# APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING BY UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES TO MAP VARIABILITY IN ONTARIO RIESLING AND CABERNET FRANC VINEYARDS

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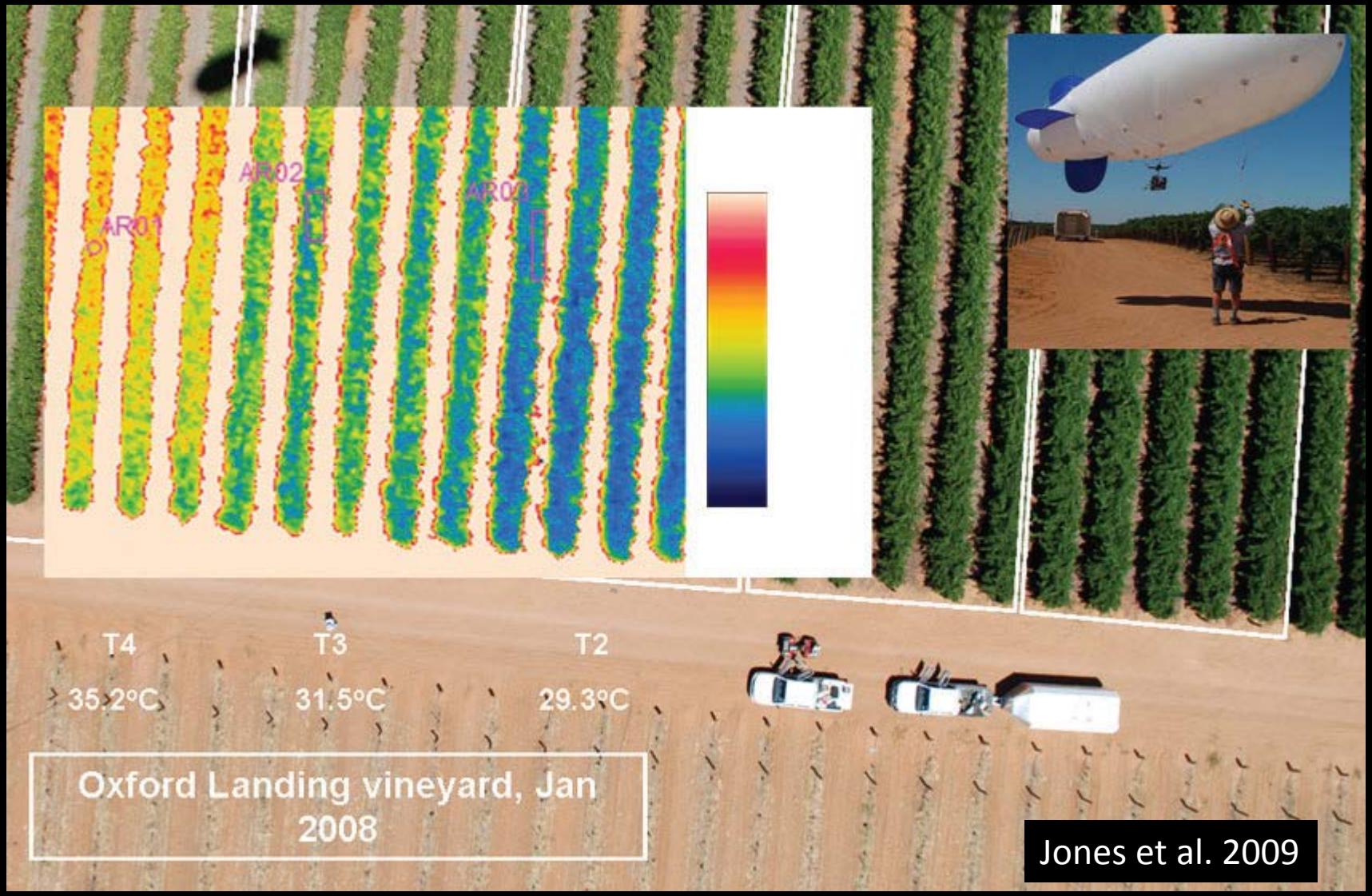
# Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs; drones)



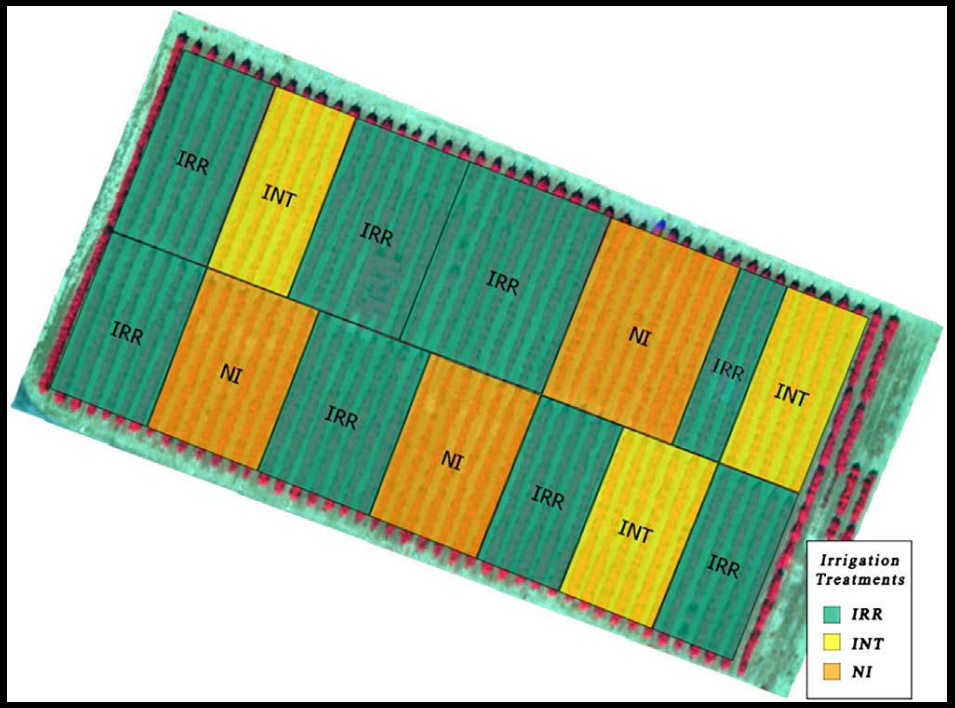

- Attempts have been made with limited success to identify unique zones by remote sensing (RS) and to associate these with vine water status, soil moisture, vine vigor, yield, and berry composition.
- The data that is collected must be converted to variables, e.g., normalized difference vegetative index (NDVI) or other vegetation indices.
- Validation of data acquired by RS is still necessary to determine whether ostensibly-unique zones are relevant from a standpoint of physiology, productivity, and berry composition. **One particular challenge involved masking of cover crop vegetation indices from all images to assess the vine canopy-specific VIs**.
- RS has been used to directly predict grape composition variables particularly color and phenols. Others have investigated remotely sensed VIs, vine water status, and grape composition.
- Overall, RS has been proven as a useful tool for monitoring vineyard vegetative growth, and for making inferences about grape composition from multispectral measurements.

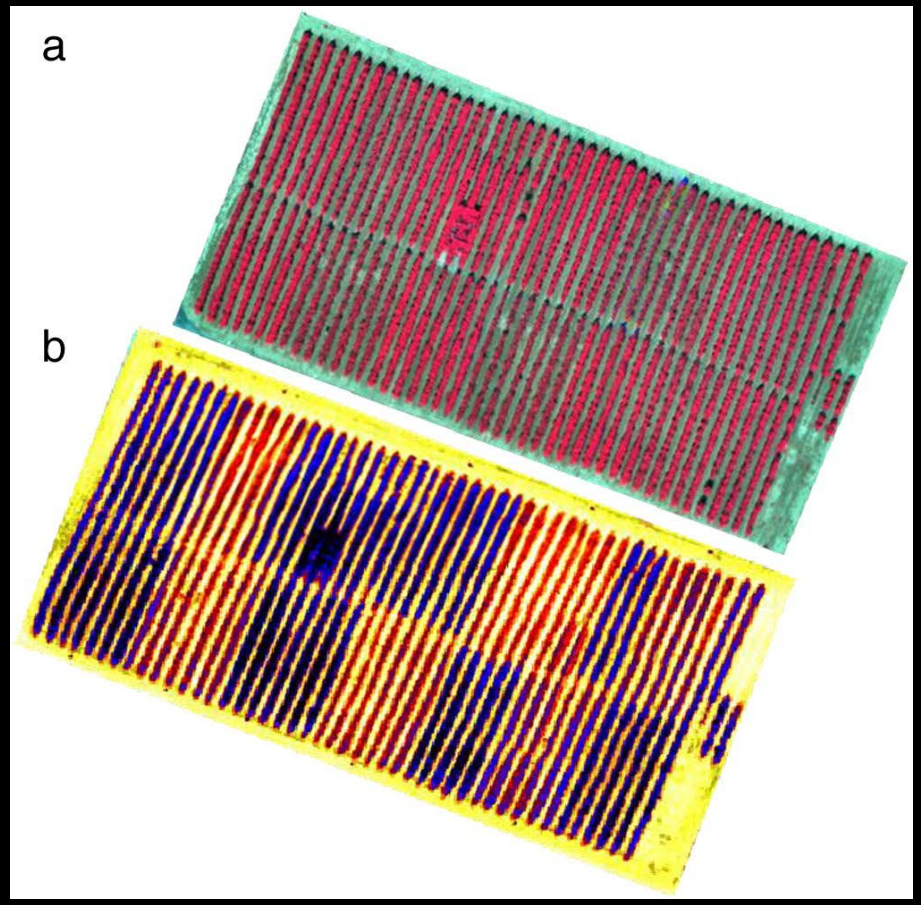
# Thermal Sensors to Detect Water Stress




Jones et al. 2009

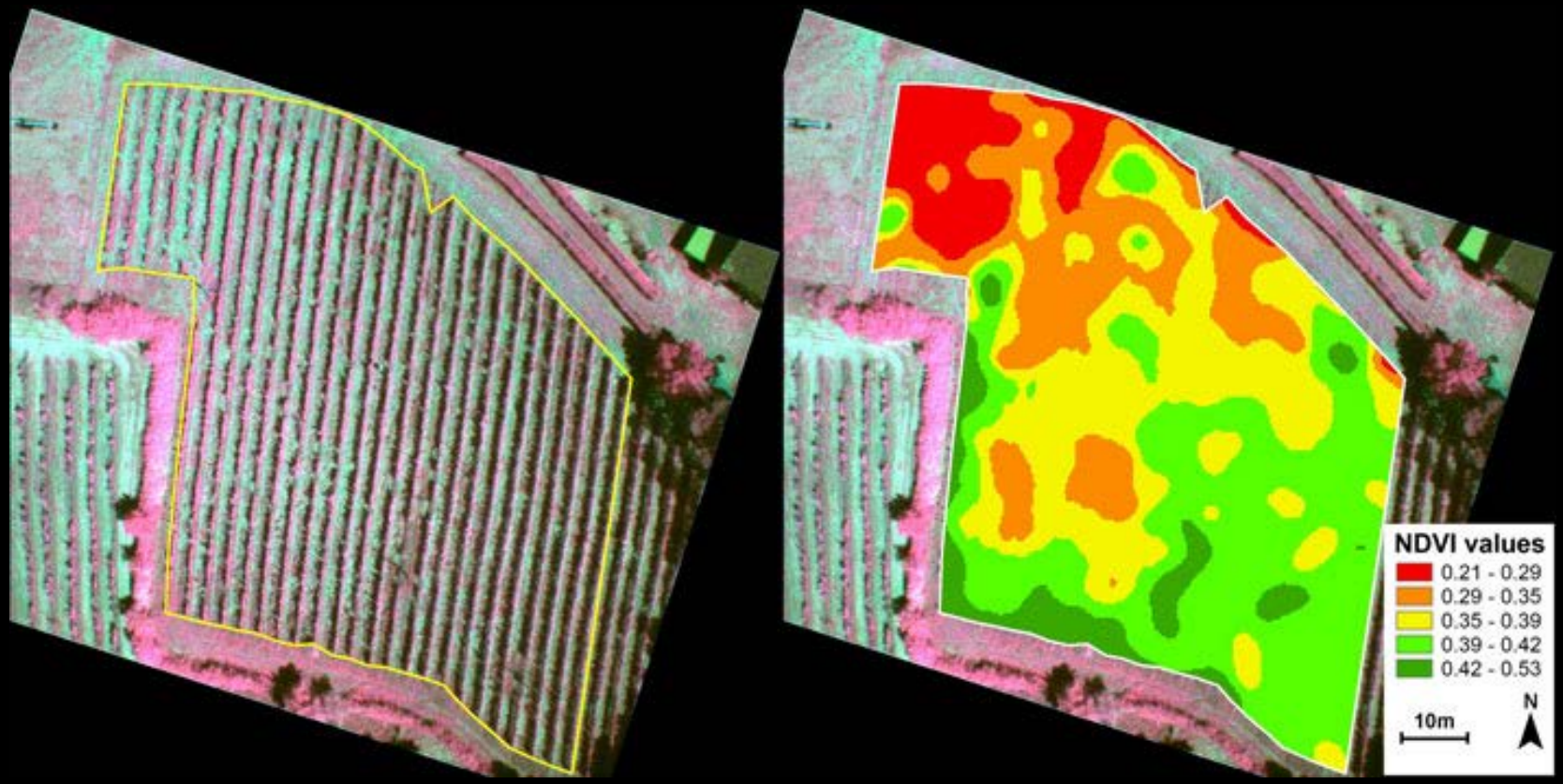
# Thermal Sensors and Reflectance to Detect Water Stress



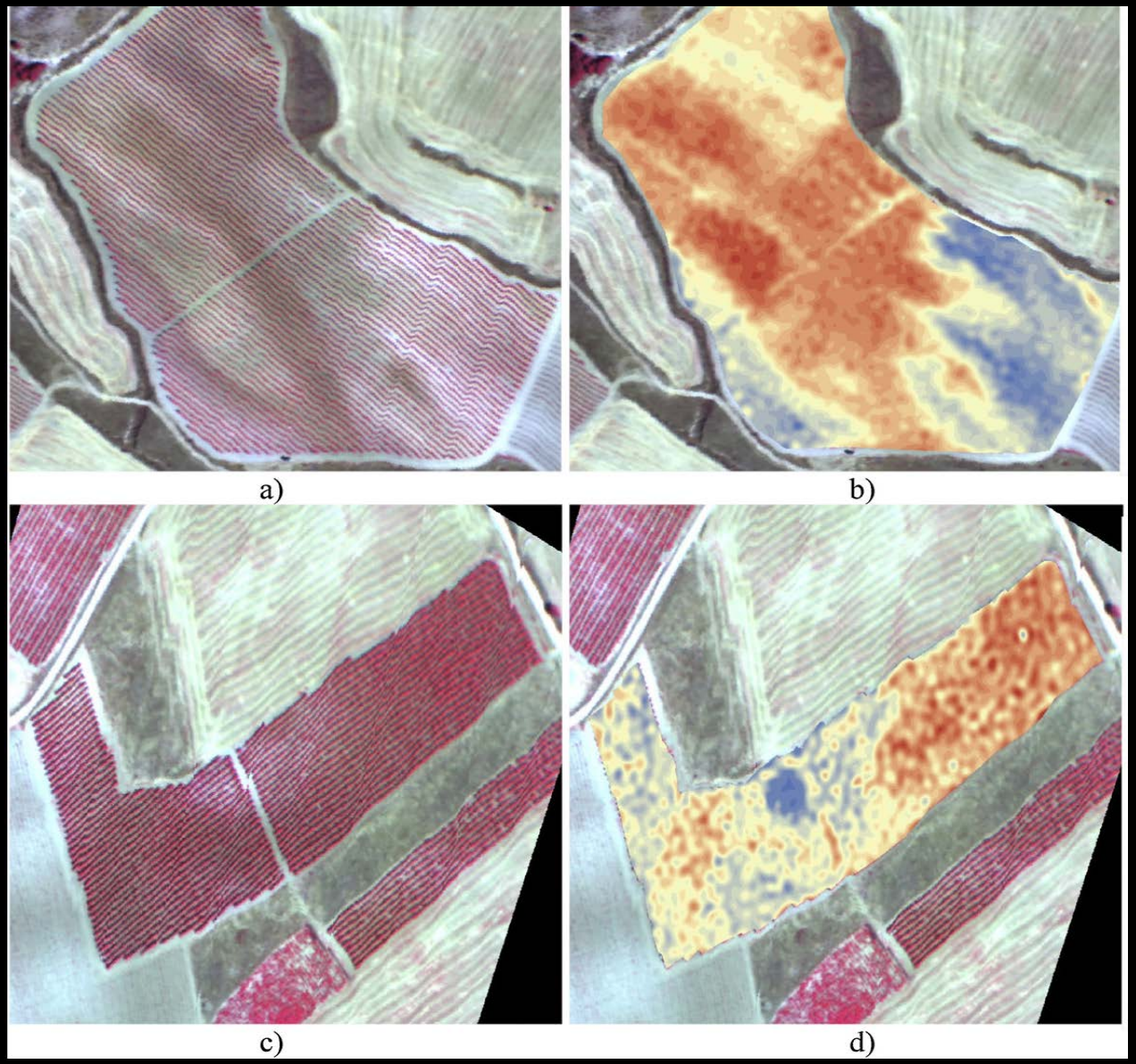

Zarco-Tejada et al. 2013a

# NDVI Values to Estimate Vigor Zones




Primicerio et al. 2012

# Estimation of Chlorophyll Content

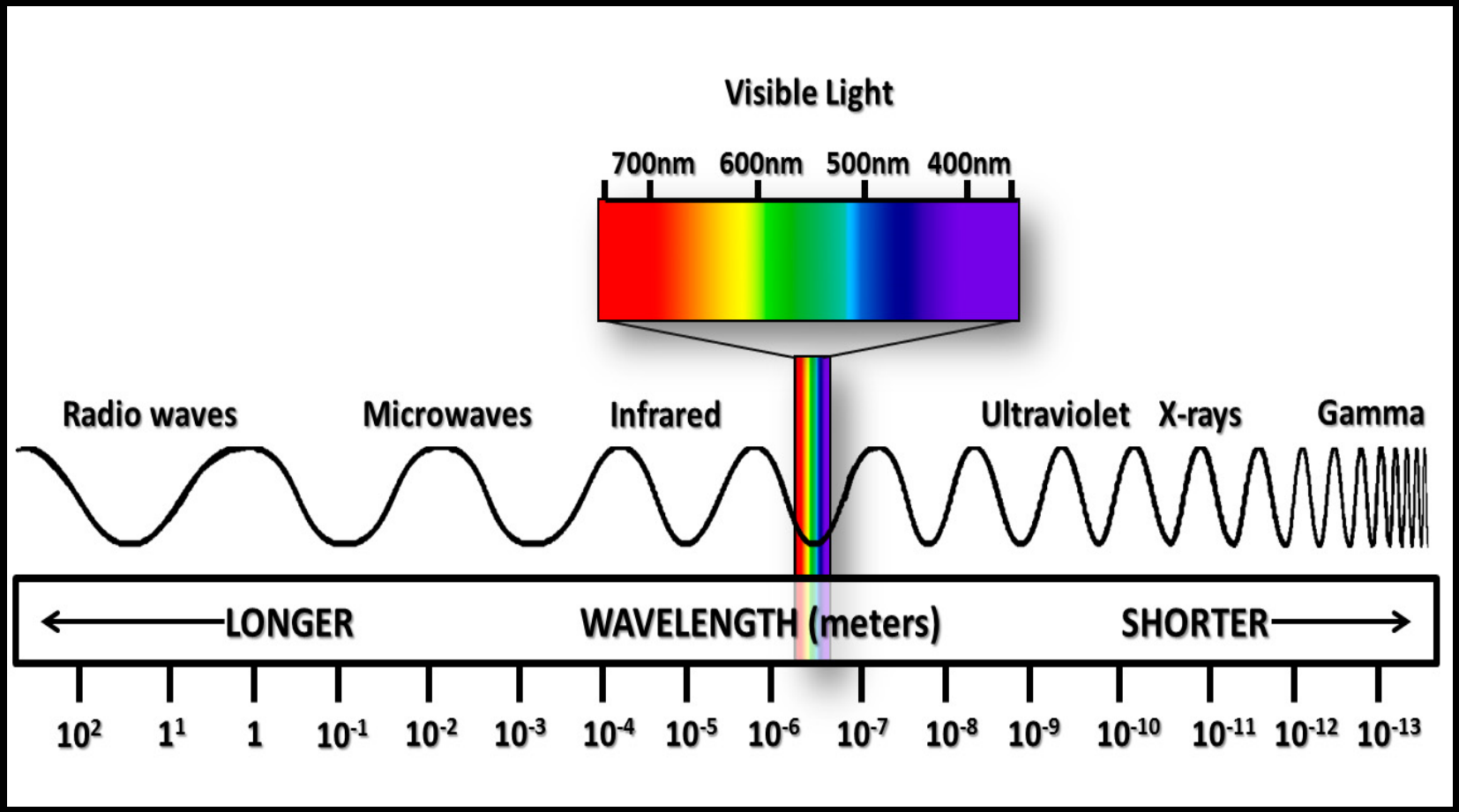



Zarco-Tejada et al. 2013b

# Objectives of Our Ongoing Studies

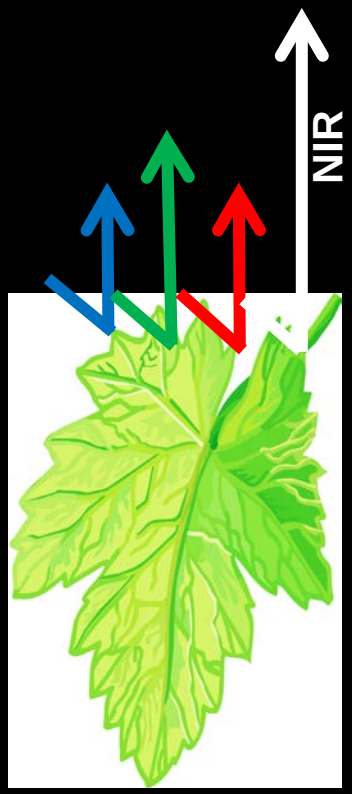
- Objectives were to assess the usefulness of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs; drones) for determining unique zones based on NDVI and thermal data, and to ascertain whether relationships might be observed between these and variables such as leaf $\psi$, soil moisture, stomatal conductance, winter hardiness ($LT_{50}$), vine size, yield components, berry composition, and grapevine leafroll virus (GVLR) status

# Electromagnetic Spectrum

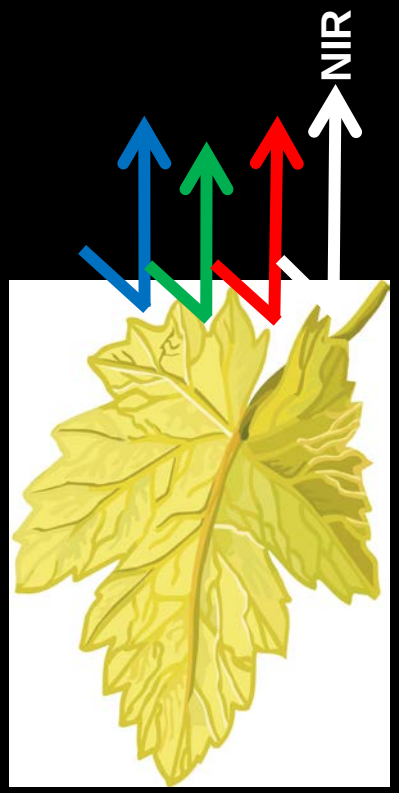



Source: www.ces.fau.edu/nasa

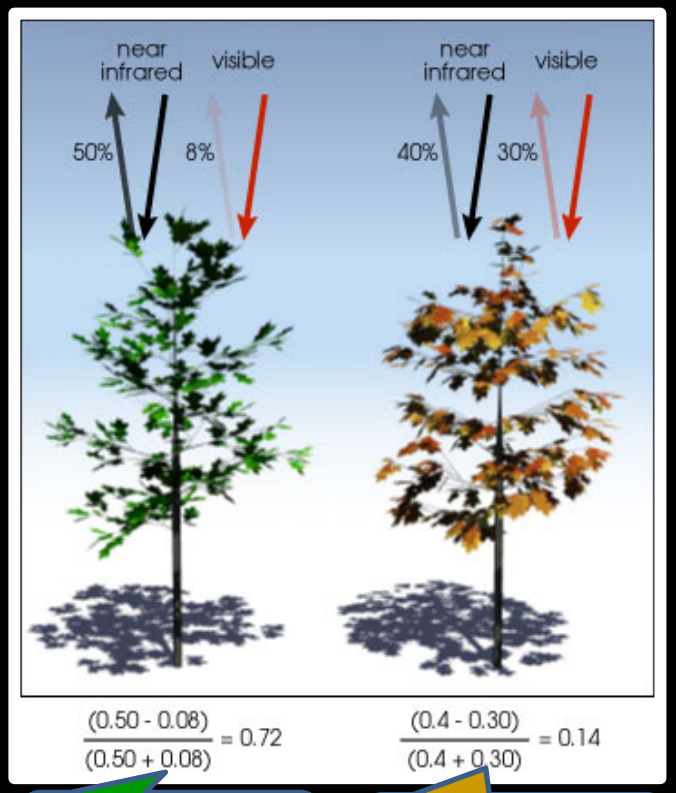
$$\text{Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)} = \frac{\text{NIR - Red}}{\text{NIR + Red}} \qquad -1 \leq \text{NDVI} \leq +1$$




Healthy leaf

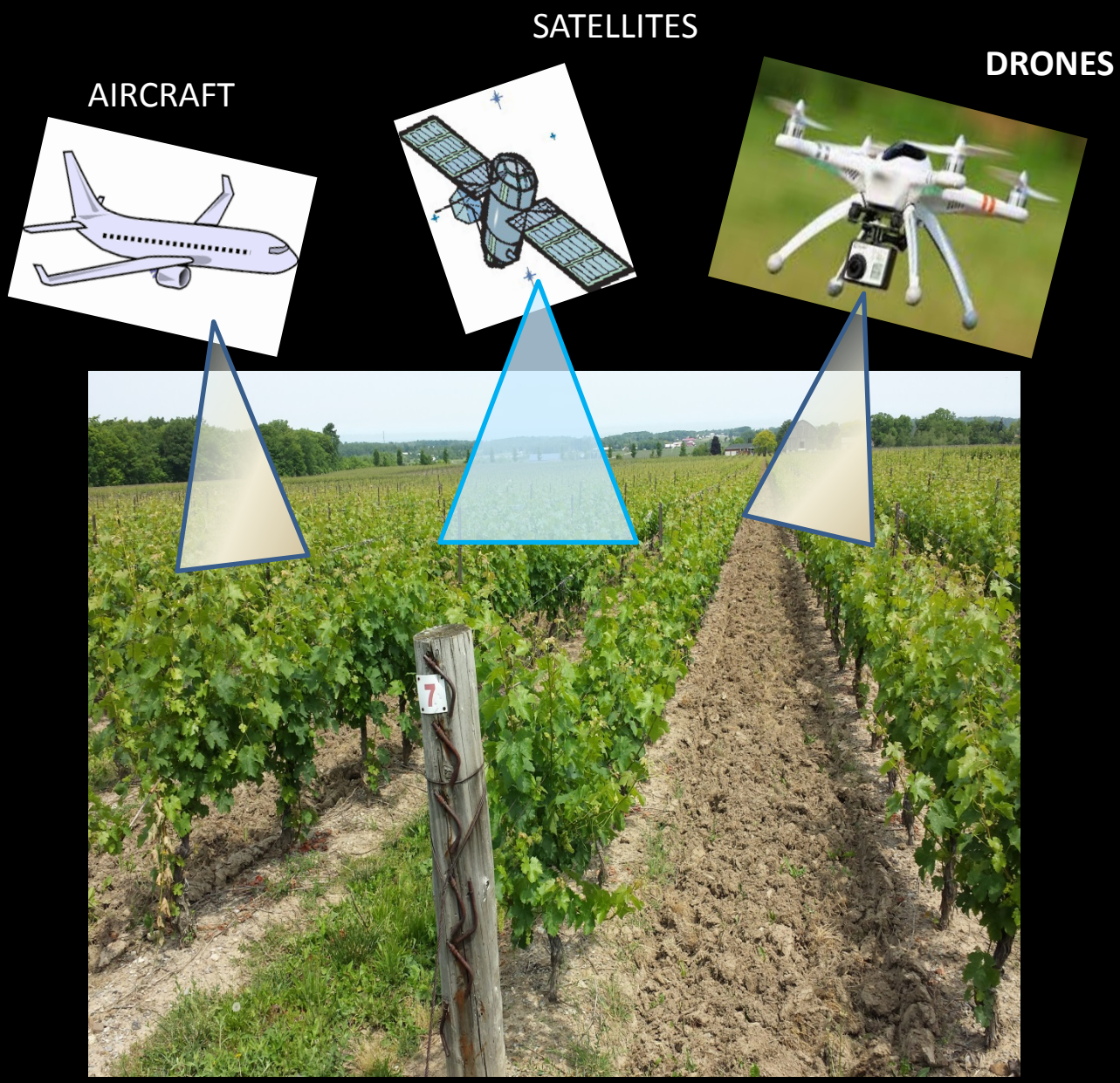



Sick / Stressed leaf



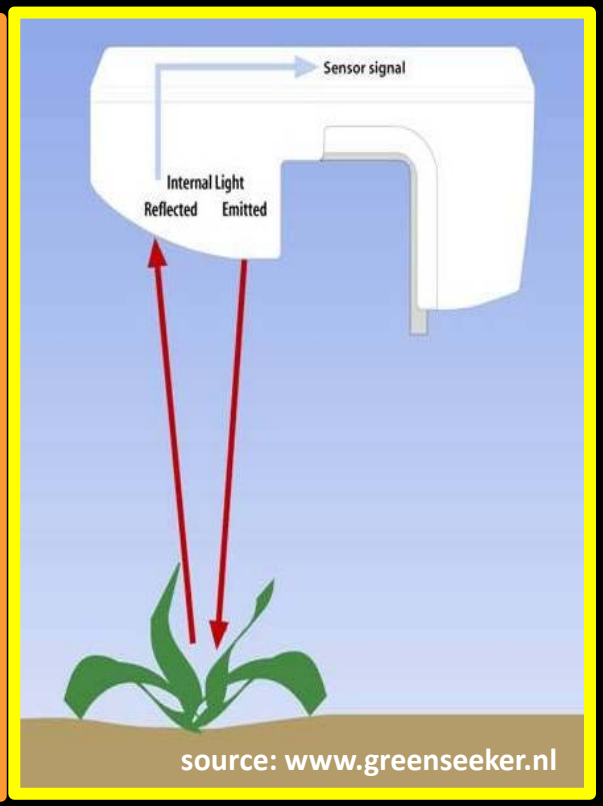

**0.72** **0.14**

Source: earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Experiments/ICE/panama

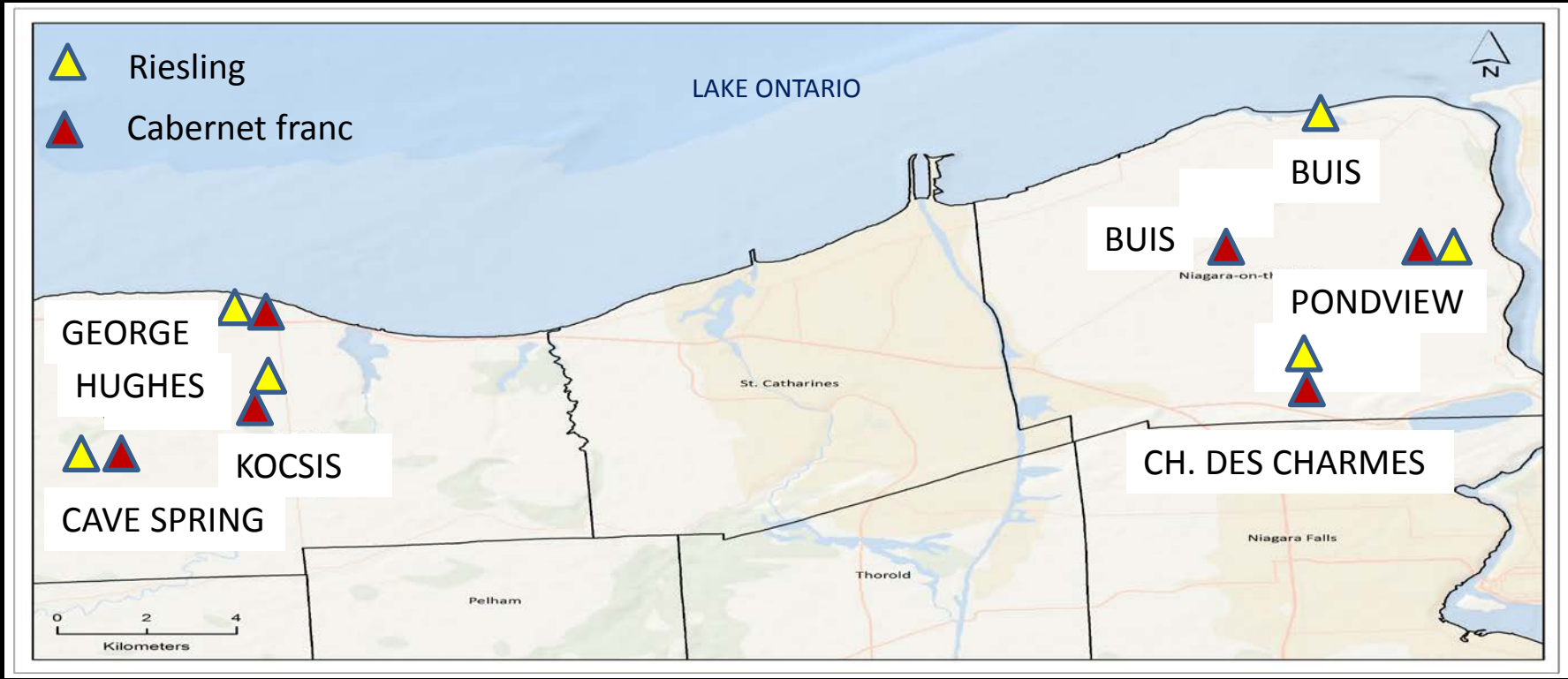

AIRCRAFT
SATELLITES
DRONES
7

# GreenSeeker®

**Variable Rate Application and Mapping Systems**

# MATERIALS & METHODS




- **Buis [Lakeshore (Riesling); Four Mile Creek (Cabernet franc)]**
- **Pondview (Four Mile Creek)**
- **Chateau des Charmes (St. Davids Bench)**
- **George (Lincoln Lakeshore)**
- **Hughes (Riesling; Lincoln Lakeshore south)**
- **Kocsis (Cabernet franc; Lincoln Lakeshore south)**
- **Cave Spring Cellars** (Beamsville Bench)

# MATERIALS & METHODS

- Six each of Cabernet franc and Riesling vineyards (1-2 ha in area) in six different Niagara sub-appellations were chosen.
- Soil types varied substantially in these sub-appellations from well-drained coarse-textured Tavistock and Vineland series, to moderately-well drained Chinguacousy, and poorly-drained Jeddo and Beverly/Toledo soils.

# MATERIALS & METHODS contd.


Vineyards GPS-delineated

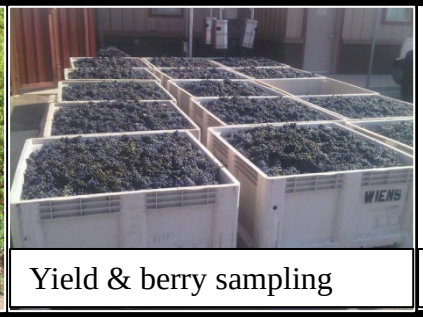
Soil moisture measured by TDR

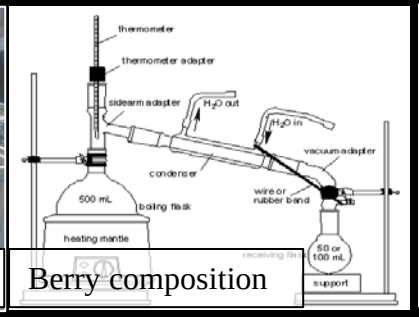
Leaf ψ by pressure bomb


$g_s$ by porometer

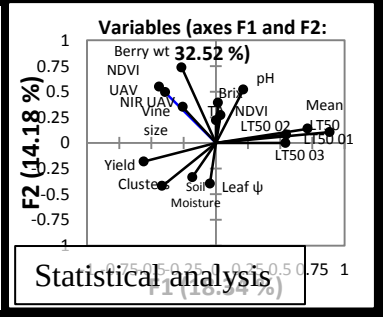

Greenseeker


Flights

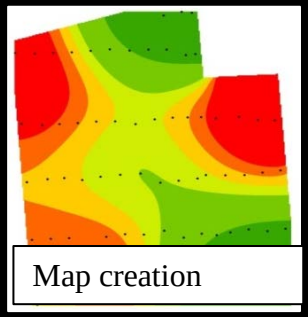

Yield & berry sampling



Berry composition



Statistical analysis


Map creation

- Vineyards were GPS-delineated to determine shape using a Trimble Handheld GPS, equipped with TerraSync software. Sentinel vines (80-100) were identified in a ≈ 8m x 8m grid within each vineyard and geolocated by GPS.
- Vineyard soil moisture (SM) was measured by time domain reflectometry (TDR).
- Vine water status was measured using midday leaf ψ by pressure bomb; leaf transpiration ($g_s$) by a hand-held porometer
- Greenseeker data were collected at fruit set, lag phase, & veraison to correspond to leaf ψ, $g_s$, & SM measurements.
- Flights took place once over each vineyard in early August (pre-veraison).
- Yield per vine and cluster number were determined. A 100-berry sample per vine was taken at harvest.
- Brix, titratable acidity, pH, free/bound terpenes (Riesling), & color/ anthocyanins/ phenols (Cabernet franc) were measured.
- Buds were assessed for winter hardiness (LT50) by differential thermal analysis in January-March.

# Statistical Analysis & Mapping

**Statistics**

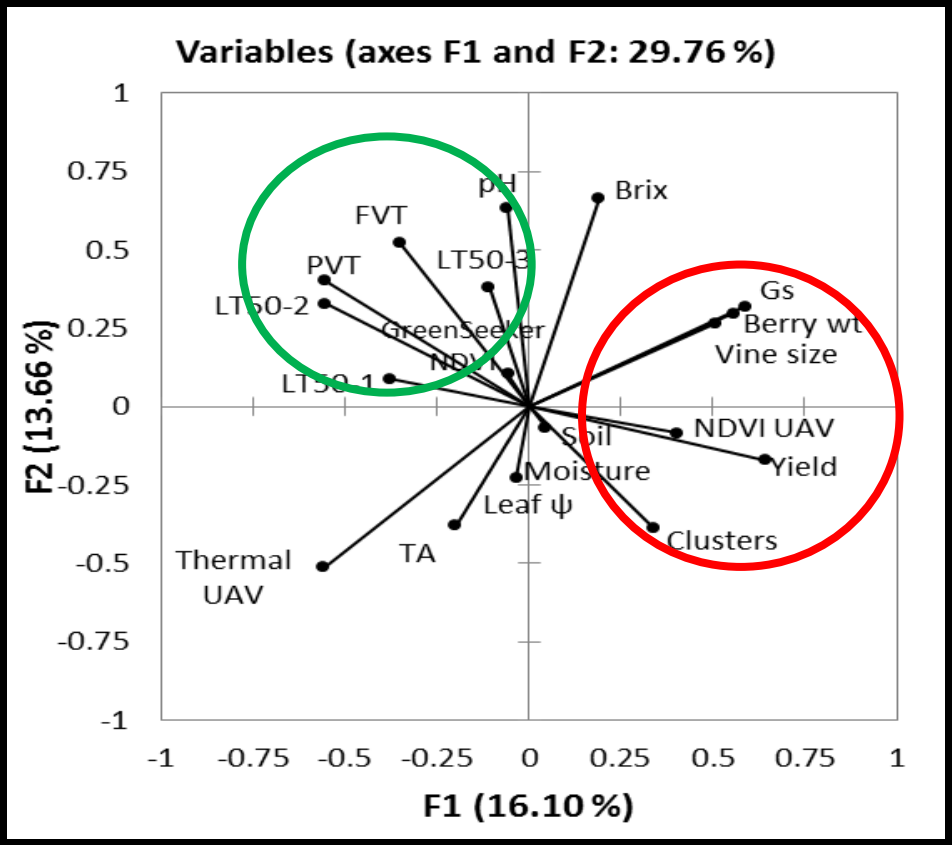
- Basic Statistics
- Linear correlation
- Regressions
- Principal Component Analysis
- Multilinear regression
- *k*-means clustering analysis

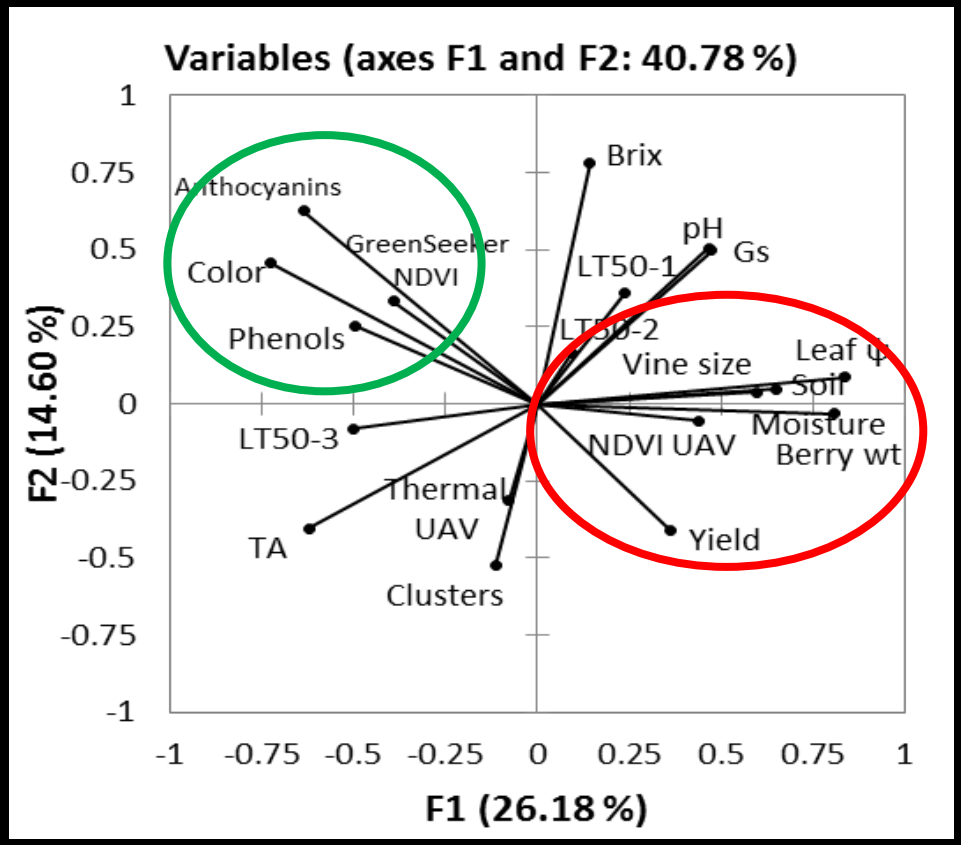
**Mapping & spatial analysis**

- Geo-location
- Inverse Distance Weighting Interpolation (IDW)
- Moran's *i* spatial autocorrelation Index

# Results-PCA

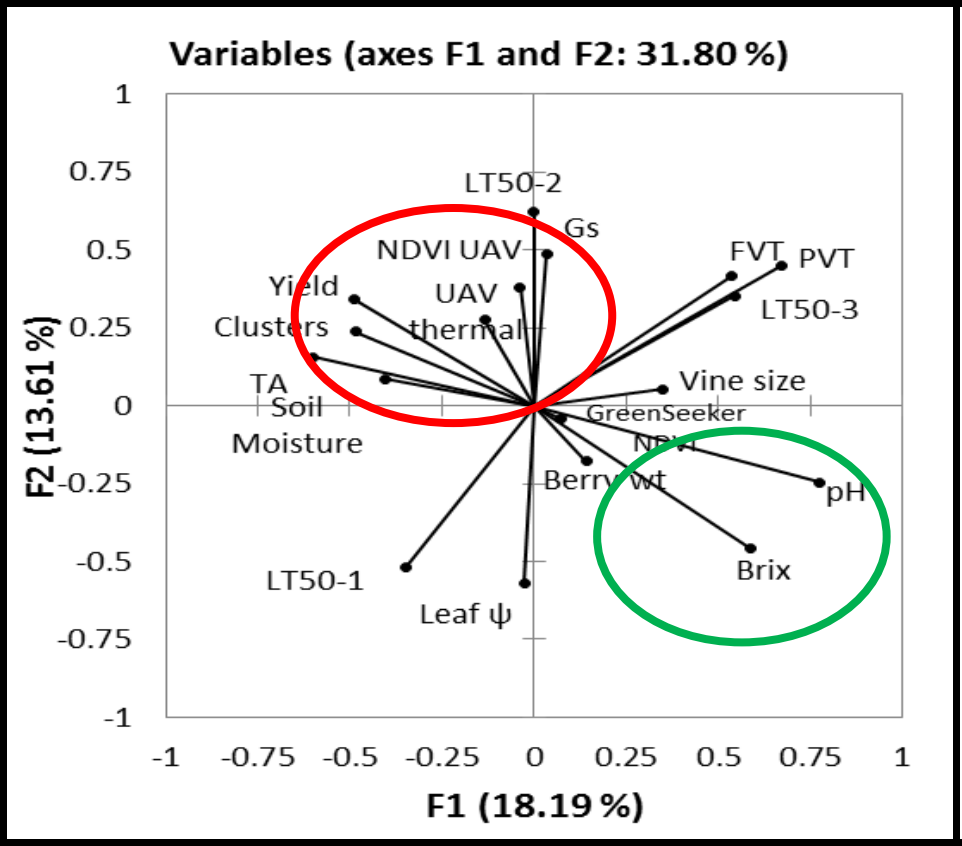
## George Riesling & Cabernet franc

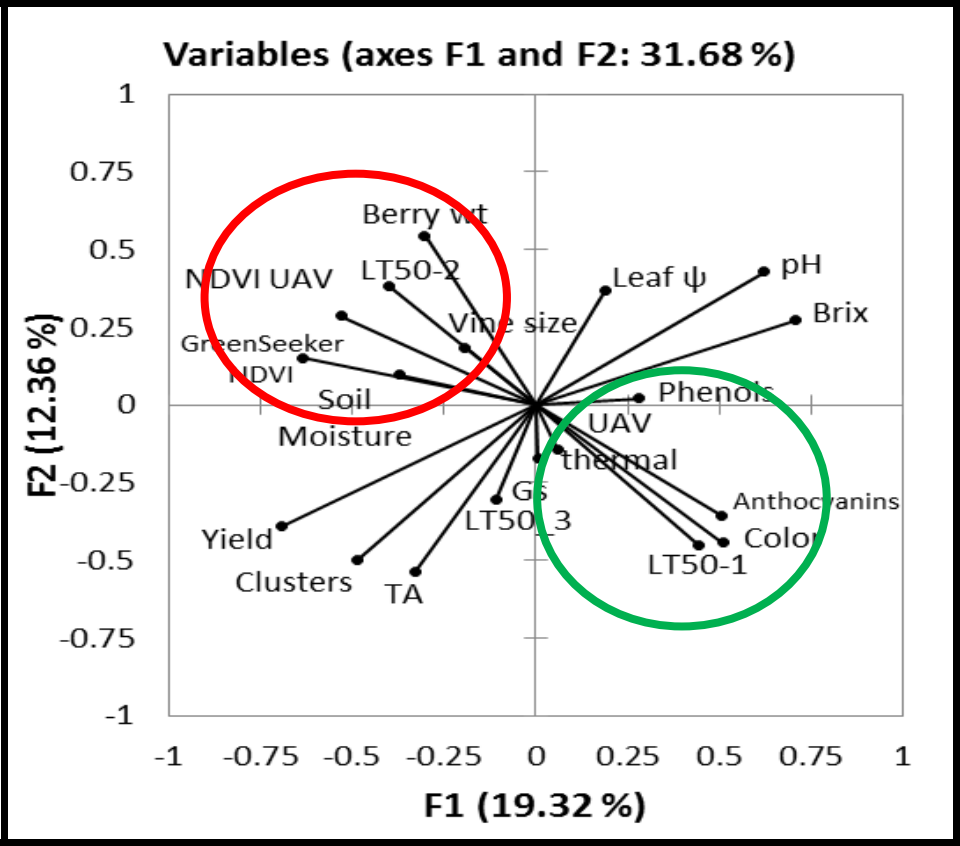


# Results-PCA

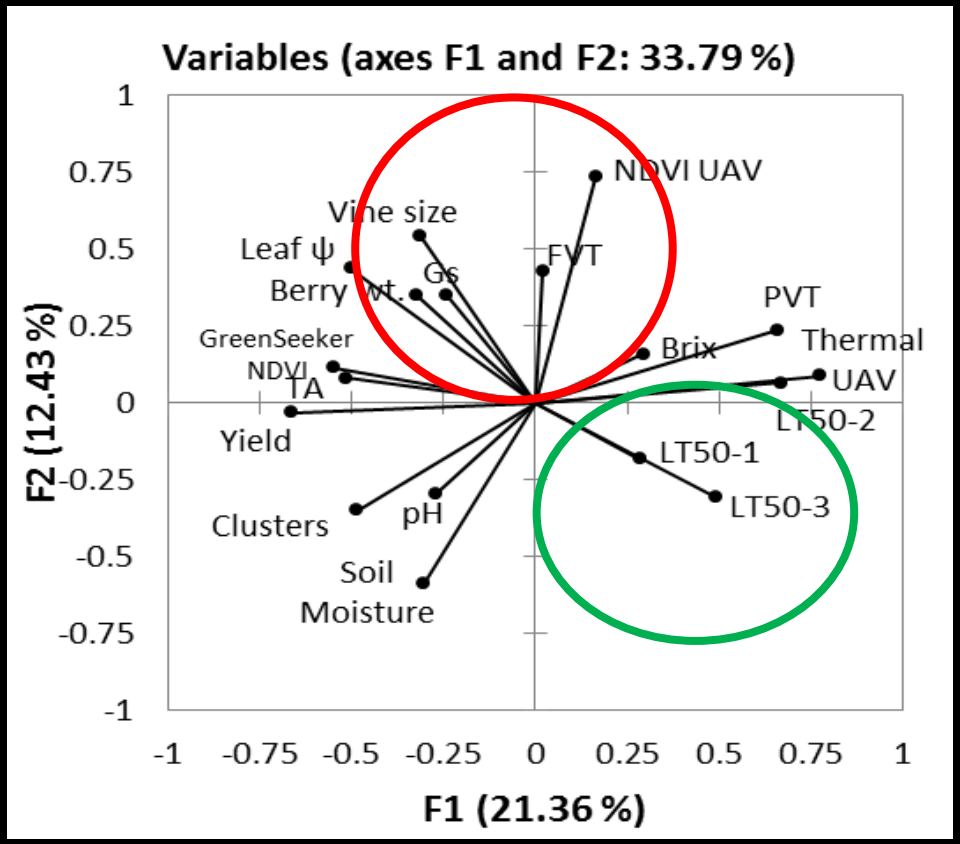
## Pondview Riesling & Cabernet franc

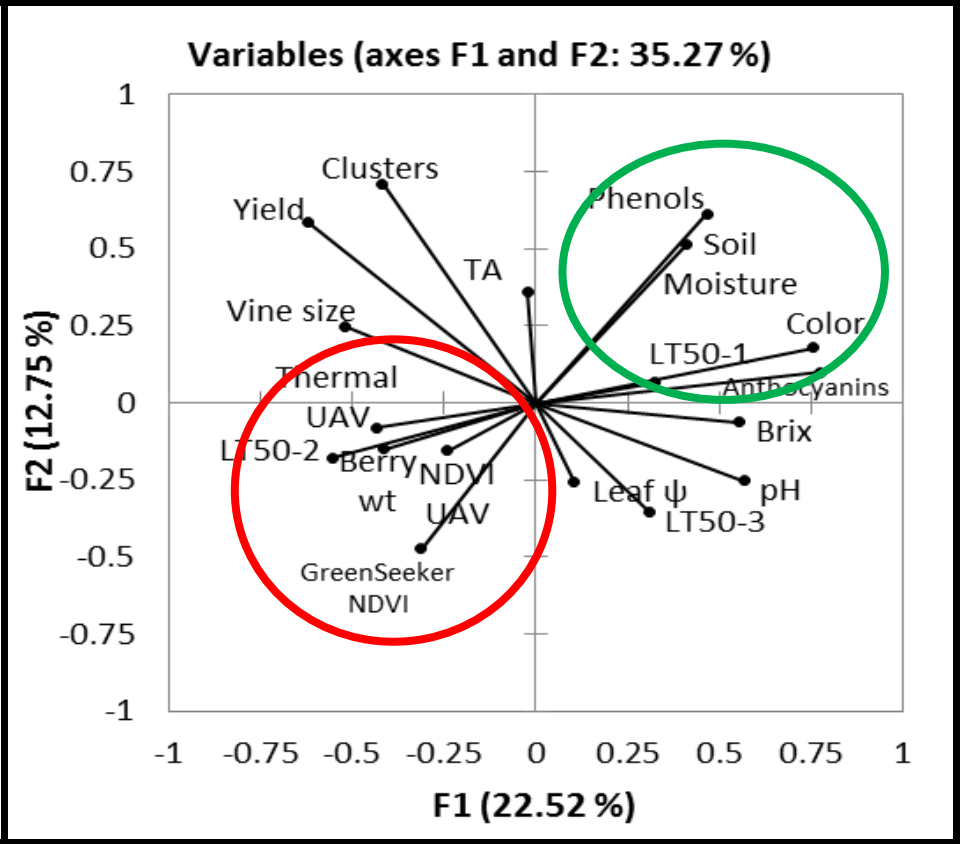


# Results-PCA

## Cave Spring Riesling & Cabernet franc



# Summary of PCA Relationships with UAV Data

| DIRECT CORRELATIONS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Variable** | **Riesling** | **Cabernet franc** |
| Greenseeker | ●●● | ●●●●● |
| Vine size | ●●●●● | ●●●●● |
| Soil moisture | ●● | ●●● |
| Leaf ψ (e.g. higher NDVI = higher water status) | ●● | ● |
| Transpiration | ●●●● | ●● |
| Yield | ●● | ●● |
| Clusters | ●● | ● |
| Berry wt. | ●●●● | ●●● |
| TA | ● | ● |
| LT50 1,2,3 (e.g. higher NDVI = less winter hardy) | ●● | ●●● |
| **INVERSE CORRELATIONS** | | |
| Brix | ● | ● |
| pH | ●● | ● |
| FVT | ● | |
| PVT | ●● | |
| Color | | ●●● |
| Anthocyanins | | ●●● |
| Phenols | | ●●●● |
| Soil moisture | ● | ●● |
| Thermal | ● | ●● |
| LT50 1,2,3 (e.g. higher NDVI = more winter hardy) | ●●●●●●●● | ●●●● |

# PCA-COMMENTS

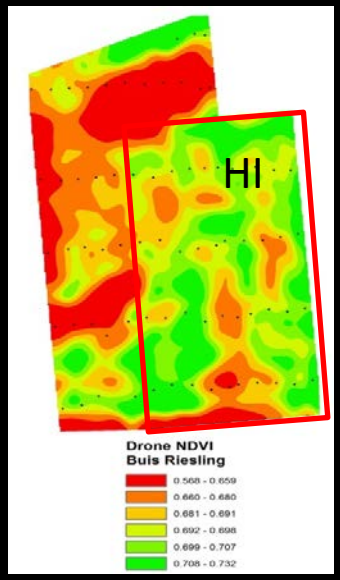
**Direct correlations**

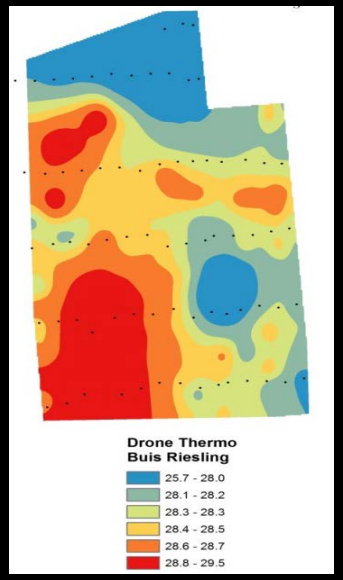
- UAV NDVI (and NIR) indices were correlated with vine size in 10/12 vineyards—5 each for Riesling and Cabernet franc.
- Other noteworthy associations between UAV NDVI and other variables included:
  - Proximally-sensed NDVI by Greenseeker (8/12)
  - Berry weight (7/10); yield (4/10) and clusters (3/10)
  - Transpiration rate (6/12); soil moisture (5/12); leaf ψ (3/12)
  - LT50 1,2,3 (i.e. less winter hardy) (5/12)
  - TA (2/10)

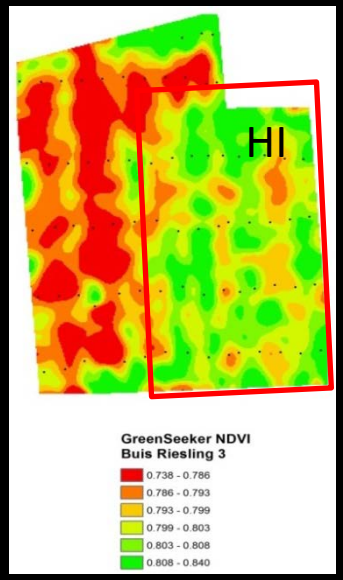
**Inverse correlations**

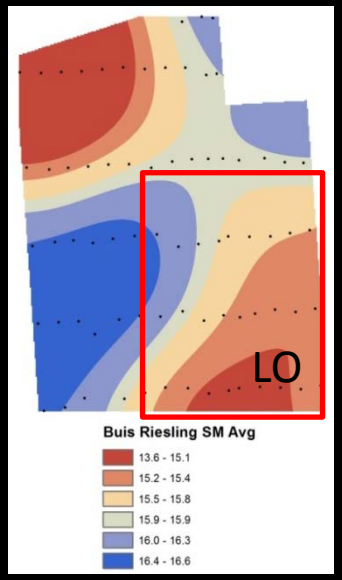
- UAV NDVI (and NIR) indices were correlated with LT50 1,2, or 3 in 12 instances—8 for Riesling and 4 for Cabernet franc (i.e. more winter hardy) .
- Other noteworthy inverse associations between UAV NDVI and other variables included:
  - FVT and/or PVT [Riesling] (3/5)
  - Brix (2/10) and pH (3/10)
  - Color (3/5), anthocyanins (3/5), and phenols (4/5) [Cabernet franc]
  - Soil moisture (3/12)
  - Thermal (3/12)

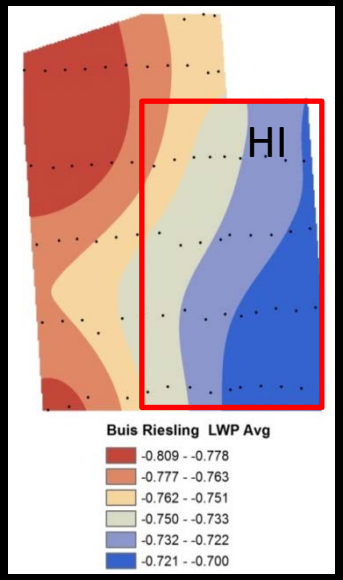
# Buis Riesling maps

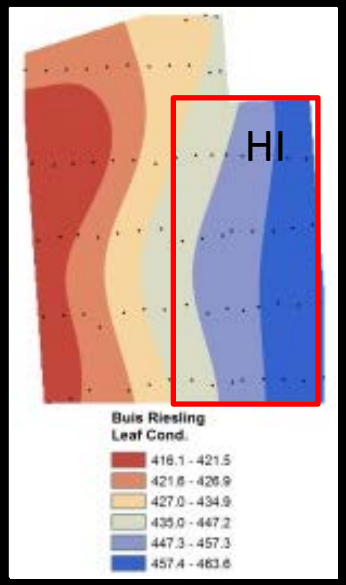


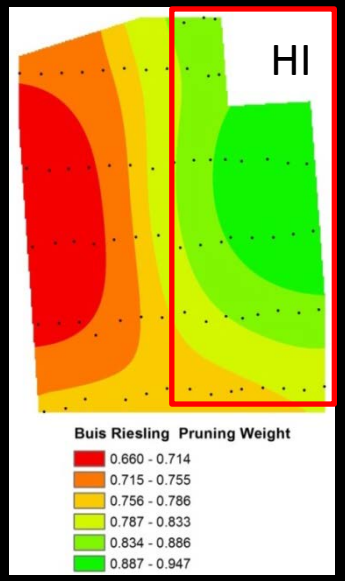



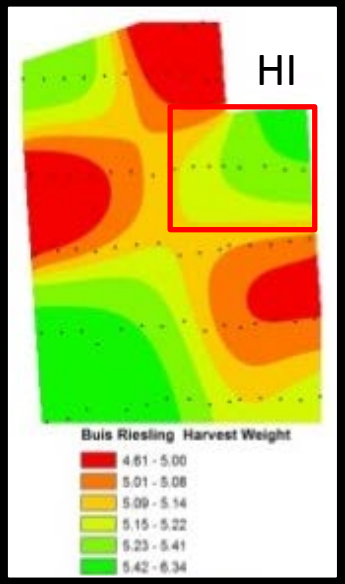



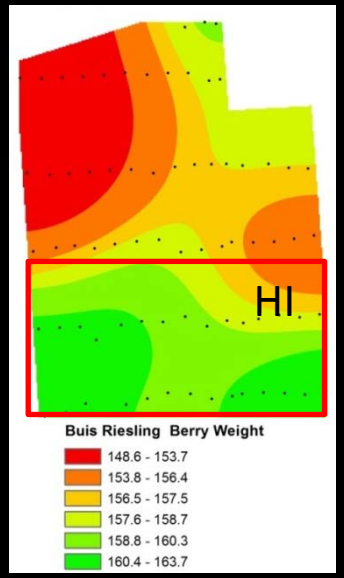



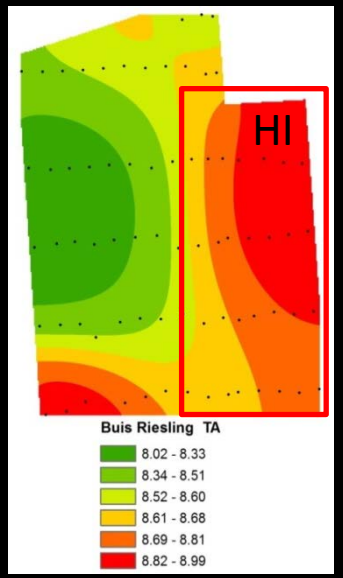



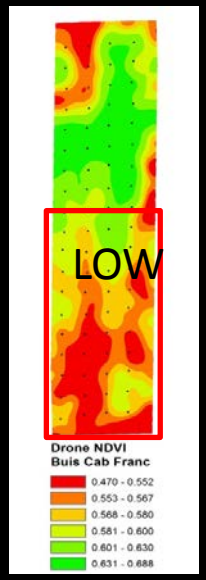



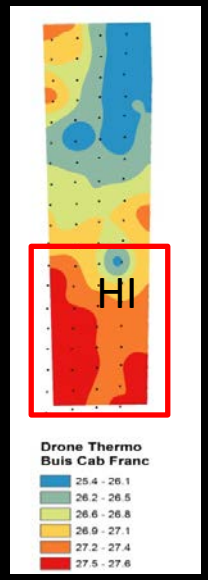



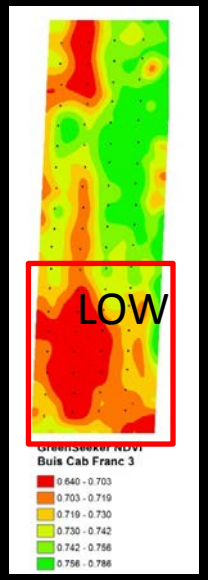



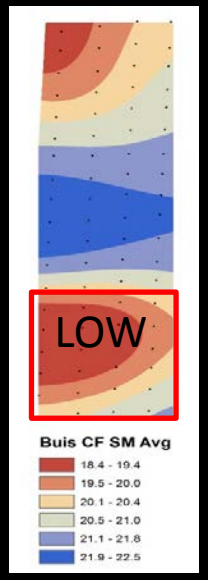



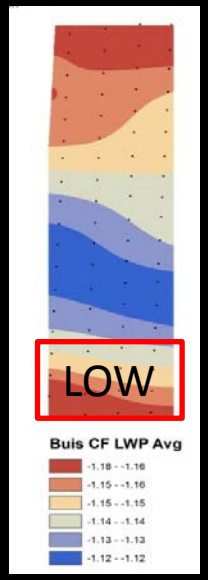
# Buis Cabernet franc maps

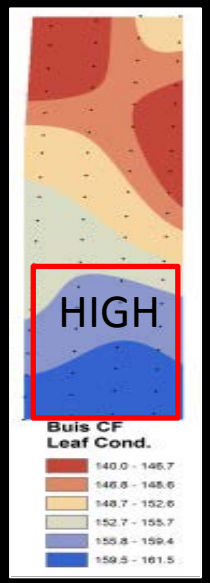


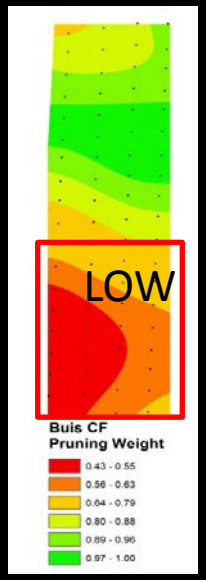



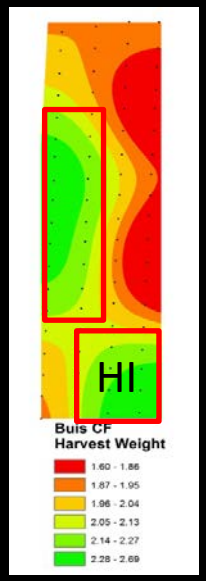



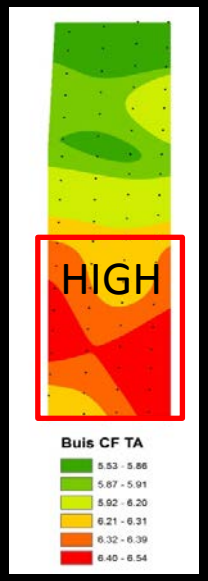



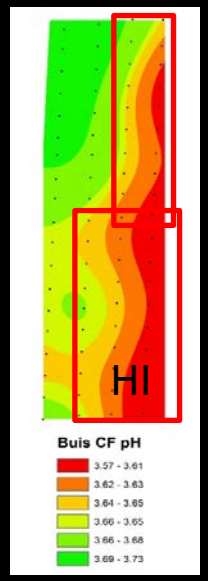



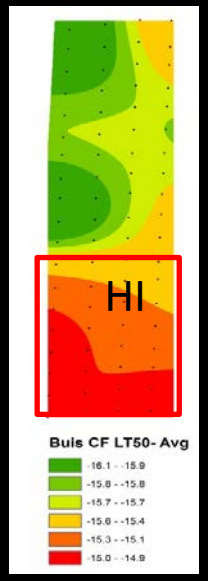





# Map comments

Riesling

- In the Buis Riesling vineyard (e.g.), high UAV NDVI zones were:
  - Low in thermal camera data and $LT_{50}$ (i.e. more winter hardy); high in NDVI by GreenSeeker NDVI, leaf ψ (high water status), soil moisture, vine size, berry weight, and TA.
- Low UAV NDVI zones on the west side of the vineyard corresponded closely with:
  - Highest regions from the thermal camera and higher $LT_{50}$ (i.e. less winter hardy); lowest regions of GreenSeeker NDVI, leaf ψ (low water status), soil moisture, vine size, berry weight, and TA.

# Map comments contd.

Cabernet franc

- Maps showed clustering in the UAV data with low NDVI and high thermal zones in the south end of the block. Low NDVI corresponded to low Greenseeker NDVI areas, low soil moisture and leaf ψ areas, low vine size and berry weight, and higher $LT_{50}$ zones (less winter hardy). These showed some spatial correlation with high TA and low Brix areas, but pH and overall yield were not strongly related spatially.

- In most other vineyards the UAV NDVI maps were comparable to GreenSeeker NDVI maps; e.g., Buis Cabernet franc, there were good spatial correlations between UAV and Greenseeker NDVI, leaf ψ, leaf transpiration, soil moisture, vine size, $LT_{50}$, TA, Brix, and pH.

Overall

- Thermal data maps occasionally were inversely correlated spatially with NDVI. Most frequent spatial correlations in Riesling with high UAV/ GreenSeeker NDVI zones were: leaf ψ, transpiration, vine size, berry weight, and TA. Noteworthy inverse spatial correlations included: NDVI vs. FVT/PVT (Riesling) and color/ anthocyanins/ phenols (Cabernet franc).

# NDVI vs. Virus Status-GVLR Virus Symptoms


Riesling virus-free


Riesling GVLR infected

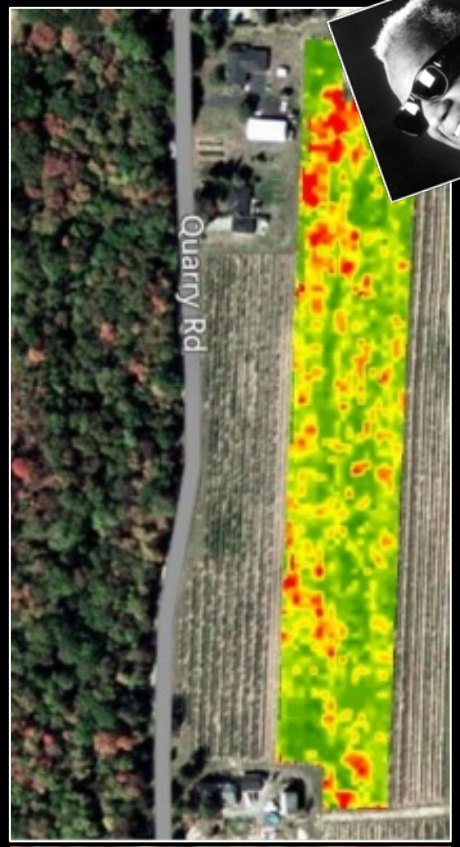

Cabernet franc virus-free


Cabernet franc GVLR infected

# NDVI vs. Virus Status-Cabernet franc

UAVs could track development of GVLR virus symptoms


31 July 2014




07 September 2014

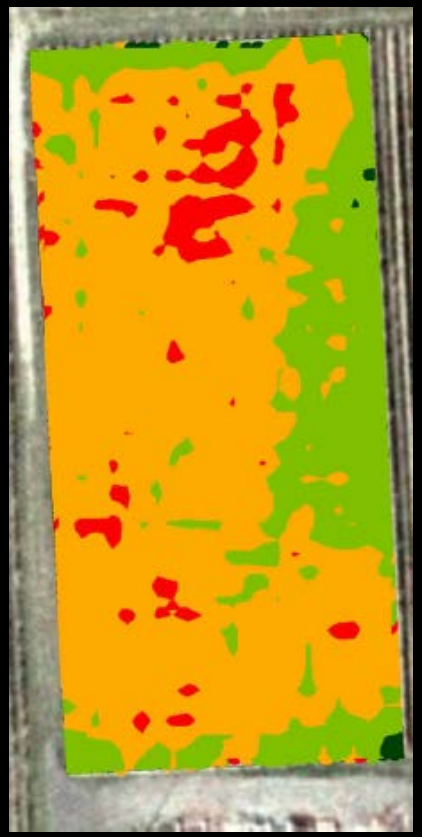

29 September 2014

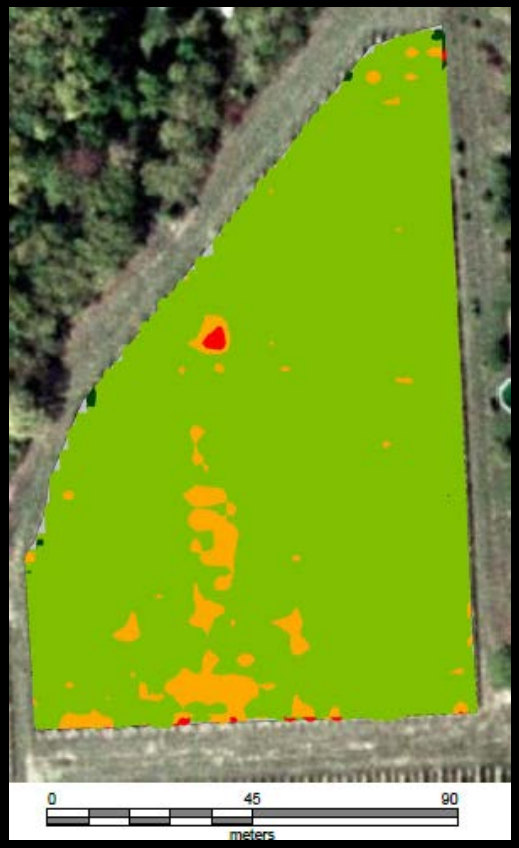
NDVI

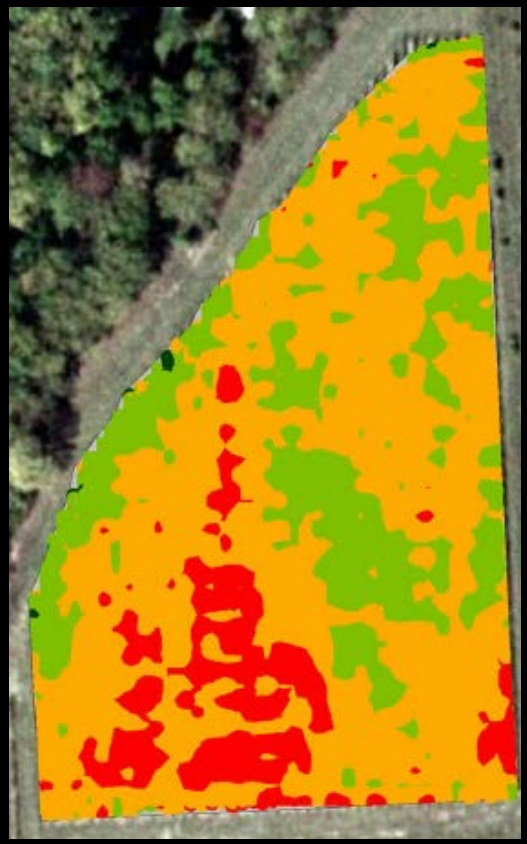
- 0.800 - 0.847
- 0.700 - 0.799
- 0.600 - 0.699
- 0.469 - 0.599

# NDVI vs. Virus Status

Chardonnay Musqué (A,B) and Pinot noir (C,D)



A: 14 August 2014

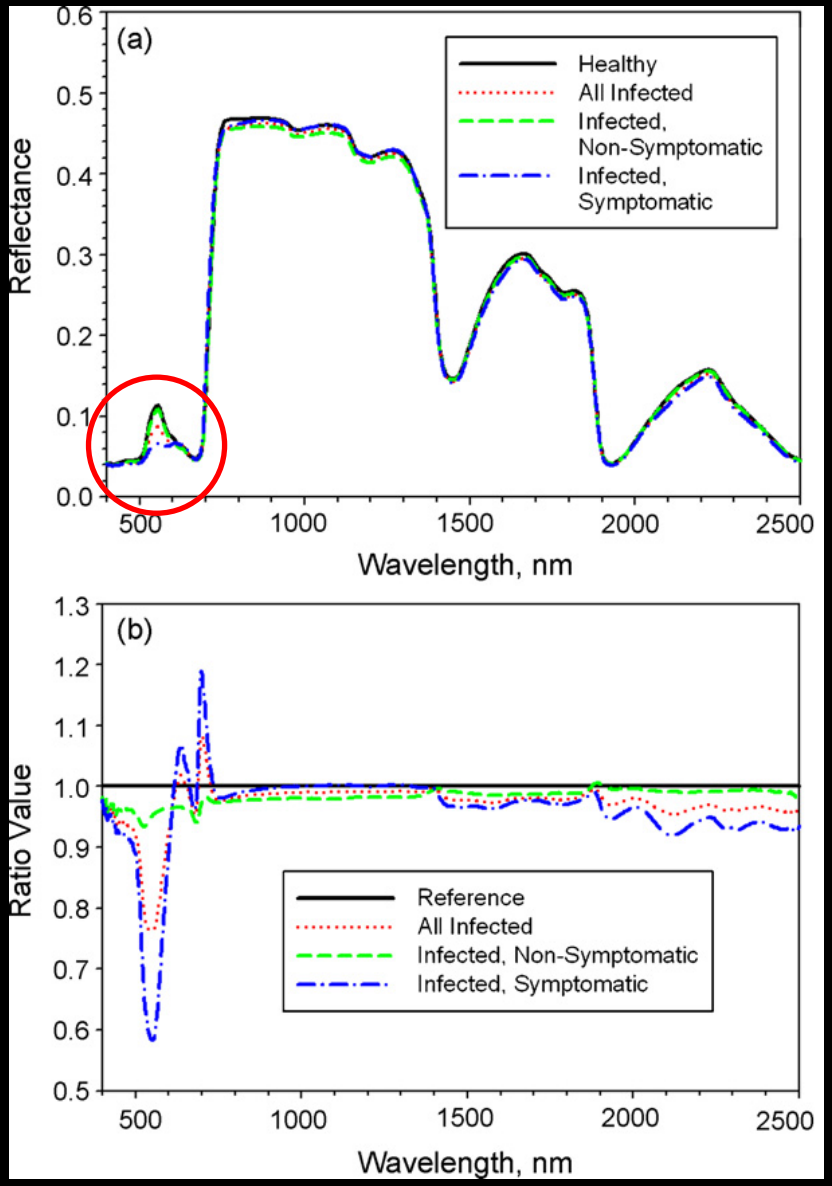
B: 06 October2014

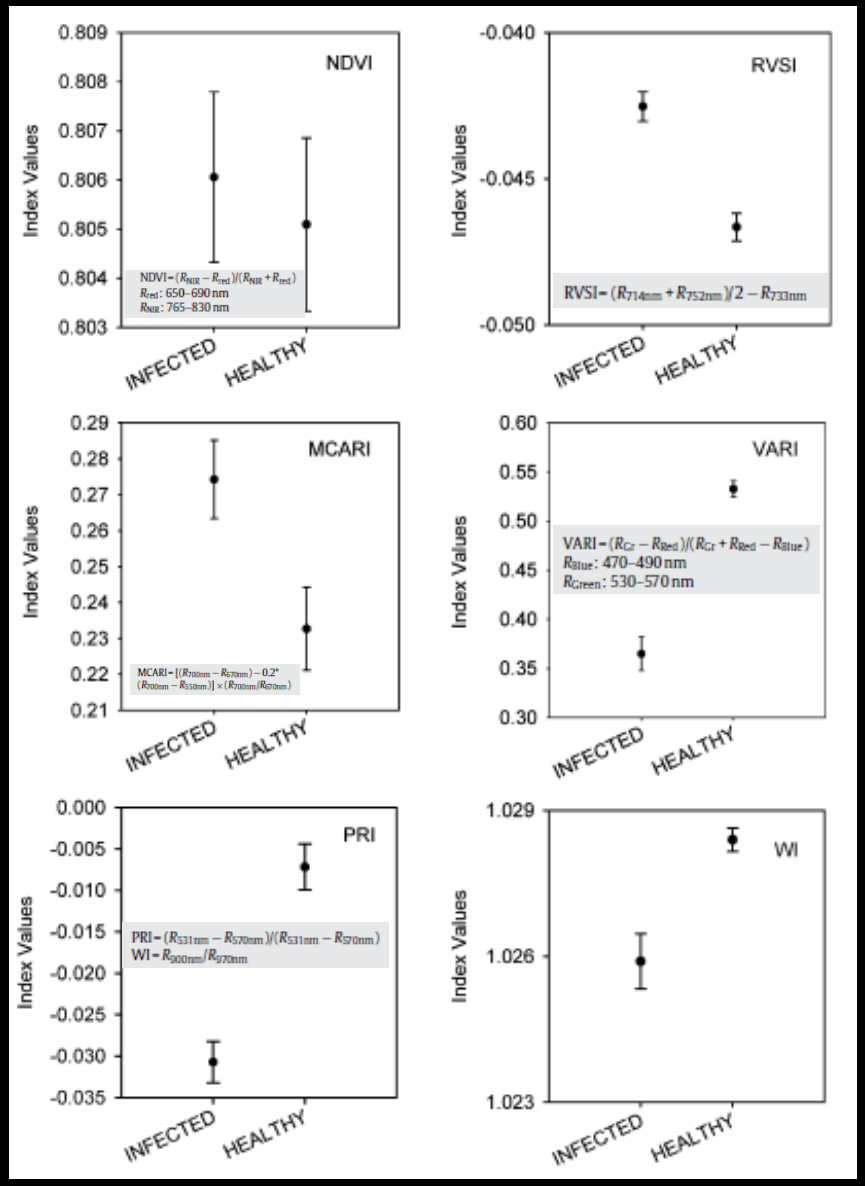
C: 01 August 2014

B: 06 October2014

# Suspected Spectral Bands

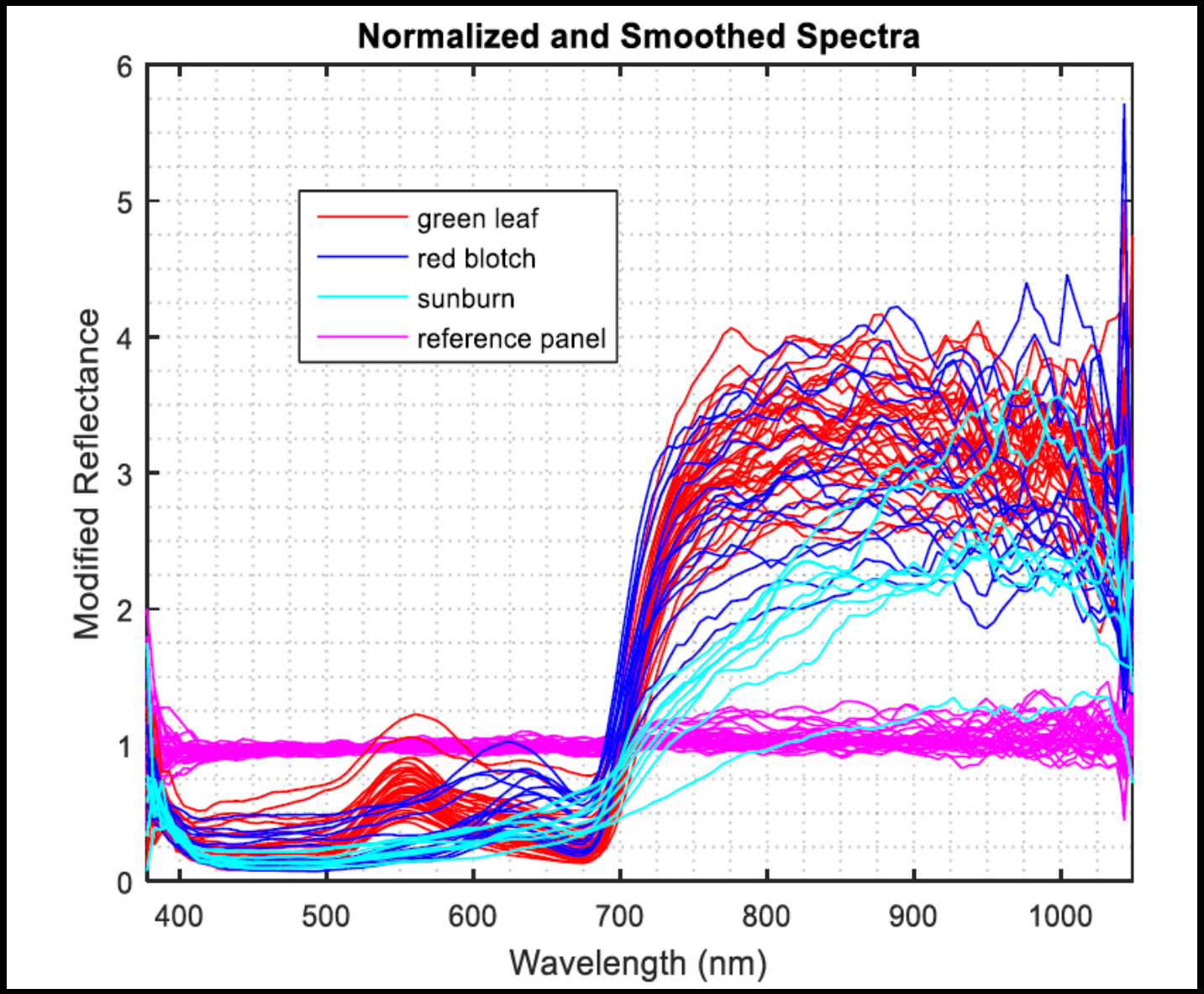
Naidu et al. 2009 (Merlot, Washington State)



# Red Blotch and Spectral Signatures

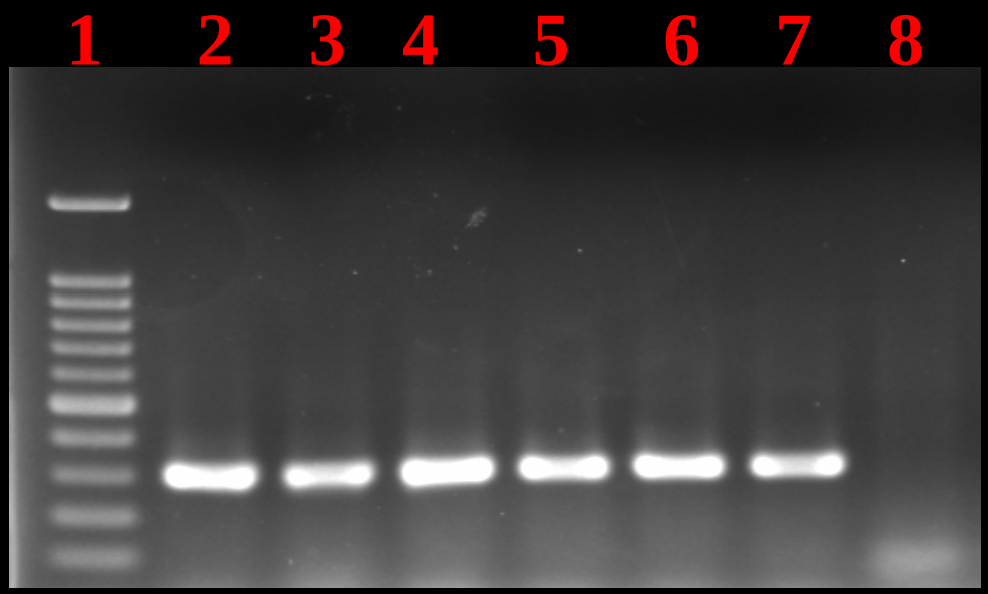
Mehrubeoglu et al. 2016



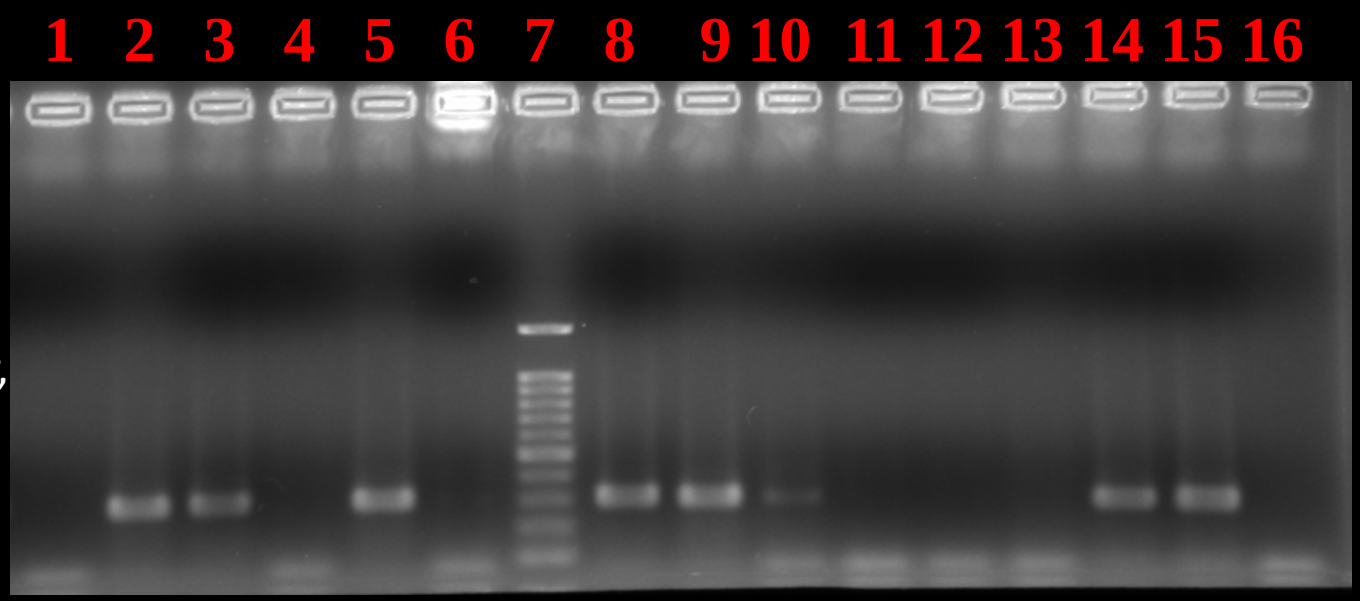
# Rt-PCR Analysis

Ontario 2016

**A: GVLR-3 from Vineyard #1.** Intensities of RT- PCR product in lanes (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) are higher than the samples shown in B (below). (1: Marker, 7 & 8: +ve and -ve control, respectively). Remaining lanes are individual vines.

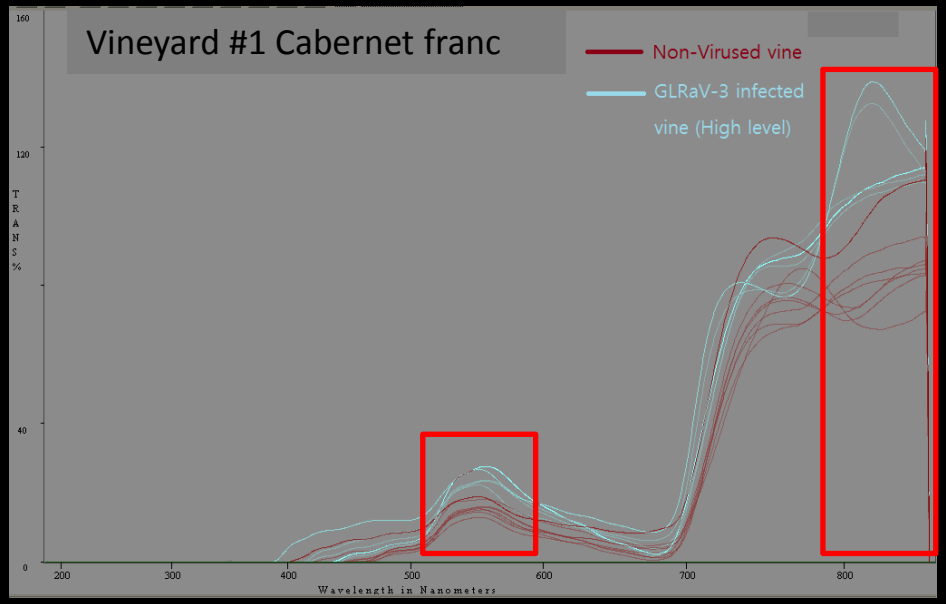


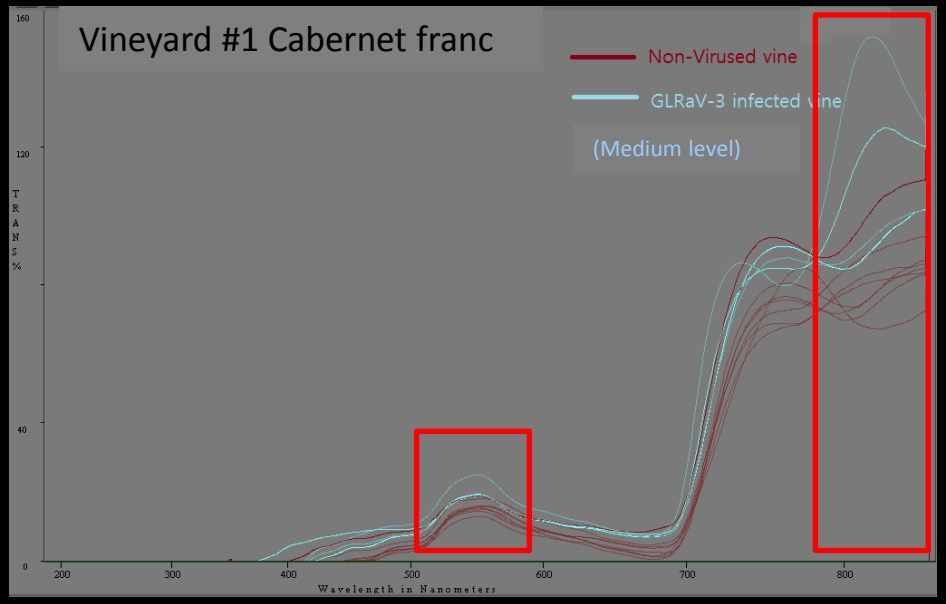

**B: GVLR-3 from Vineyard #2.** Lanes (1, 4, 6, 11, 12 and 13) are negative; the rest of samples are positive. As shown, intensity of RT- PCR product in some samples is less than others; e.g., lane 10 has less GVLR vs. the others. (7: Marker, 15 & 16: +ve and -ve control, respectively).

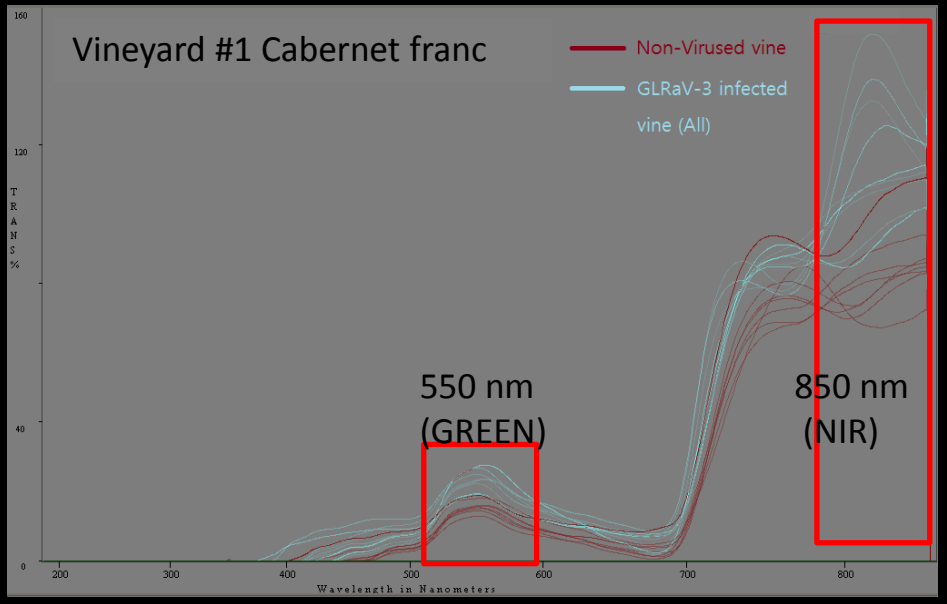


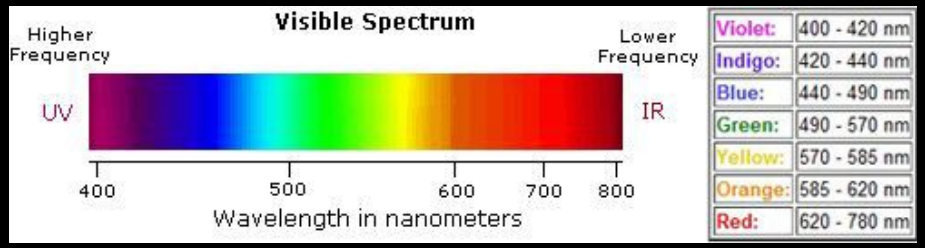
# Main Spectral Signature Bands

"Vineyard #1" Niagara Peninsula 2016



# Possible Vegetative Indices

Presently being calculated and mapped

**1.** $$\text{NDVI}_{red} = \frac{\text{NIR - Red}}{\text{NIR + Red}}$$

**2.** $$\text{NDVI}_{green} = \frac{\text{NIR - Green}}{\text{NIR + Green}}$$

**3. Red edge (REIP)** = point between 680-750 nm where there is a sharp increase in reflection

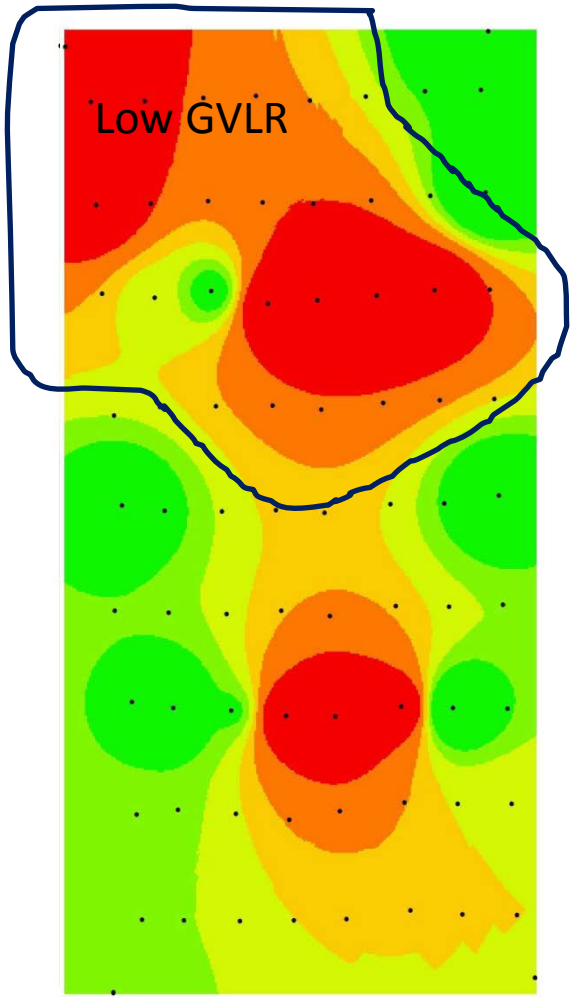
**4. Greenness ratio.** Measures greenness of vegetation

$$\textit{Greenness Ratio (GR)} = \frac{R550}{R770}$$

where R770 = 760 to 780 nm (NIR); R550 = 540 to 560 nm (GREEN)

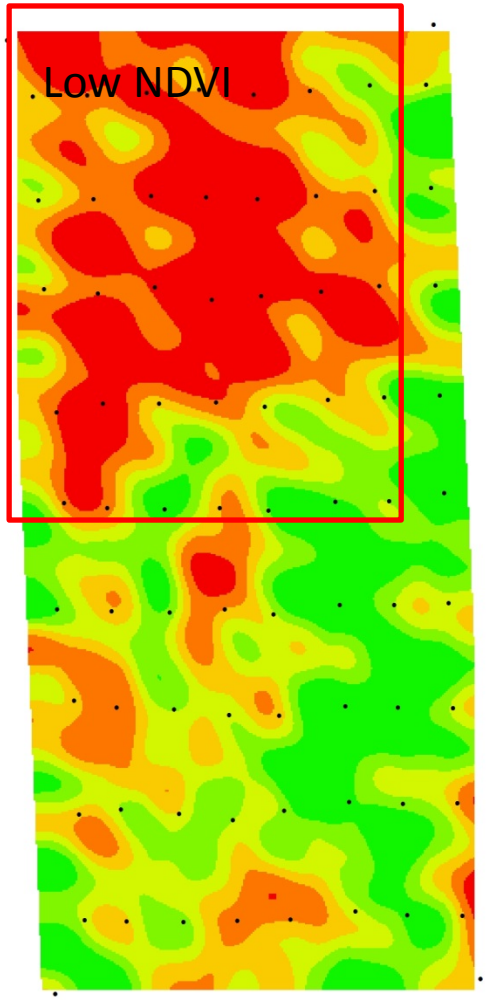
# Vineyard #1 CABERNET FRANC 2016

1:1,240



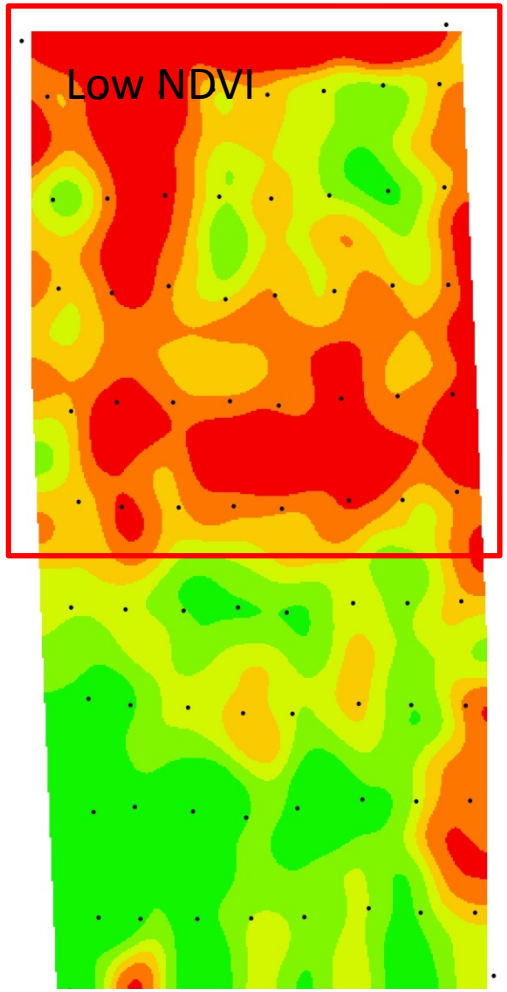

**Vineyard #1 CF GLRaV-3**

- 0.00 - 8.40
- 8.41 - 12.74
- 12.75 - 15.23
- 15.24 - 17.99
- 18.00 - 20.88
- 20.89 - 33.48




**Vineyard #1 CF DRONE NDVI**

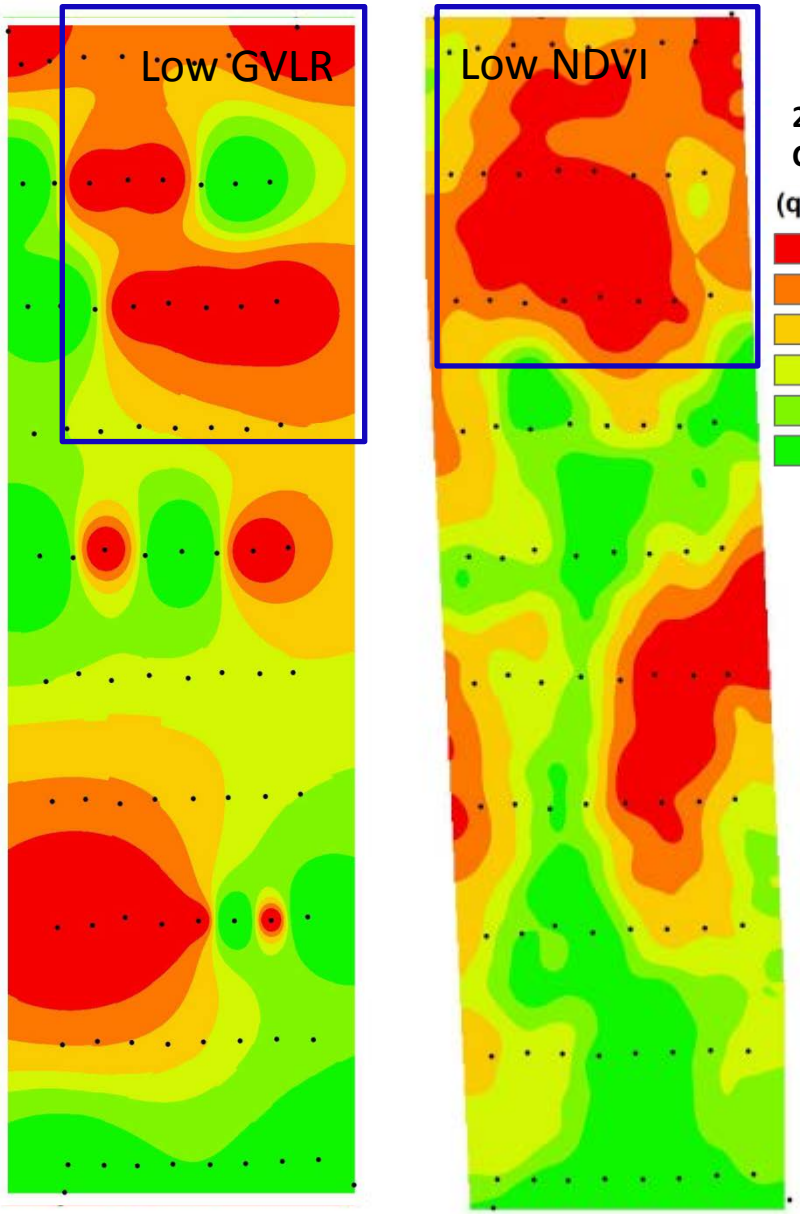
- 0.507 - 0.598
- 0.599 - 0.624
- 0.625 - 0.644
- 0.645 - 0.662
- 0.663 - 0.681
- 0.682 - 0.738




**Vineyard #1 CF GREENSEEKER NDVI**

- 0.727 - 0.808
- 0.809 - 0.813
- 0.814 - 0.817
- 0.818 - 0.821
- 0.822 - 0.826
- 0.827 - 0.838

# 2016 Vineyard #3 Cabernet franc GLRaV-3 Infection vs. NDVI




N
W E
S

1:1,622

**2016 Vineyard #3**
**Cabernet franc**

**(quantification cycle (Cq) values)**

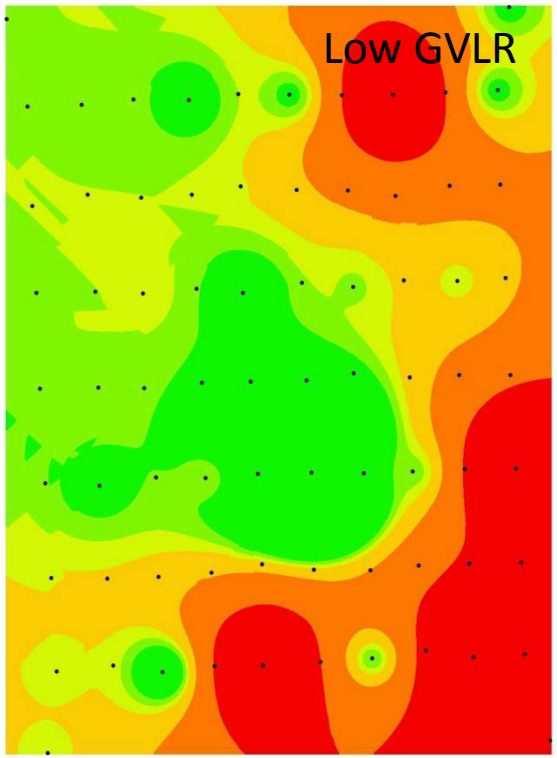
- 0.00 - 5.66
- 5.67 - 9.08
- 9.09 - 12.36
- 12.37 - 15.04
- 15.05 - 19.65
- 19.66 - 37.97

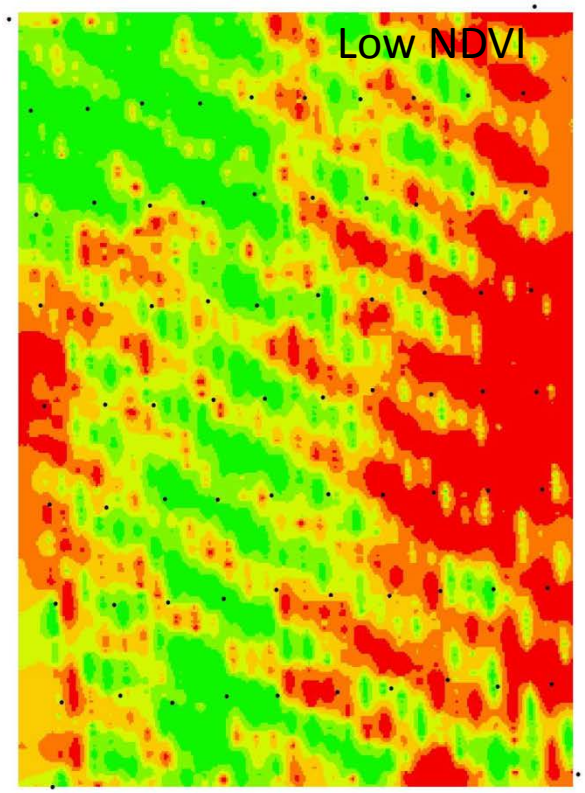
**2016 Vineyard #3**
**Cabernet franc**

NDVI from Drone

- 0.094 - 0.196
- 0.197 - 0.252
- 0.253 - 0.318
- 0.319 - 0.372
- 0.373 - 0.422
- 0.423 - 0.570

# 2016 Vineyard #1 Riesling GLRaV-3 Infection vs. NDVI


**2016 Vineyard #1 Riesling**

**Virus Titer**
**(quantification cycle (Cq) values)**

- 0.00 - 9.60
- 9.61 - 13.34
- 13.35 - 14.46
- 14.47 - 14.84
- 14.85 - 15.21
- 15.22 - 31.79

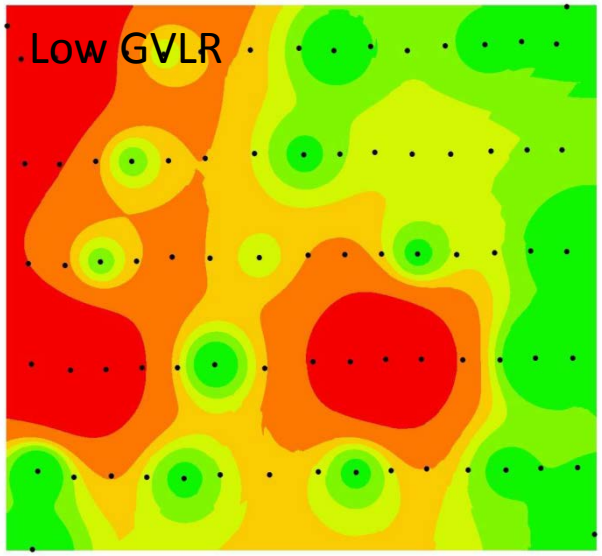
**2016 Vineyard #1 Riesling**

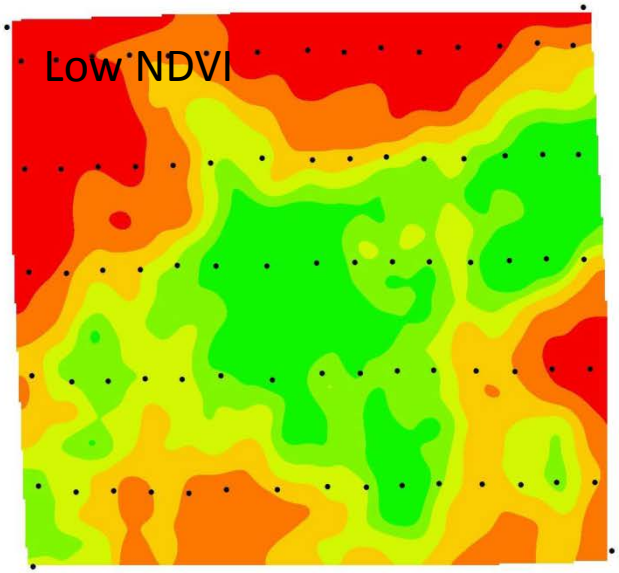
**NDVI from Drone**

- 0.365 - 0.651
- 0.652 - 0.681
- 0.682 - 0.704
- 0.705 - 0.725
- 0.726 - 0.747
- 0.748 - 0.833

# 2016 Vineyard #3 Riesling GLRaV-3 Infection vs. NDVI


1:1,605



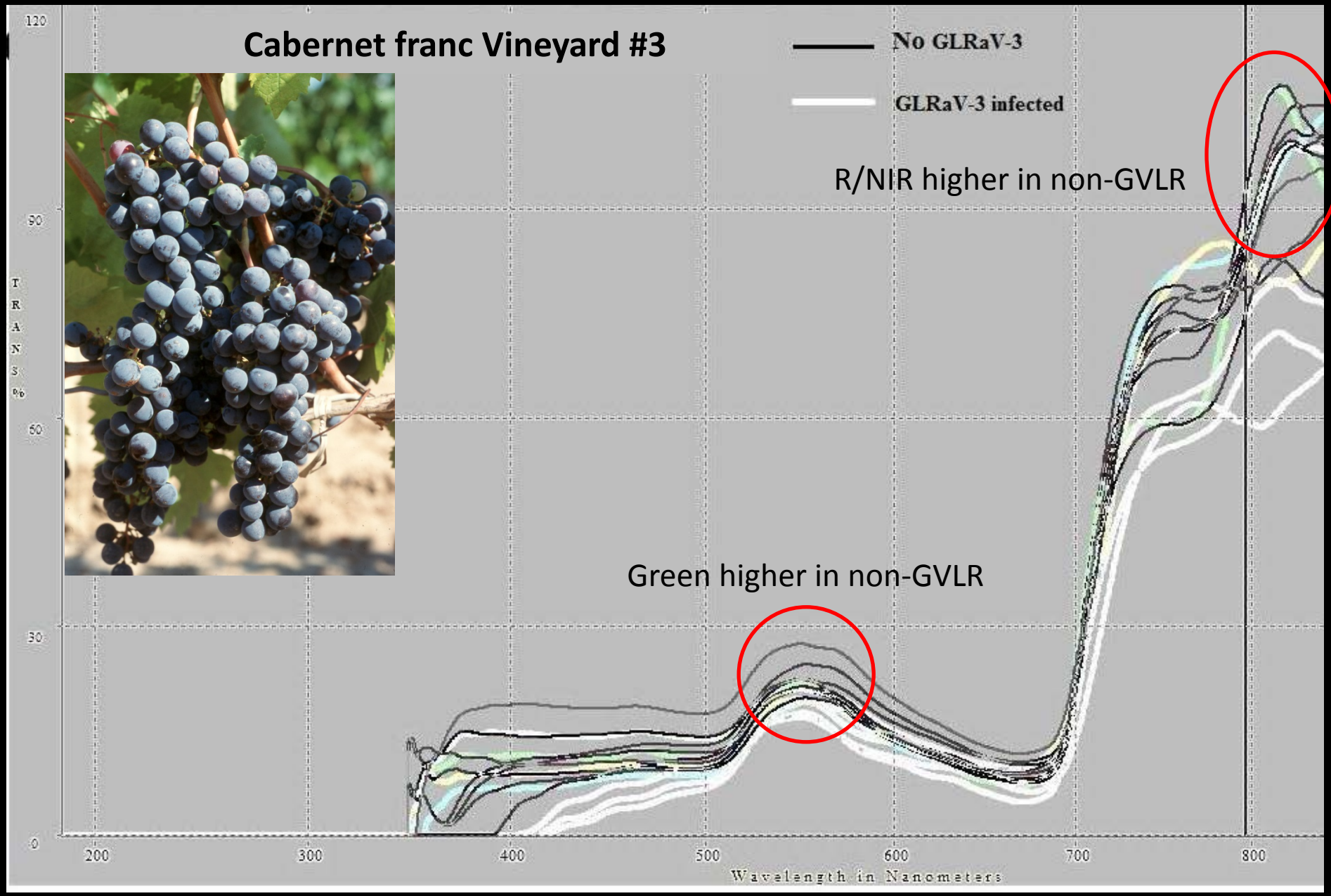




**2016 Vineyard #3 Riesling**
**Virus Titer**
**(quantification cycle (Cq) values)**

- 0.00 - 23.73
- 23.74 - 28.27
- 28.28 - 29.47
- 29.48 - 30.40
- 30.41 - 31.47
- 31.48 - 34.00

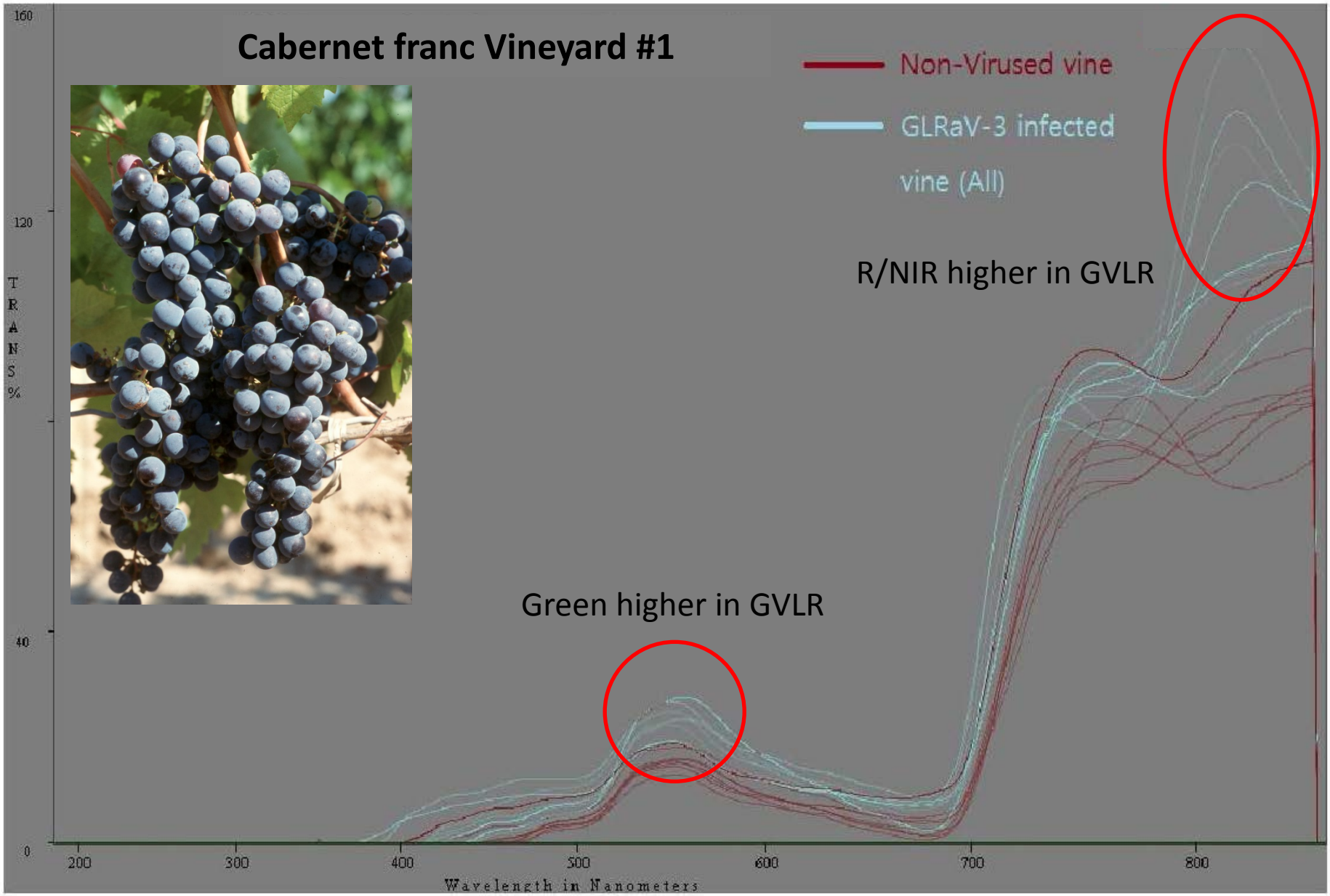
**2016 Vineyard #3 Riesling**
**NDVI from Drone**

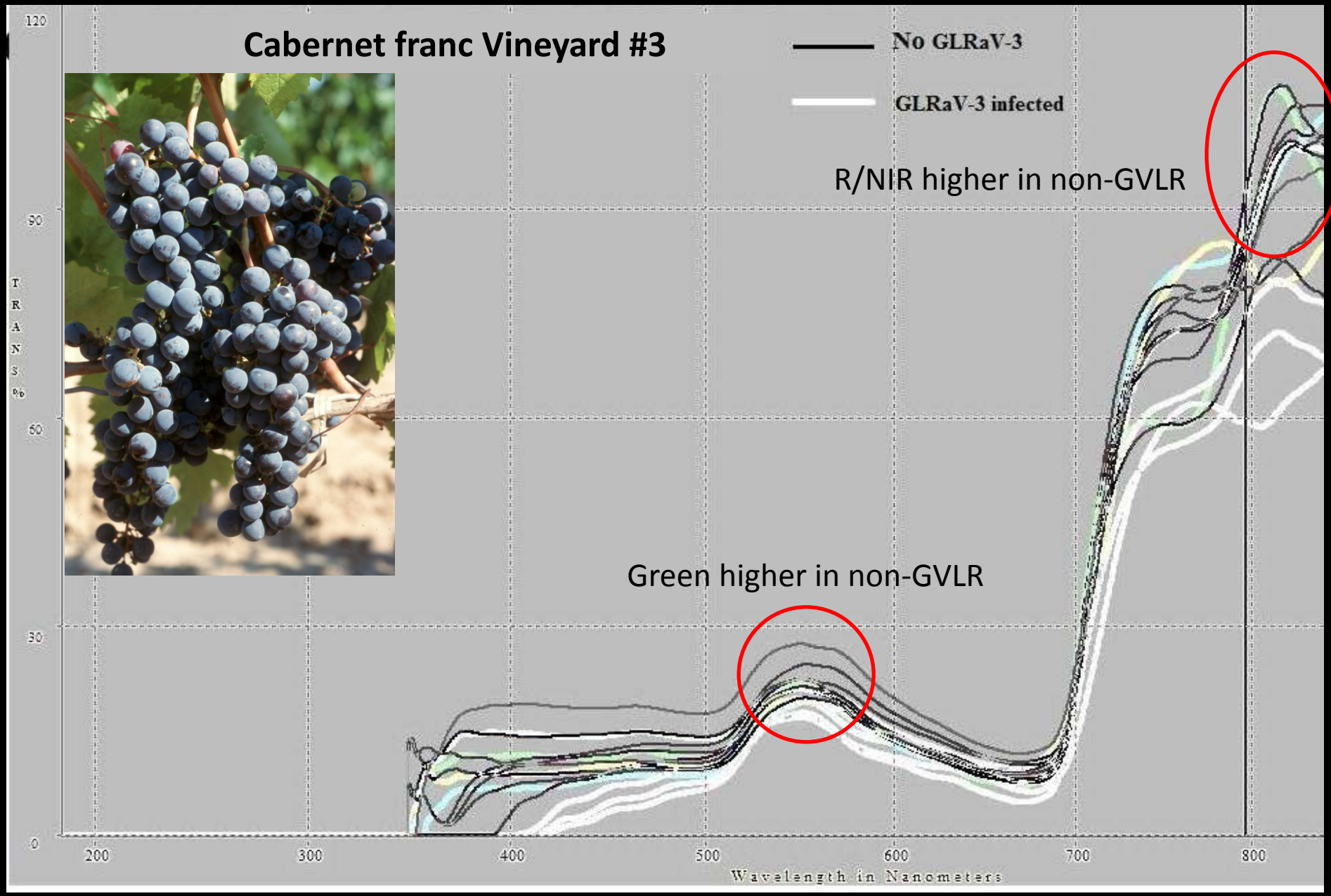
- 0.137 - 0.336
- 0.337 - 0.403
- 0.404 - 0.451
- 0.452 - 0.488
- 0.489 - 0.518
- 0.519 - 0.586


Cabernet franc Vineyard #3
No GLRaV-3
GLRaV-3 infected
R/NIR higher in non-GVLR
Green higher in non-GVLR
TRANS %
120
90
60
30
0
200
300
400
500
600
700
800
Wavelength in Nanometers

# Cabernet franc Vineyard #1

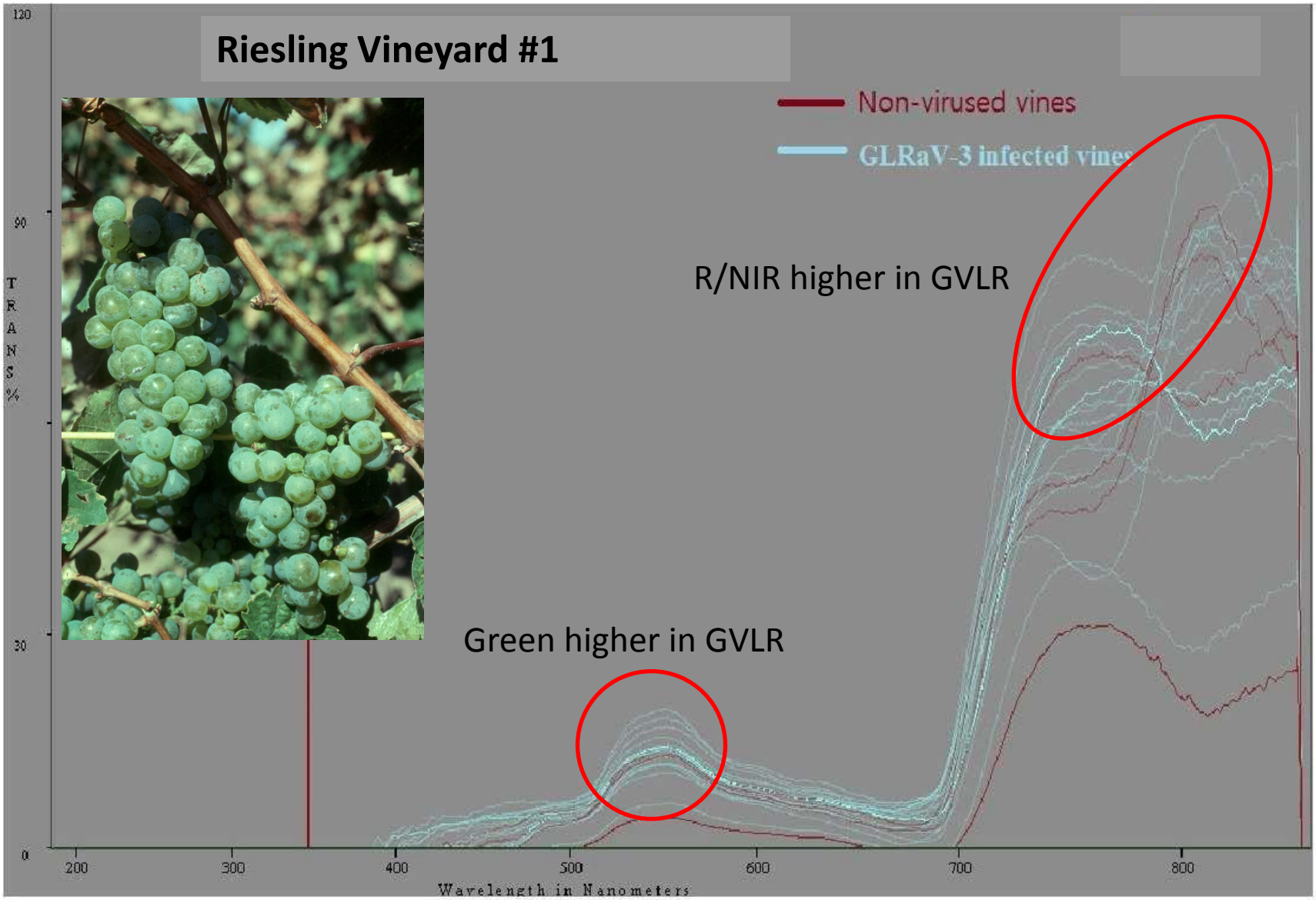





Cabernet franc Vineyard #3
No GLRaV-3
GLRaV-3 infected
R/NIR higher in non-GVLR
Green higher in non-GVLR
TRANS %
120
90
60
30
0
200
300
400
500
600
700
800
Wavelength in Nanometers

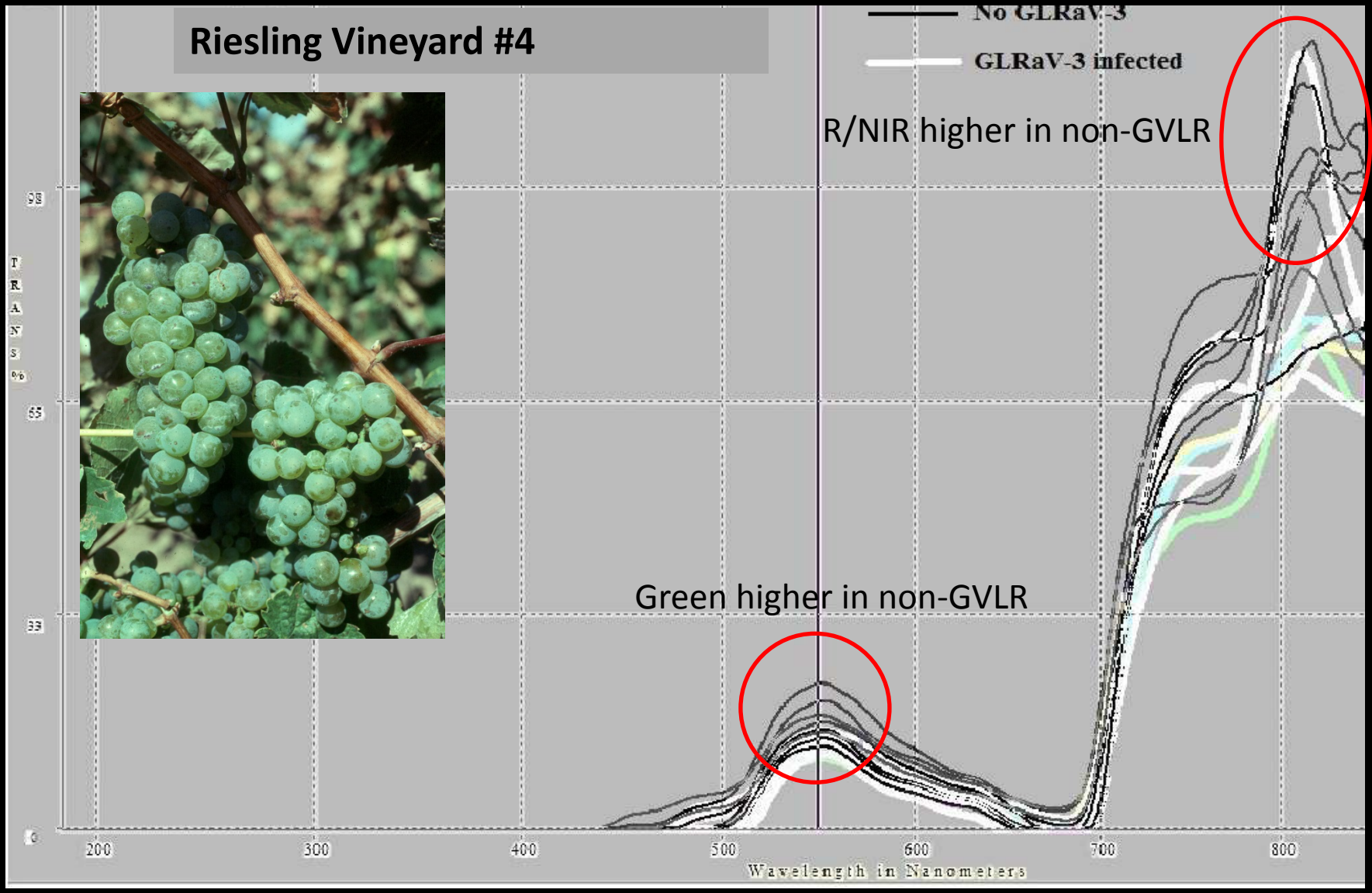
# Riesling Vineyard #1





# Riesling Vineyard #4





# Conclusions

- PCA showed several direct correlations between UAV NDVI and vine size, berry wt., yield/ cluster no., soil moisture, leaf ψ, and transpiration rate
- Inverse correlations of note included FVT/PVT (Riesling), color/ anthocyanins/ phenols (Cabernet franc), $LT_{50}$ (more winter hardy)
- UAV and GreenSeeker data produced maps of similar configuration. There were many instances of spatial correlation between both these variables and leaf ψ, transpiration rate, soil moisture, $LT_{50}$, vine size, yield components, and berry composition
- In most circumstances, zones of high NDVI were associated with high soil and vine water status, vine size and yield, and low Brix, but there were situations where this pattern was reversed
- **Overall use of UAVs may be able to delineate zones of differing vine size, yield, and berry wt., and possibly areas of different winter hardiness and berry composition**
- **Use of UAVs and other spectral technologies for assessment of virus status is our next major focus—there are contradictory results and much more investigation is needed**