Almond\\_and\\_Pistachio/](http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/Nitrogen_Prediction_Models_for_Almond_and_Pistachio/) (SEE PPM MODEL)

# Efficient Nitrogen Management

## -the 4 R's-

### Apply the **Right Rate**

- Match supply with tree demand (all inputs- fertilizer, organic N, water, soil).

### Apply at the **Right Time**

- Apply coincident with tree demand and root uptake.

### Apply In the **Right Place**

- Ensure delivery to the active roots.
- Minimize movement below root zone

### Use the **Right Sampling and Monitoring Procedures**

*The 4 R's are specific to ever individual orchard and every year.*

# Conclusions: Managing Nitrogen in Almond and Pistachio

*Base your fertilization rate on realistic, orchard specific yield, account for all N inputs and adjust in response to spring nutrient and yield estimates.*

- **Make a preseason fertilizer plan based on expected yield LESS the N in irrigation and other inputs.**
  - 1000lb almond kernel removes from 68lb N, 8lb P and 80lb K.
  - Pistachio 1000 lbs CPC yield removes 28 lbs N, 24 lbs K and 3 lbs P
  - Apply 20% of seasonal demand during or after leaf out
- **Conduct (properly!) a leaf analysis following full leaf out.**
- **In May, review your leaf analysis results and your updated yield estimate, then adjust fertilization for remainder of season.**
- **Time application to match demand in as many split applications as feasible**
  - 80% N uptake occurs from full leaf out to hull split in Almond or by fruit maturity in Pistachio.
  - Apply up to 20% immediately post harvest, corrected for actual yield - but only if trees are healthy. Use foliars if N loss is possible.
- **Every field, every year, is a unique decision**

## TOOLS:



### **Almond Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Application Maximizes Productivity, Minimizes Loss**

#### **Protocol for Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Budgeting**

*Authors: Sebastian Saa Silva, Saiful Muhammad, Blake Sanden, Emilio Laca, Patrick Brown (UC Davis and UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County)*

*Please note corrected calculations on pages 6 + 7.*

#### *Background:*

Efficient and profitable nitrogen (N) application demands that N be applied at the right rate, with the right timing and in the right location, so that productivity is maximized and the potential for N loss to the environment is minimized. The goal of N management is to apply adequate but not excessive amounts of N. You cannot enhance orchard productivity by providing N in greater amounts than is demanded by the crop. With proper management, optimal productivity and minimal N loss can be achieved simultaneously. To help growers achieve the goal of efficient and profitable nitrogen application, a new method of tissue testing and yield-driven fertilization has been developed. The following approaches are based on four years of research at multiple sites and were validated in additional trials in 2012.

#### *Right Rate:*

For mature almonds (> 7 years), nut yield in the current year is the primary determinant of N demand. The amount of N that will be removed from the orchard for a given yield ranges from 50 to 75 lbs N per 1,000 lbs of kernel yield, depending on the N status of the tree. In four years of experimentation at multiple sites, the ideal N removal rate averaged 68 lbs N per 1,000 lbs of kernel yield. This removal rate corresponds to maximal yield and optimal use of N resources, and coincides with a whole-fruit N% of 1.8%. (Note: This conversion stated as kernel pounds also factors in the N removed with shells and hulls to equal the "total fruit" N removal). Higher fruit N removal rates (>68 lbs N/1,000 lbs kernel) occur when trees have received N in excess of demand. The amount of N required for vegetative growth in a yielding tree is small in contrast to that required by the fruit, and averages 20 to 40 lbs per acre per year in orchards with 70% or greater orchard light interception.

The amount of N required (from fertilizer or other amendments) is determined by crop size (yield x 68 lbs N per 1,000 lbs kernel yield) less N supplied from water and other N sources including manures, composts, nitrogen-fixing cover crops, etc. Previous N applications in excess of crop N removal can also enhance soil and tree N reserves, thereby reducing current fertilizer N demand.

Nitrogen in irrigation water is an excellent and free N 'fertilizer' and should be included in your total annual N budget. The supply of N (lbs/acre) from water is calculated by multiplying nitrate concentration in water (ppm) x acre feet irrigation applied x 0.61. If the N concentration in irrigation water is reported as Nitrate-N, then the

University of California

**UCDAVIS**  
FRUIT & NUT  
RESEARCH & INFORMATION

FIND AN EXPERT

FRUIT &amp; NUT CENTER UPDATES



HOME

ANNUAL EXTENSION CLASS

FRUIT &amp; NUT INFORMATION

WEATHER-RELATED MODELS

■ Chilling Accumulation Models

■ Rest-breaking in Sweet Cherry

■ Prune Chilling Prediction

■ Harvest Prediction: Peaches,  
Plums, Nectarines

■ Pistachio Bloom Cast

■ Almond Hull-Split Prediction

■ About CIMIS Weather Stations

■ Nitrogen Prediction Models for  
Almond and Pistachio

ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

FIND AN EXPERT

VIDEO GALLERY

ONLINE RESEARCH DATABASES

## Nitrogen Prediction Models for Almond and Pistachio

These models are based on research conducted through **Advanced Sensing and Management Technologies**, a 4-year, multi-state project with goals to optimize resource use in deciduous tree crops. For project details, including investigative team, methodology and support, see [project link](#).

### Nitrogen Management Tools for Almond

1) [Guidelines for Early Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Budgeting](#) (pdf)

2) Estimating Tree Demand:  
[Almond Model for Calculating Nitrogen Demand](#)

3) Interpreting Early Season Leaf Samples:

Download these spreadsheets: *N-Prediction Model for Almond* (22K) and *N-Prediction Model for Almond: large datasets* (317K) from this page: [Crop Nutrient Status & Demand in Almond](#) ([Advanced Sensing & Mgmt Technologies](#) website)

### N & K Prediction Model for Pistachio

Leaf sampling data (collect in mid-May) provides N and K value predictions for July. Download the article below for Protocol for Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Budgeting.

[Pistachio Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Application Maximizes Productivity, Minimizes Loss](#) (pdf)

Muhammad Ismail Siddiqui and Patrick Brown

[PISTACHIO PREDICTION MODEL](#). Leaf Sampling and Model Protocol and link to interactive model.

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Contact](#)[Department of Plant Sciences](#) | [UC Davis](#) | [College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#)**Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California**

© 2013 Regents of the University of California | Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Nondiscrimination Statement  
[Accessibility](#) | [Get PDF Reader](#) | [Get Flash Player](#) | [Site Information](#)

[http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather\\_Services/Nitrogen\\_Prediction\\_Models\\_for\\_Almond\\_and\\_Pistachio/](http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/Nitrogen_Prediction_Models_for_Almond_and_Pistachio/)

## ADVANCED SENSING AND MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES To Optimize Resource Use in Deciduous Tree Crops

Demand Estimation   Status Determination   Integration & Validation   Investigators   Outreach   Support   Grower Surveys

 PRINT

### Overview

#### Crop Nutrient Status & Demand in Almond: Patrick Brown

- Nutrient Status in Almond
- Update 2012: Nutrient Status in Almond: Leaf Sampling
- Update 2011: Assessment of Nutrient Status in Almond
- Fertigation Trials in Almond
- Update 2012: Fertigation Trials in Almond
- Update 2011: Fertigation Trials

#### Crop Nutrient Status & Demand in Pistachio: Patrick Brown

#### Nitrogen Modeling: Dave Smart

#### Optimization of Water & Nitrate Use: Jan Hopmans

#### Measuring Canopy Light Interception: Bruce Lampinen

#### Water Status & Demand: Ken Shackel & Blake Sanden

#### Root Biology: Nitrogen & Water Utilization: Leo Lombardini

#### N Monitoring through Spectral Analysis: David Slaughter

#### Nitrogen & Water Modeling: Ted Sammis

#### Using Models to Estimate Orchard ET: Susan Ustin

#### Soil Controls on Nitrogen & Water Uptake: Manoj Shukla

#### Remote Sensing Crop Status: Mike Whiting

## Crop Nutrient Status & Demand in Almond: Patrick Brown

### Development of Leaf Sampling Methods & Nutrient-Budget Fertilization

#### Patrick Brown, Saiful Muhammad and Sebastian Saa Silva

Growers of tree crops apply a range of different nutrient management strategies. One of the simplest forms of nutrient management bases fertilization decisions on the 'Critical Value' (CV) concept, where fertilizers are applied to ensure that leaf nutrient concentrations exceed what has been determined as the critical concentration for good yield levels. In this approach, leaf nutrient analysis only provides an indication of adequacy or deficiency, rather than specific information on appropriate fertilizer rates or timing of applications.

Nutrient management recommendations in most nut trees have been based on the Critical Value concept. Ideally, critical values are established by controlled experiments in which the relationship between yield and nutrient concentration is closely followed. The majority of critical values relating to almond, however, have been determined on the basis of visual symptoms.

### Nitrogen Prediction Models for Almond

(Excel files for download)

These models, available in *Excel* format, were developed from 4 years of research in Nonpareil almond orchards. Download the Models for more information, including leaf sampling (collect in mid-April) and N values (predicted for July).

- [N-Prediction Model for Almond \(.xlsx, 22K\)](#)
- [N-Prediction Model for Almond: large datasets \(.xlsx, 317K\)](#) up to 1000 values

For questions regarding these models, contact:

[Sebastian Saa Silva](#), Dept. of Plant Sciences, UC Davis

For a pdf file providing protocol for use of the model: early-season leaf sampling and in-season N budgeting:

[Almond Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Application Maximizes Productivity, Minimizes Loss](#)



# Download the Excel Spreadsheet for either individual or Bulk analyses

All Testing Labs have been provided this model: Some labs continue to use their own approaches: These have not been validated by UC Research.

**MODEL FOR INTERPRETATION OF EARLY SEASON TISSUE SAMPLING AND PREDICTION OF N VALUES**

Creators: Sebastian Saa, Emilio Laca, Patrick Brown  
 UC Davis  
 Version 1 UC, Davis Last Update: 11/04/2012

NOTE: This model was developed from 4 years of research conducted from 2008-2011 in mature Nonpareil almonds grown at four locations. The model was then validated at six different almond orchards in 2012. Results show an excellent fit between leaf N concentrations predicted utilizing the model and those observed by subsequent leaf sampling. Two outputs are provided:  
 1) Estimated leaf N in July  
 2) Predicted percentage of trees in July that will meet or exceed the specified critical value.

The results generated utilizing this approach represent the best available model for prediction of July leaf N values. Please note that results have not been validated under all conditions and hence must be used with care.

Please complete the following: Enter the tissue nutrient values for leaves collected in spring.

Nutrient	Units	*Value in April
N	(%)	2
P	(%)	1
K	(%)	4
S	ppm	0.5
B	ppm	55
Ca	(%)	1
Mg	(%)	
Zn	ppm	
Mn	ppm	
Fe	ppm	
Cu	ppm	

\*Note:  
 1) For greatest accuracy leaves should be collected in mid-April from non-fruiting spur leaves and all elements listed at the left should be included.  
 2) If value for any nutrient is missing please leave the cell empty.  
 3) The program will automatically correct any values that are missing or contain nutrient concentrations that are indicative of contamination.

Enter the July Critical Value (C.V.) (Default setting is = 2.2)

Units	Value
%	2.2

\*Note: The currently accepted critical value for N in July in Almond is 2.2%. This may be adjusted if you refer a lower N value to help minimize disease incidence. Selection of higher critical values is not recommended. This data is used to estimate the percentage of trees in the region from which the sample were collected that will be above the CV in July based upon the spring values entered.

**Your Estimated July Nitrogen % is:**

Predicted July N	Predicted % of Trees that will be above C.V.
2.23	60.36

University of California

**UCDAVIS**  
FRUIT & NUT  
RESEARCH & INFORMATION

FIND AN EXPERT

FRUIT &amp; NUT CENTER UPDATES



HOME

ANNUAL EXTENSION CLASS

FRUIT &amp; NUT INFORMATION

WEATHER-RELATED MODELS

■ Chilling Accumulation Models

■ Rest-breaking in Sweet Cherry

■ Prune Chilling Prediction

■ Harvest Prediction: Peaches,  
Plums, Nectarines

■ Pistachio Bloom Cast

■ Almond Hull-Split

■ About CIMIS Weather Stations

■ Nitrogen Prediction Models for  
Almond and Pistachio

ORCHARD MANAGEMENT

FIND AN EXPERT

VIDEO GALLERY

ONLINE RESEARCH DATABASES

## Nitrogen Prediction Models for Almond and Pistachio

These models are based on research conducted through **Advanced Sensing and Management Technologies**, a 4-year, multi-state project with goals to optimize resource use in deciduous tree crops. For project details, including investigative team, methodology and support, see [project link](#).

### Nitrogen Management Tools for Almond

1) [Guidelines for Early Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Budgeting](#) (pdf)

2) Estimating Tree Demand:  
[Almond Model for Calculating Nitrogen Demand](#)

3) Interpreting Early Season Leaf Samples:

Download these spreadsheets: *N-Prediction Model for Almond* (22K) and *N-Prediction Model for Almond: large datasets* (317K) from this page: [Crop Nutrient Status & Demand in Almond](#) ([Advanced Sensing & Mgmt Technologies](#) website)

### N & K Prediction Model for Pistachio

Leaf sampling data (collect in mid-May) provides N and K value predictions for July. Download the article below for Protocol for Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Budgeting.

[Pistachio Early-Season Sampling and In-Season Nitrogen Application Maximizes Productivity, Minimizes Loss](#) (pdf)

*Muhammad Ismail Siddiqui and Patrick Brown*

[PISTACHIO PREDICTION MODEL](#). Leaf Sampling and Model Protocol and link to interactive model.

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Contact](#)[Department of Plant Sciences](#) | [UC Davis](#) | [College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences](#)**Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California**

© 2013 Regents of the University of California | [Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#) | [Nondiscrimination Statement](#)  
[Accessibility](#) | [Get PDF Reader](#) | [Get Flash Player](#) | [Site Information](#)

[http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather\\_Services/Nitrogen\\_Prediction\\_Models\\_for\\_Almond\\_and\\_Pistachio/](http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/Nitrogen_Prediction_Models_for_Almond_and_Pistachio/)

## Almond Nitrogen Model

Field Name:   
 Address:

### \*\*\*\*\* Yield History And Crop Load \*\*\*\*\*

Please type in your almond yields for the past 3 years below

Last year's yield:  lb/acre      Year:   
 2 years ago yield:  lb/acre      Crop load:   
 3 years ago yield:  lb/acre

lb/acre

Override "Estimate Yield" (if you want to use other yield to estimate the fertilizer requirement, please enter new yield in box about and check mark override)

### \*\*\* Fertilizer Application \*\*\*

Fertilizer application method:

### \*\*\*\*\* Available N from Field \*\*\*\*\*

Soil type of Orchard:   
 Acre feet of well water applied per year:  feet/acre  
 Water Nitrate -N (NO<sub>3</sub>-N) concentration\*  ppm (mg/liter)

\*if you don't know your water NO<sub>3</sub>-N level enter 0

Last July leaf total N level \*\*  % of dry weight

\*\* if you don't know leaf N level enter 2.3

### \*\*\*\*\* Organic N \*\*\*\*\*

Manure: Last year:   tons/acre  
 Two year prior:   tons/acre

Compost:  Amount (tons/acre)  
 % N in compost

Legume cover crop:

### \*\*\*\*\* Potassium Application \*\*\*\*\*

Potassium fertilizer type:   
 Last July leaf total K level\*\*  % of dry weight

\*\*if you don't know leaf K level enter 2.5

Please allow pop up on browser. IE 10 users may need to enable compatibility mode.

This program provides recommendations only and is not intended to be used as the sole source of information for making N and K fertilization decisions. Local environmental conditions can have a profound effect on fertilizer demands. The University of California, and the California State University are not responsible for the accuracy of this model.

## \*\*\*\*\* Almond N K Model Result \*\*\*\*\*

West 40  
 County Rd 32

2013 projected yield: **2764 lb/ac**

### Total Fertilizer Nitrogen Required (lb/ac)

Months Fertilizer Should Be Applied

Application method	Mar-April	May-June	June-July	Total Nitrogen
<b>Fertigation via low volume irrigation</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>68</b>	226

Note: This Table provides an estimate of Fertilizer Nitrogen Demand, this is not equivalent to the quantity of actual fertilizer demand. To convert these recommendations to lbs of fertilizer required use the following formula: Lbs of N Fertilizer required = Fertilizer N demand (from Table) multiplied by ( 100/%N concentration in the fertilizer.)

The application method in red is the selected method

### Nitrogen Balance

Tree N Demand ----- 188 lb/ac  
 External N Supply and Adjustments ----- 27 lb/ac

Leaf Tissue Adjustment ----- 0 lb/ac  
 Irrigation Water ----- 7 lb/ac  
 Soil ----- 0 lb/ac  
 Manure ----- 20 lb/ac  
 Compost ----- 0 lb/ac  
 Cover crop ----- 0 lb/ac

Adjusted Orchard N Demand ----- 161 lb/ac  
 (Tree Demand Less External N Supply)

### K recommendation

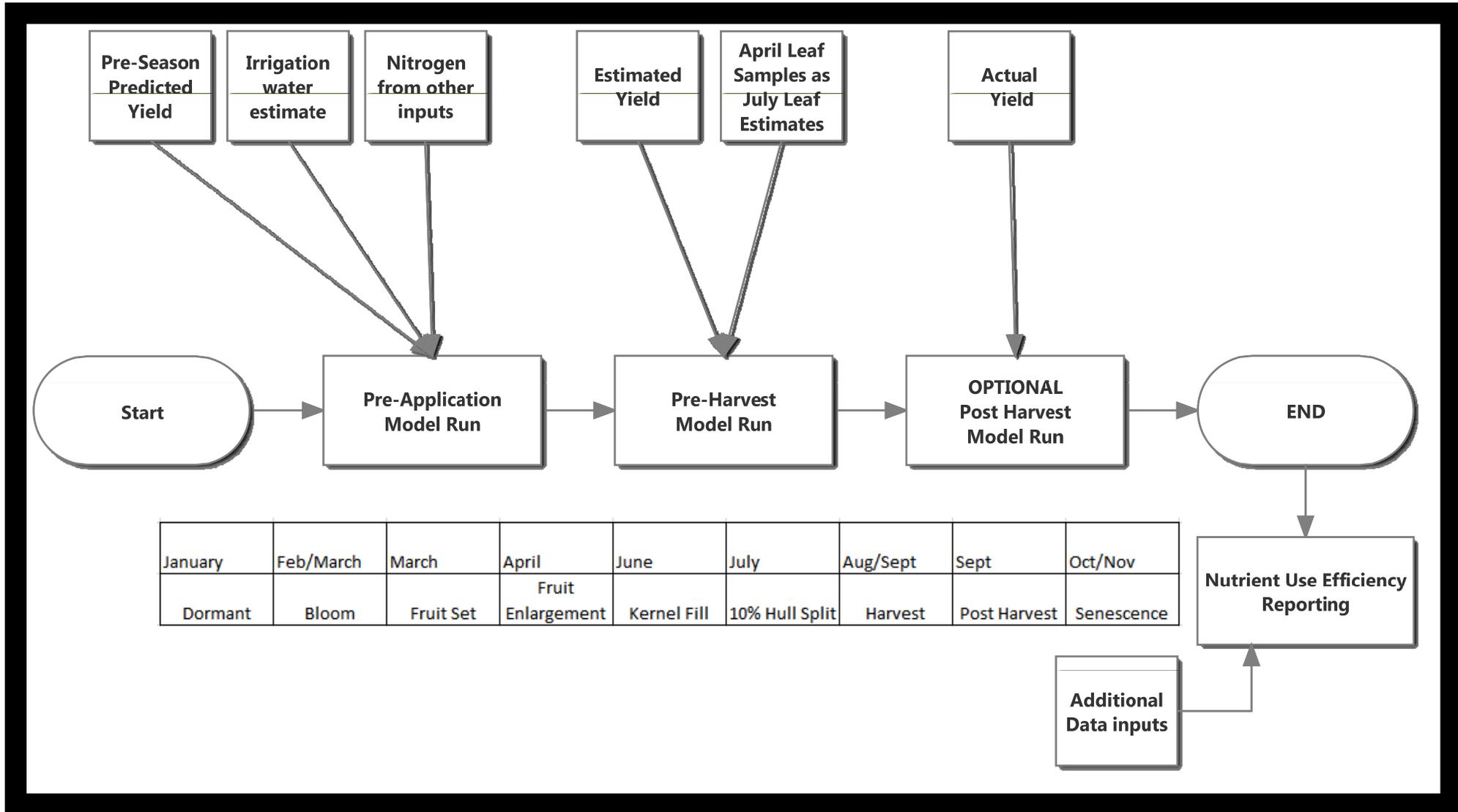
Potassium requirement is 217 lb/ac

**Potassium Chloride (Muriate) requirement is 355 lb/ac**

This program provides recommendations only and is not intended to be used as the sole source of information for making N and K fertilization decisions. Local environmental conditions can have a profound effect on fertilizer demands. The University of California, and the California State University are not responsible for the accuracy of this model.

# Integrated Management Program

## (December, 2013)

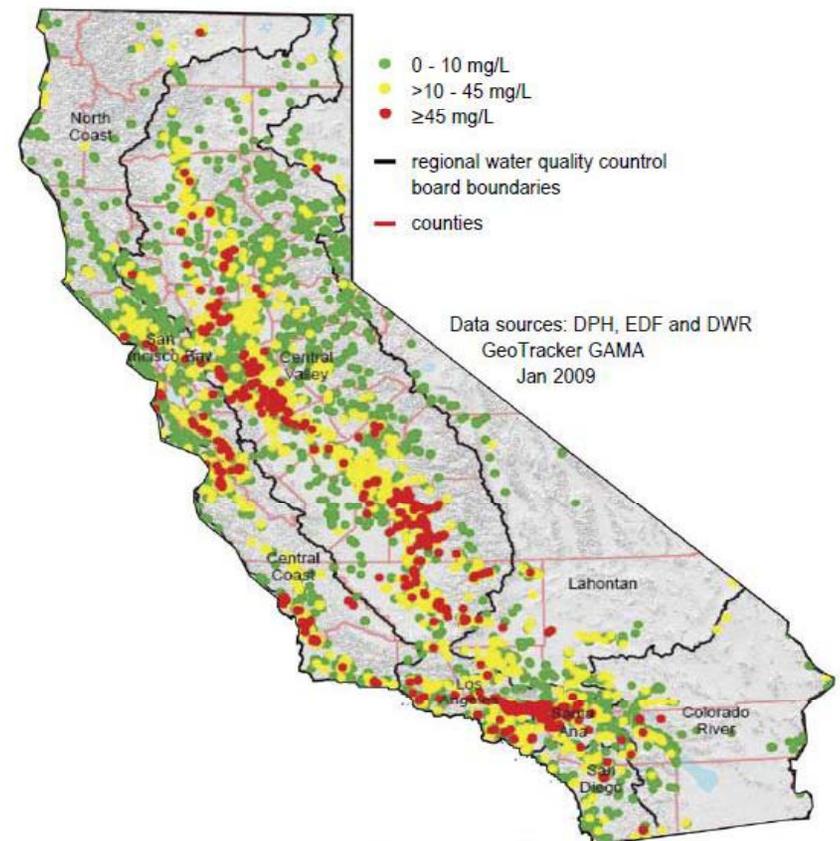


**We are currently developing digital software with SureHarvest to integrate the 4 R's and correctly monitor the use of N.**

# Improving the Efficiency of Nitrogen Use is a Win-Win

Approaches to improve N use efficiency in Almond and Pistachio:

- Match orchard specific fertilizer rate and timing with orchard specific demand.
- Improve orchard sampling and monitoring techniques
- Adjust Fertilization IN-SEASON
- TO OPTIMIZE EFFICIENCY: MANAGE ALL FIELDS INDIVIDUALLY EVERY YEAR
- Manage irrigation to minimize losses.
- Optimize the nutrition for all other nutrients
- Manage in-field variability using: Variable Rate/Placement Methods, Modified Irrigation/fertigation systems design.



(Ekdahl and others, 2009; Harter Report, 2012)



# Thank you!

- **Historical Contributions:  
Weinbaum, Rosecrance, Uriu,  
Farm Advisors.**
- **Sebastian Saa**
- **Saiful Muhammad**
- **Ismail Muhammad**
- **Andres Olivos**
- **Blake Sanden**
- **Roger Duncan**
- **John Edstrom**
- **David Doll**
- **Bruce Lampinen**
- **Ken Shackel**
- **Emilio Laca**
- **Grower Cooperators**
- **Paramount Farming**
- **Almond Board of California**
- **USDA, CDFA**