

# **Survey of Organic Growers Toolbox: Information Gaps and Research Needs**

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# Introduction

## Organic Research & The Funding Trail

Total fresh packed boxes plus processors multiplied by the assessment rate equals total dollars generated by organic fruit for research.



# ?? QUESTION ??

- How many research dollars are generated by the assessments on organic fruit?



## Organic Apples:

- 2010 estimate = 7.61 million 40 lb. boxes
- Assessment of \$1 per ton
- \$152,200 generated by organic apples
- this is 7.4% of total fresh crop

Yield: 20.6 bins/ac



## Organic Pears:

- 2010 estimate = 778,920 44 lb. boxes
- Assessment of \$.031 per box
- \$24,147 generated by organic pears  
(roughly 4-4.5% of the total pear tonnage)

Yield: 16.8 tons/ac



## Organic Cherries:

- 2010 crop = 2234 tons
- assessment \$4 per ton
- \$8,936 generated by organic cherries

Yield: 1.04 tons/ac



# Total Dollar\$

\$152,200 organic apples  
+ \$ 24,147 organic pears  
+ \$ 8,936 organic cherries  
= \$185,283 funds from organic fruit for  
research

Total tree fruit research  
assessments ~\$3 million



# Why does this matter?

- Are you satisfied with how this money is being spent?
- Does WTFRC research benefit organic growers?
- Should there be organic-specific research?
- Do we need an organic research committee?
- Is sufficient money generated by assessments on organic fruit to fund strictly organic research?

# Organic growers depend on “crossover” projects

- Funded research is composed of very few purely organic projects
- Many conventional projects crossover and benefit organic growers
  - insecticide evaluation trials: cherry fruit fly, codling moth mating disruption
  - biological control of pests
  - crop load management
  - rootstock and variety development



# Strictly Speaking...

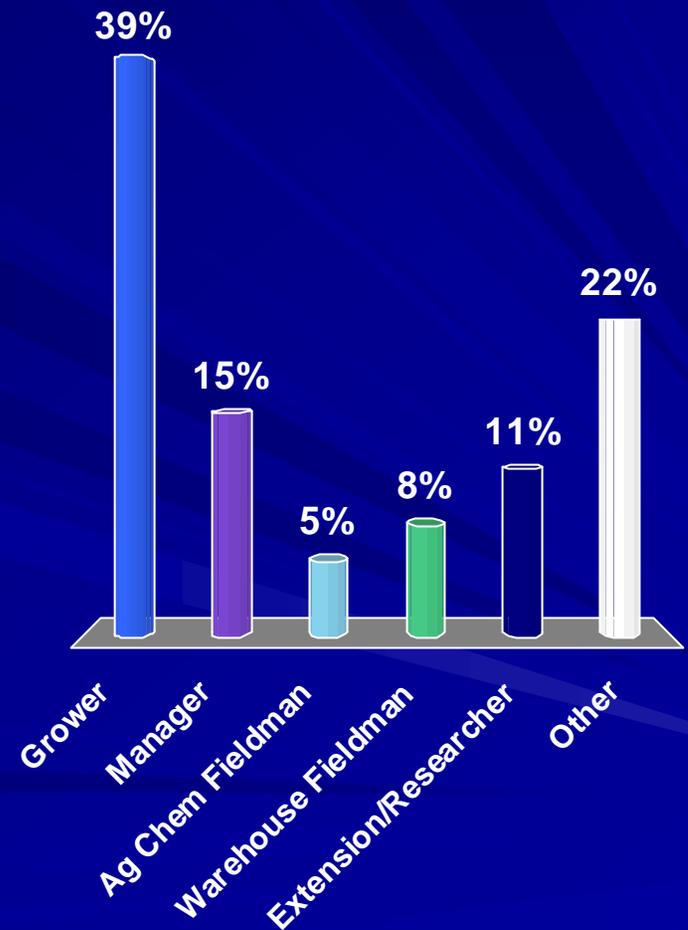
- Organic-only projects must have specific targets
- Must be highest priority for organic growers
- Not addressed by conventional/crossover projects
- Develop priority list
- Certain problems in the organic industry warrant organic specific projects.

# What are YOUR Priorities?



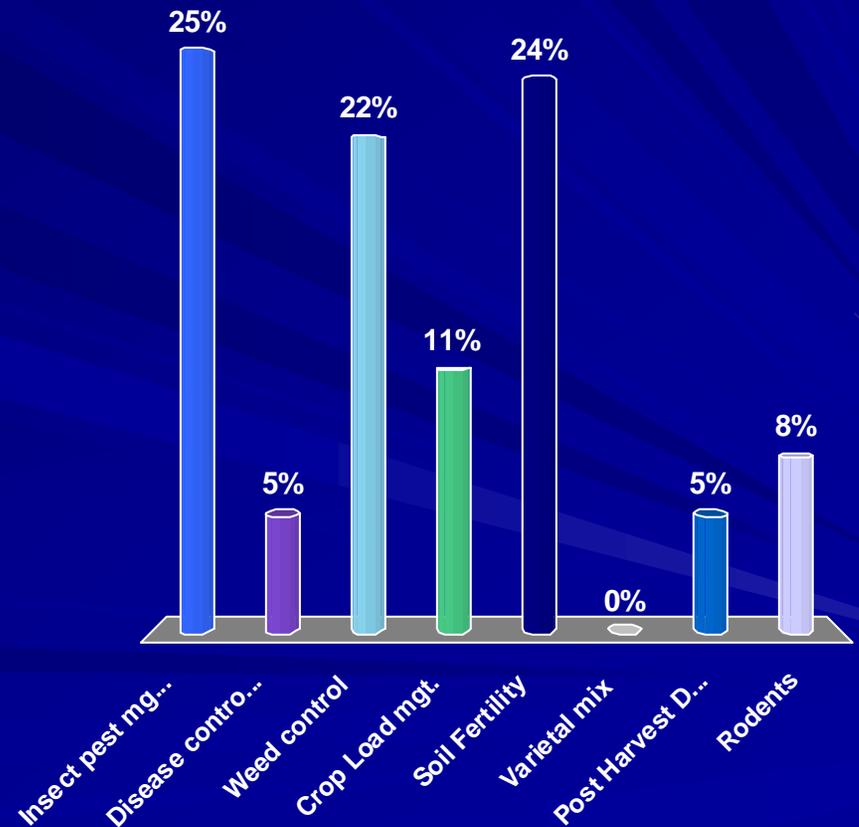
# Are you a:

1. Grower
2. Manager
3. Ag Chem Fieldman
4. Warehouse Fieldman
5. Extension/Researcher
6. Other



# What do you feel is the most limiting factor in organic production?

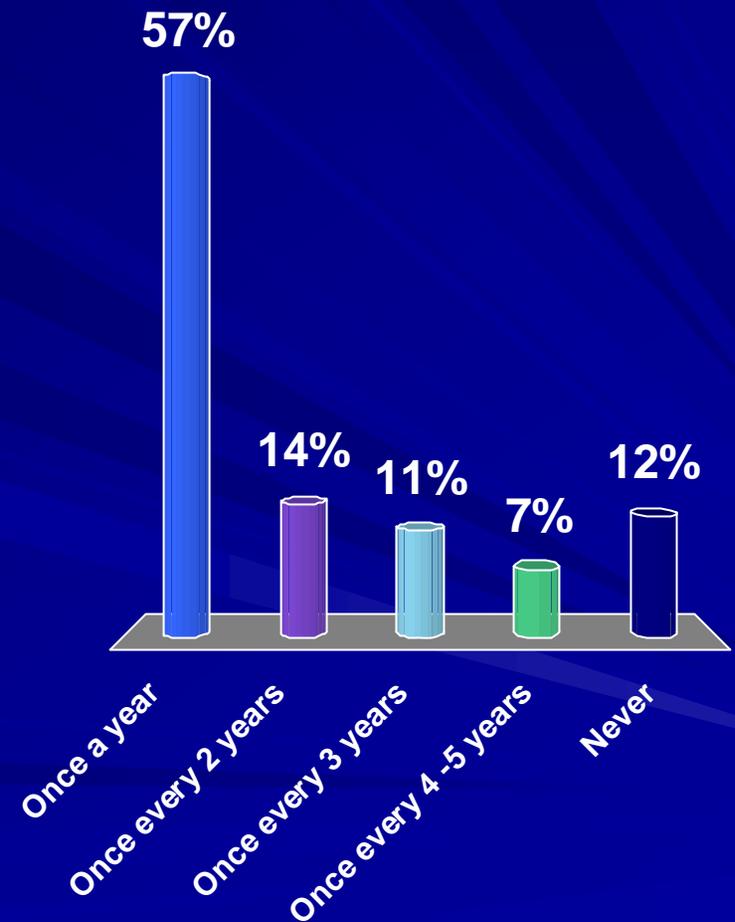
1. Insect pest mgt.
2. Disease control
3. Weed control
4. Crop Load mgt.
5. Soil Fertility
6. Varietal mix
7. Post Harvest Disease Control
8. Rodents



# Fertility

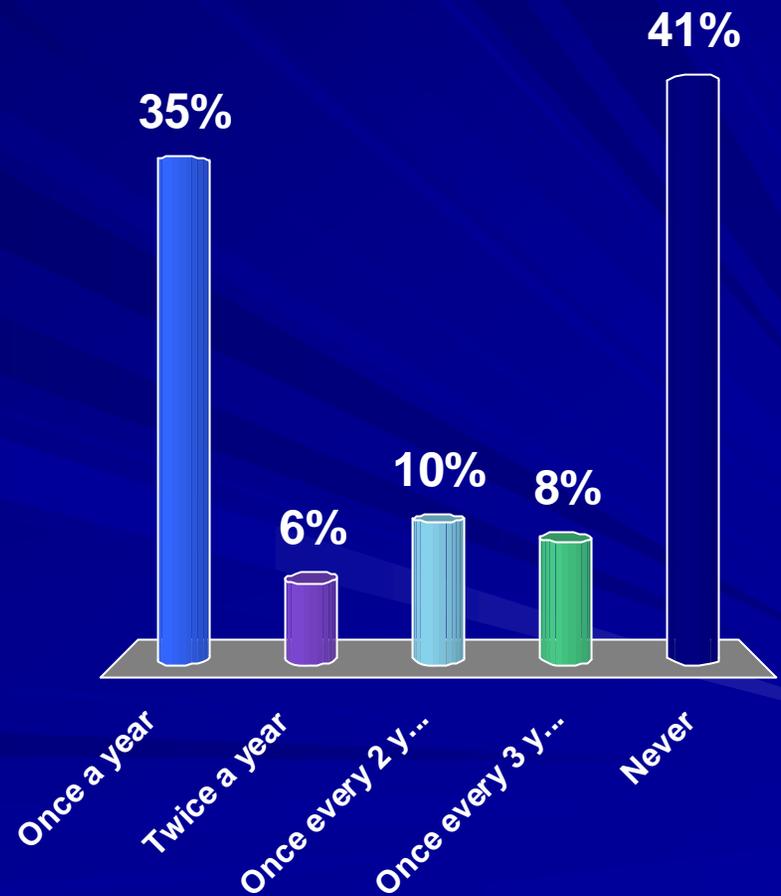
How frequently do you take soil samples?

1. Once a year
2. Once every 2 years
3. Once every 3 years
4. Once every 4 -5 years
5. Never



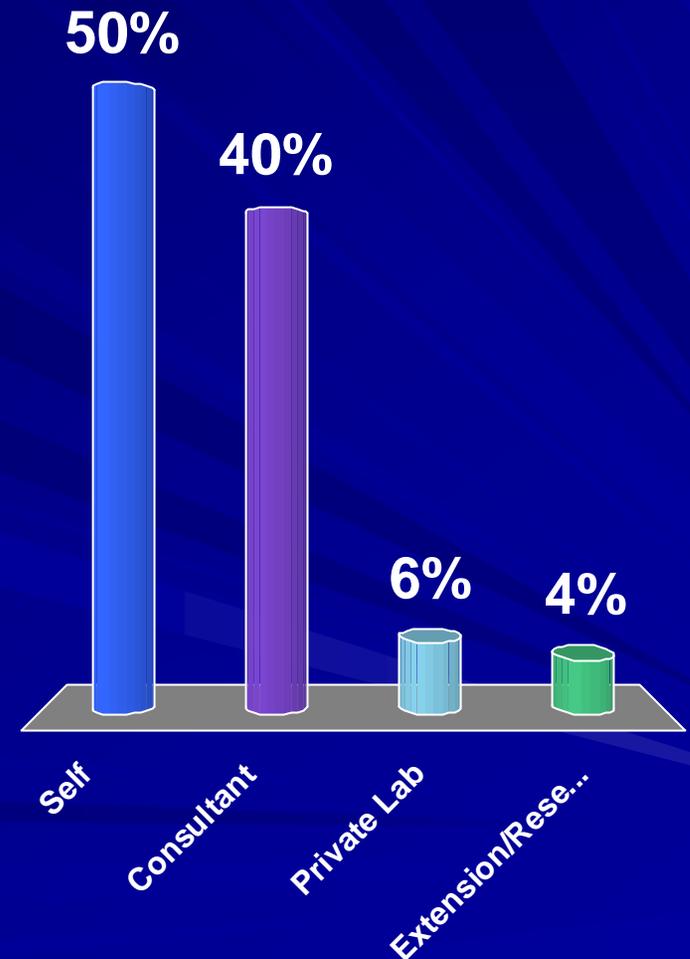
# How frequently do you take leaf samples?

1. Once a year
2. Twice a year
3. Once every 2 years
4. Once every 3 years
5. Never



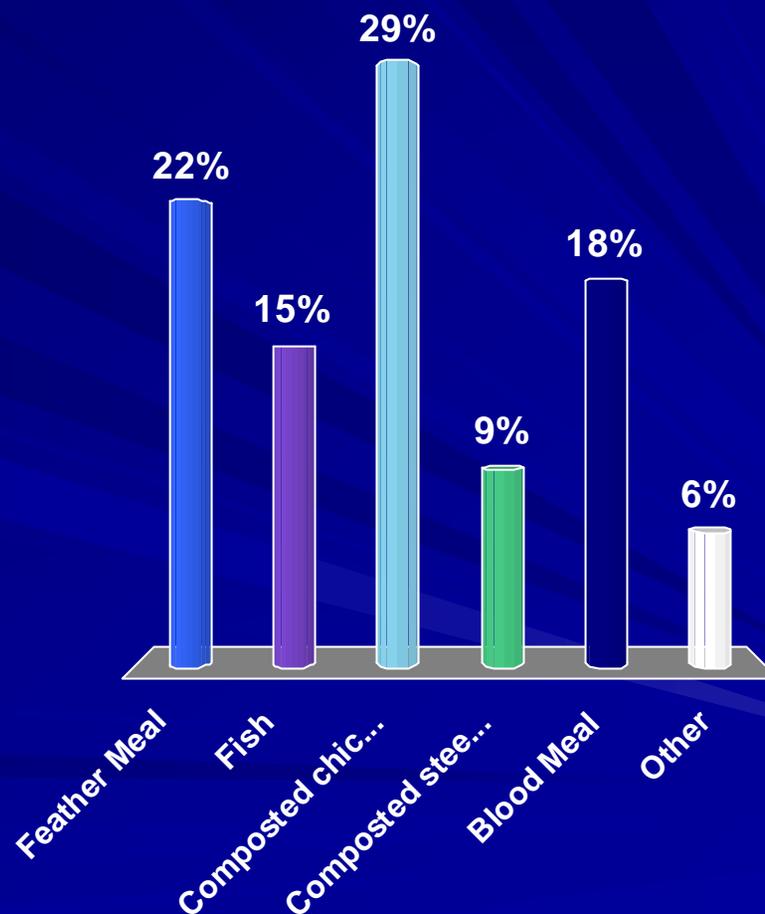
# Who determines your annual N rate and form?

1. Self
2. Consultant
3. Private Lab
4. Extension/Researcher



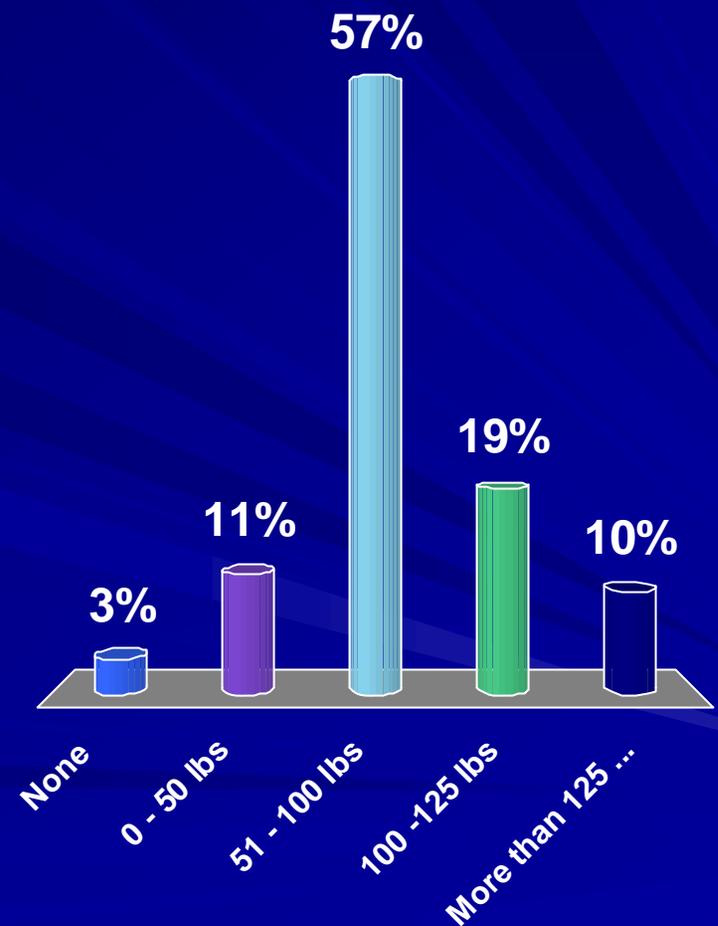
# What are your main forms of N for soil application? (Choose up to 3, in order)

1. Feather Meal
2. Fish
3. Composted chicken / DPW
4. Composted steer
5. Blood Meal
6. Other



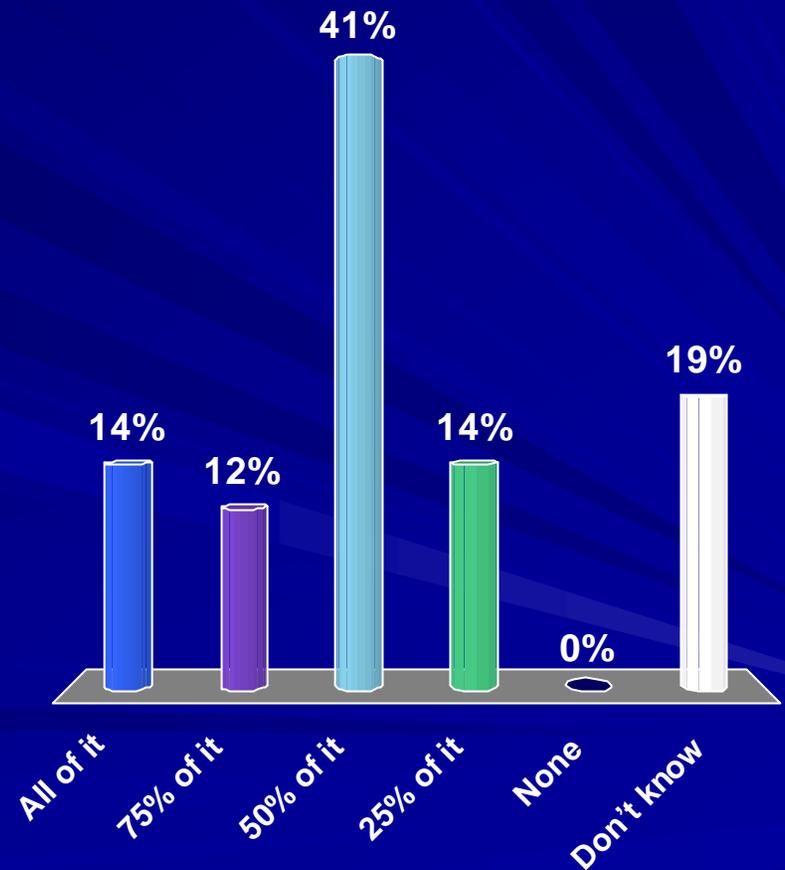
# How much total Nitrogen in your amendments do you apply annually to the soil?

1. None
2. 0 - 50 lbs
3. 51 - 100 lbs
4. 100 -125 lbs
5. More than 125 lbs



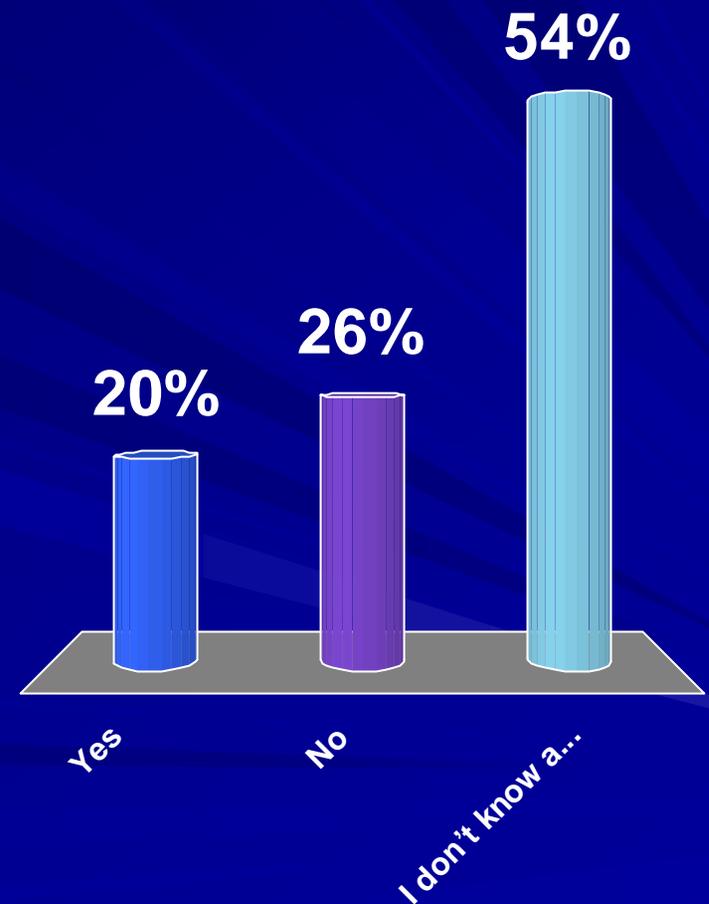
1000 lbs of feathermeal (12% N)  
contains 120 lb N. How much of this  
do you count towards the current year  
crop?

1. All of it
2. 75% of it
3. 50% of it
4. 25% of it
5. None
6. Don't know



# Do you use the Organic Fertilizer Calculator (OFC) to help you determine your Soil N needs?

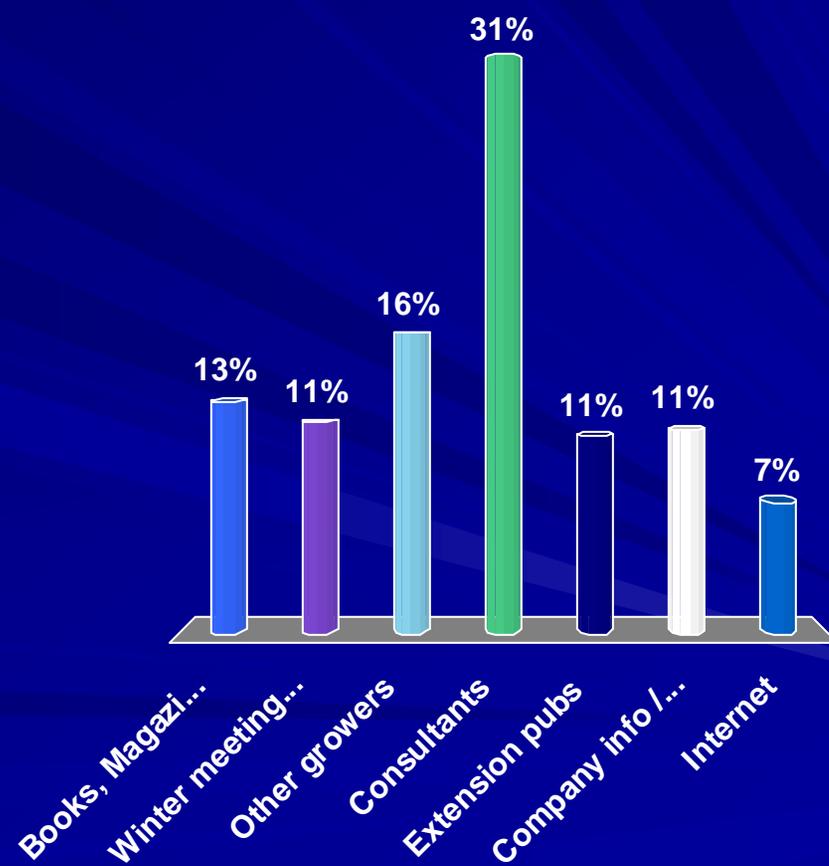
1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know about the OFC



<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/calculator>

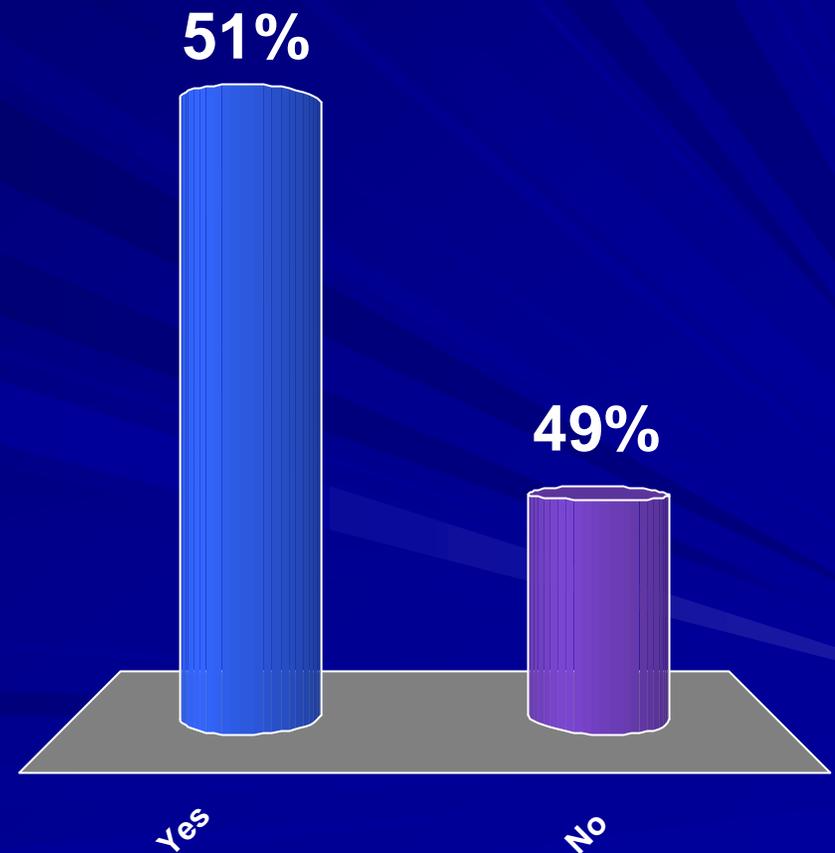
# What are your top 3 (in order) sources of information for developing fertility program?

1. Books, Magazines
2. Winter meetings
3. Other growers
4. Consultants
5. Extension pubs
6. Company info / reps
7. Internet



# Do you seed legume cover crops to supply N?

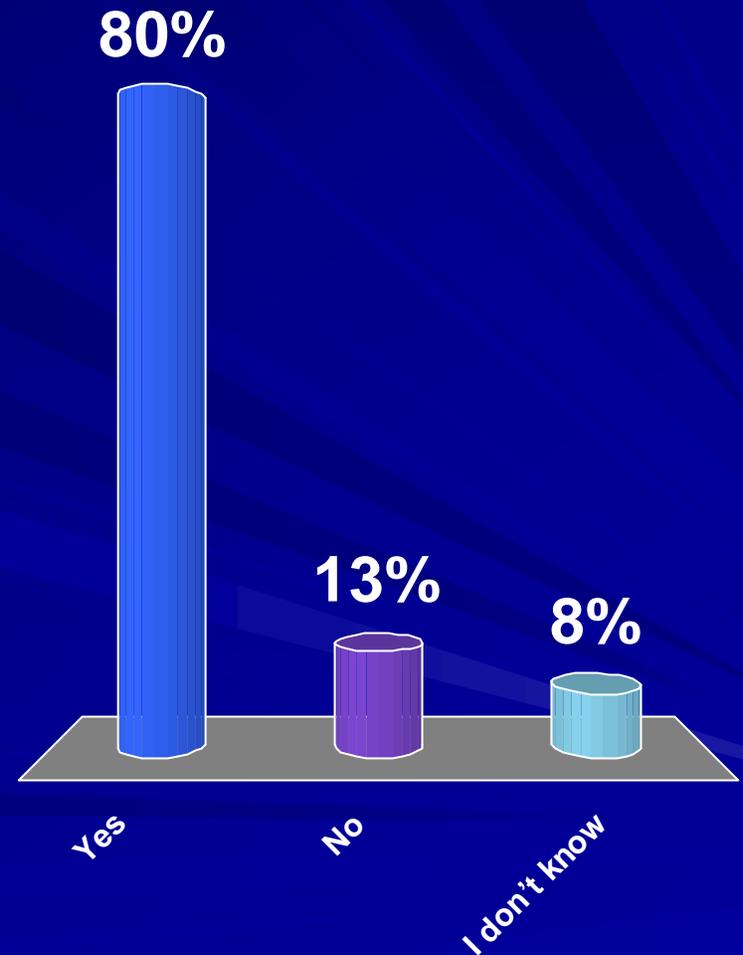
1. Yes
2. No



# Pest Management

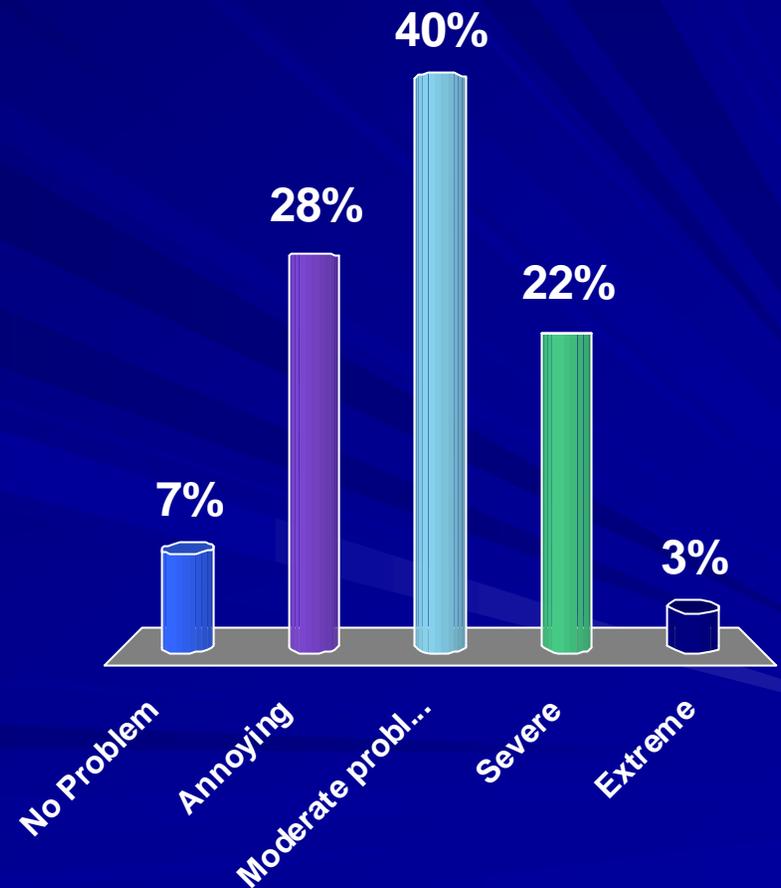
Would you use an organic version of the spray guide for Crop Pest Management?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know



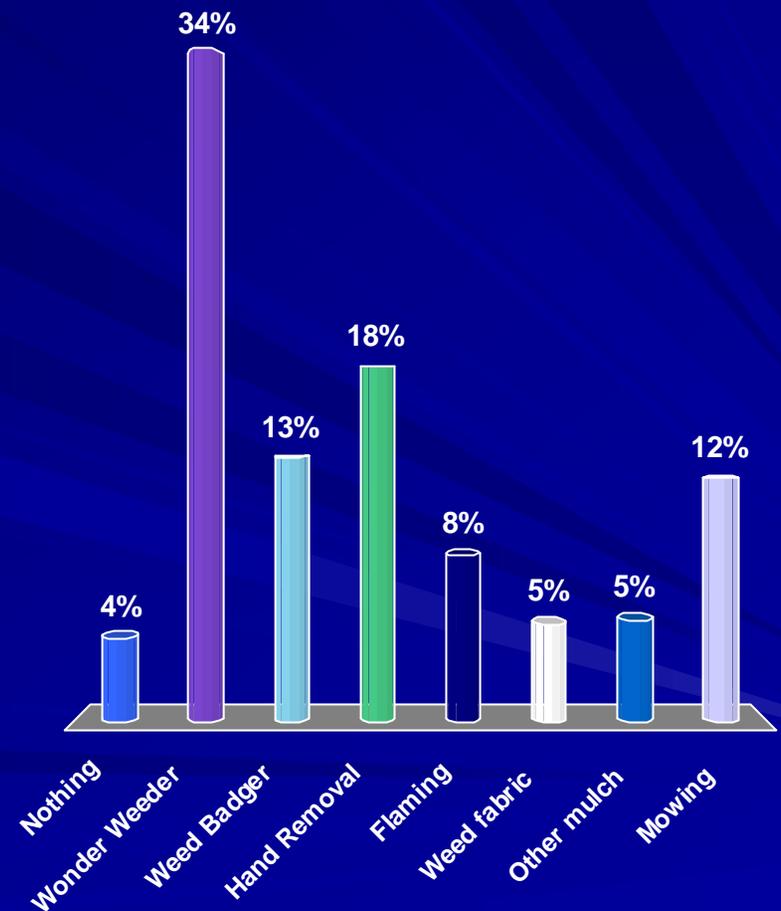
# How would you rate the severity of your vole and gopher problem in your orchard?

1. No Problem
2. Annoying
3. Moderate problem
4. Severe
5. Extreme



# What is your primary weed control in the tree row? (choose top 2, in order)

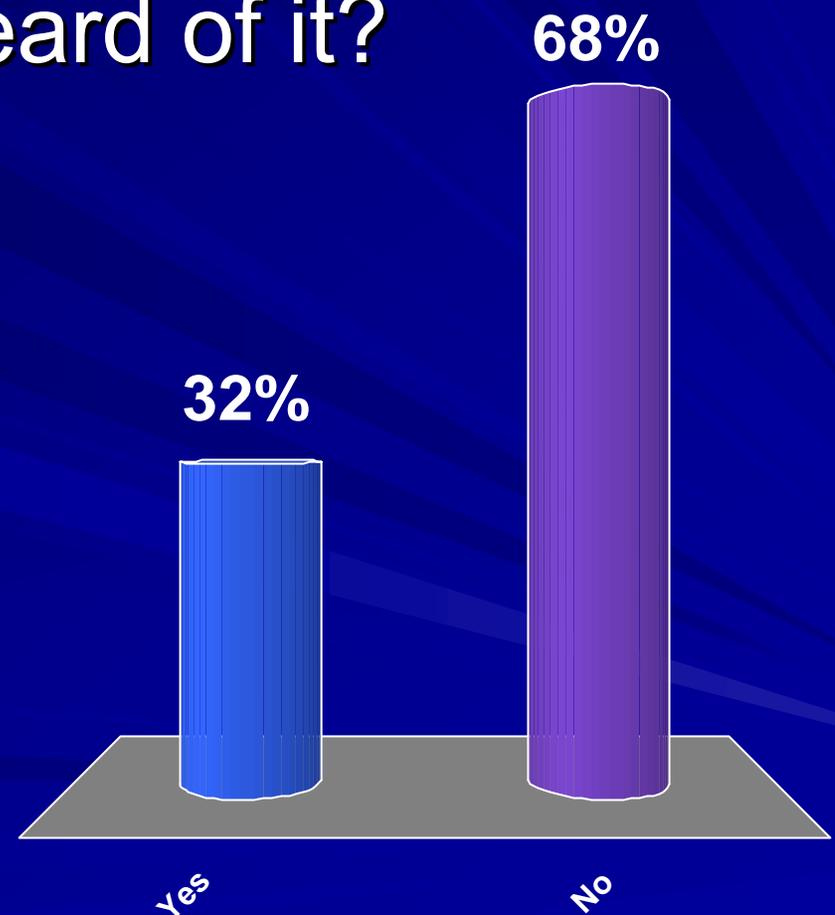
1. Nothing
2. Wonder Weeder
3. Weed Badger
4. Hand Removal
5. Flaming
6. Weed fabric
7. Other mulch
8. Mowing



“Enhancing Western Biological Control”  
(Vince Jones) is a large project that will  
likely benefit your organic orchard.

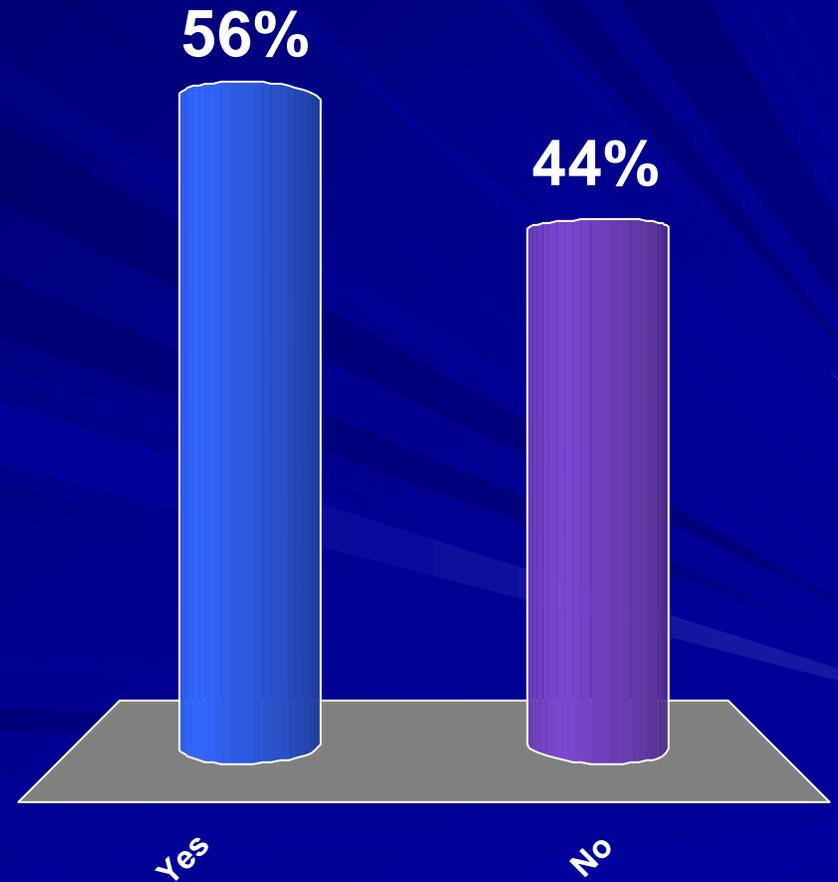
Have you heard of it?

1. Yes
2. No



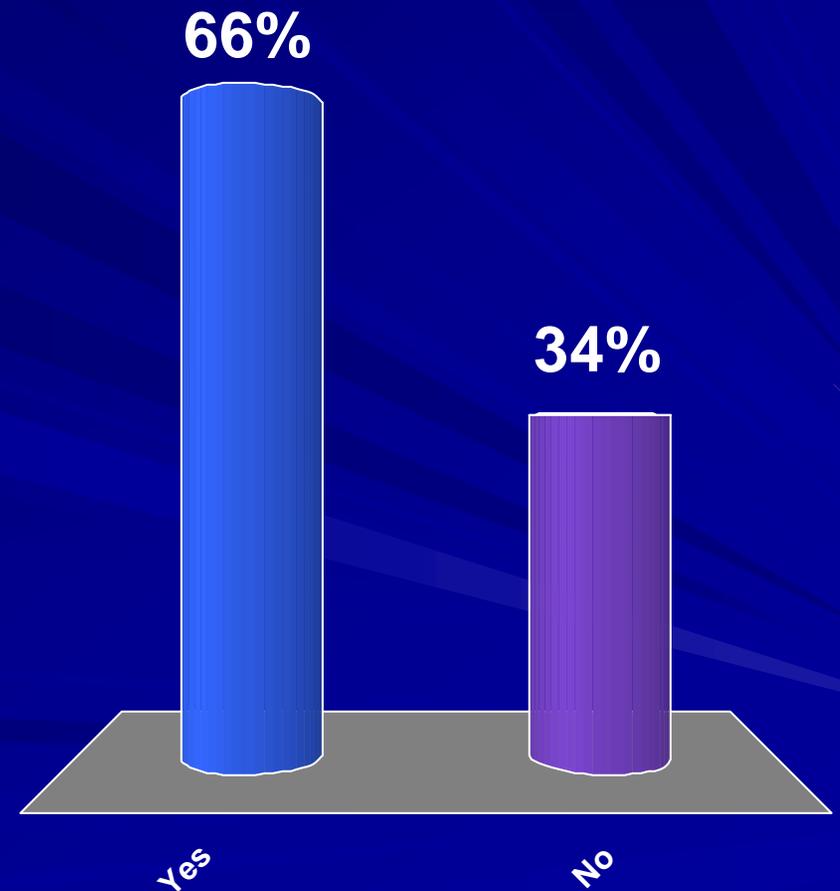
# Are you able to successfully manage Pear Rust mites?

1. Yes
2. No



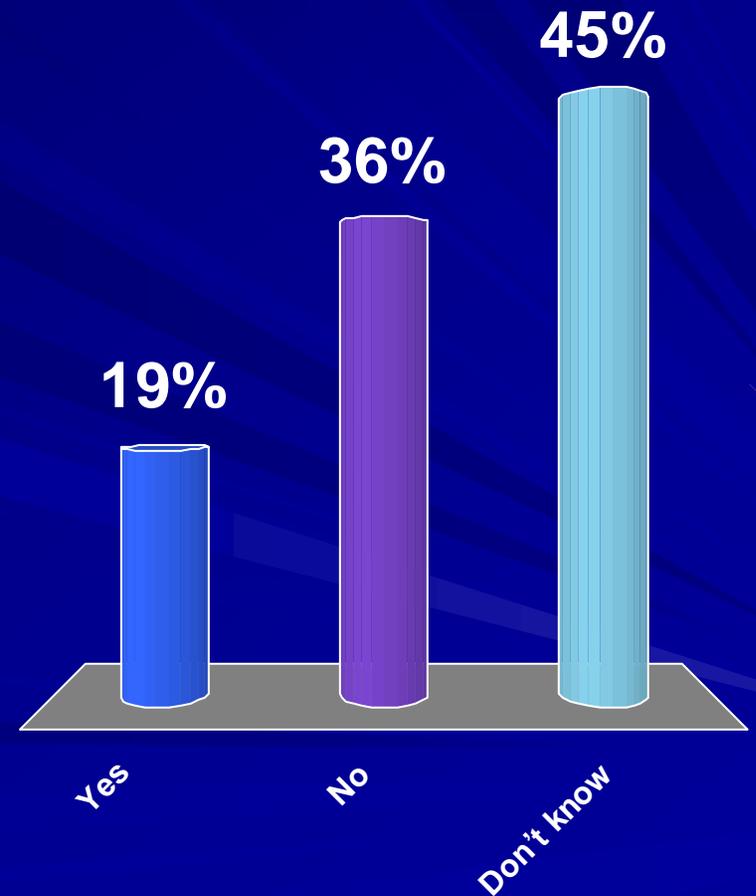
# Are you able to successfully manage Pear Psylla?

1. Yes
2. No



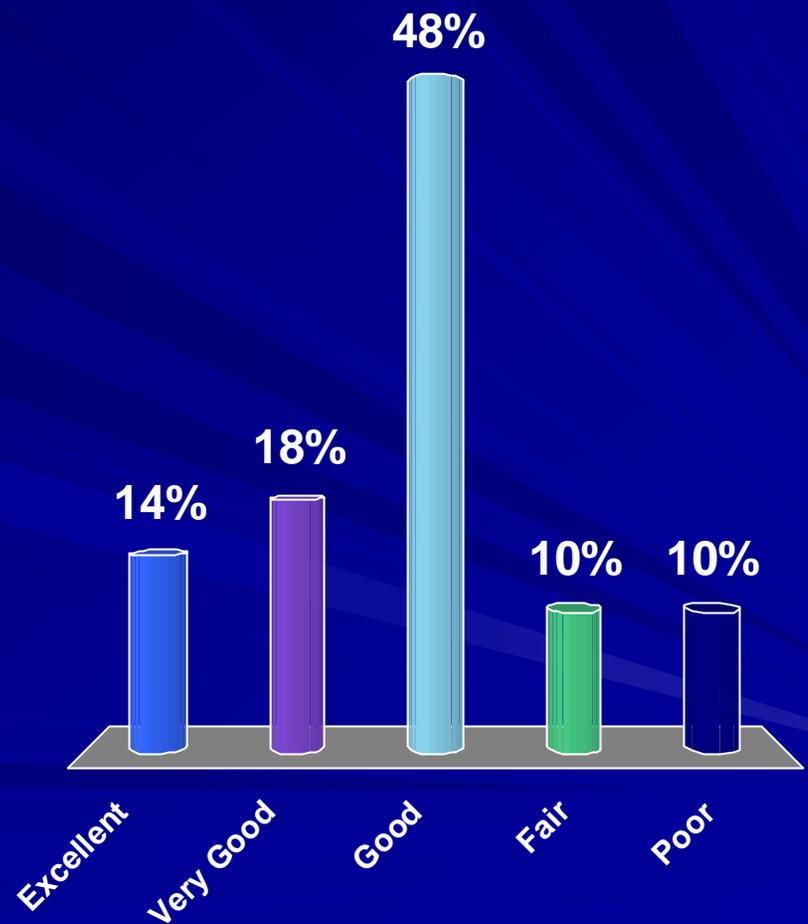
# Do you think you can control Spotted Wing Drosophila in cherries using organic methods?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know



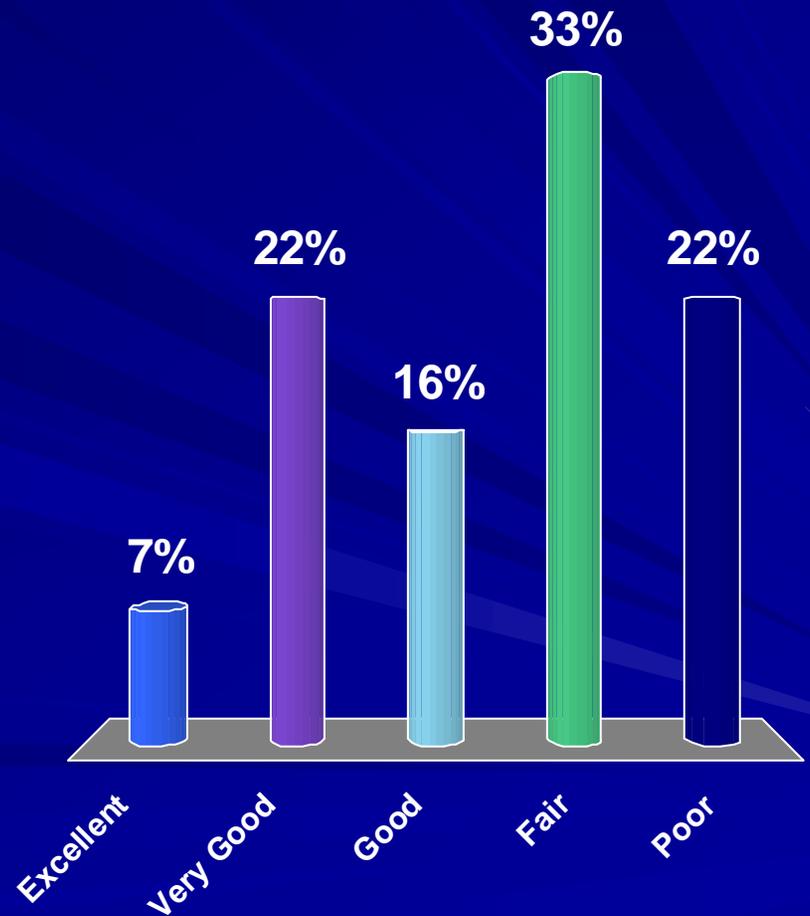
# How would you rate your control of Cherry Powdery Mildew ?

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor



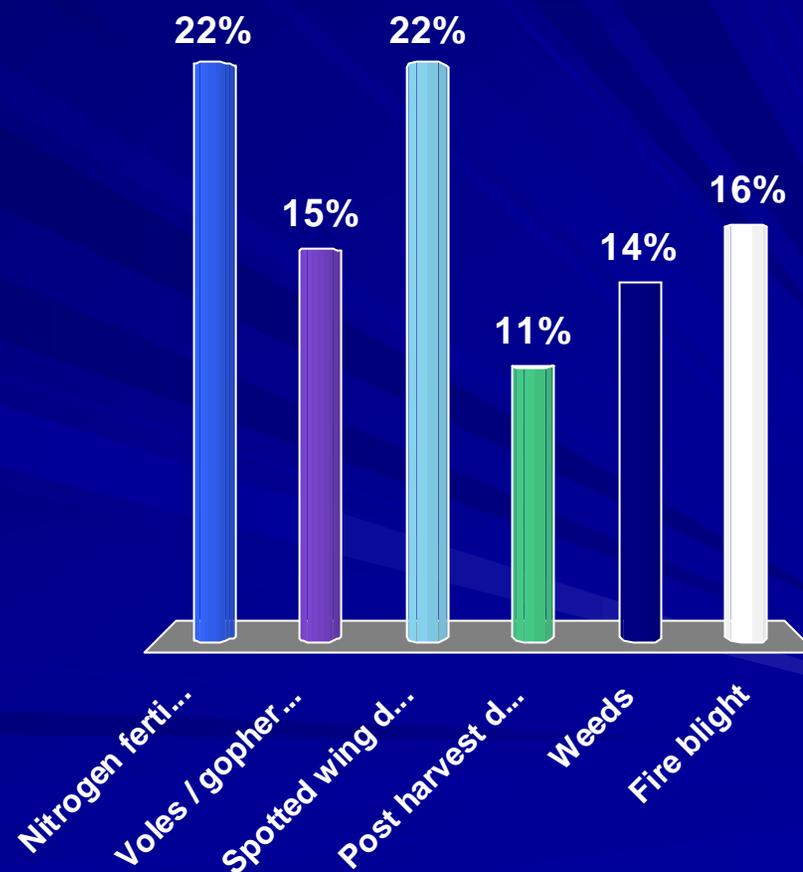
# How would you rate your control of Black Cherry Aphid?

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor



Rank these organic-specific research needs for priority of funding (top 3, in order):

1. Nitrogen fertility
2. Voles / gopher control
3. Spotted wing drosophila
4. Post harvest diseases
5. Weeds
6. Fire blight



Thank You !!

