

Pruning for Productivity

High Tunnel Cherry Tomato Trial 2016

Cornell Willsboro Research Farm

Amy Ivy, Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program

Project Team: Amy Ivy, Judson Reid,
Michael Davis with help from Lauren
Fessler and Calvin Arno



Tomatoes
thrive in high
tunnels



Proper Spacing and Training

- Makes for healthier, more productive plants
- Greater yield
- More efficient work



It is easy for things to get out of hand



We have learned a lot about training and pruning slicing tomatoes



Cherry Tomatoes are challenging to train



Cherry tomatoes are the first to ripen for earliest sales.



Cornell Willsboro Research Farm



Video – early August – different grower
We know it's possible to prune them
well, but is it worth the effort to train
like this?

This is what we studied in this trial.

July 10



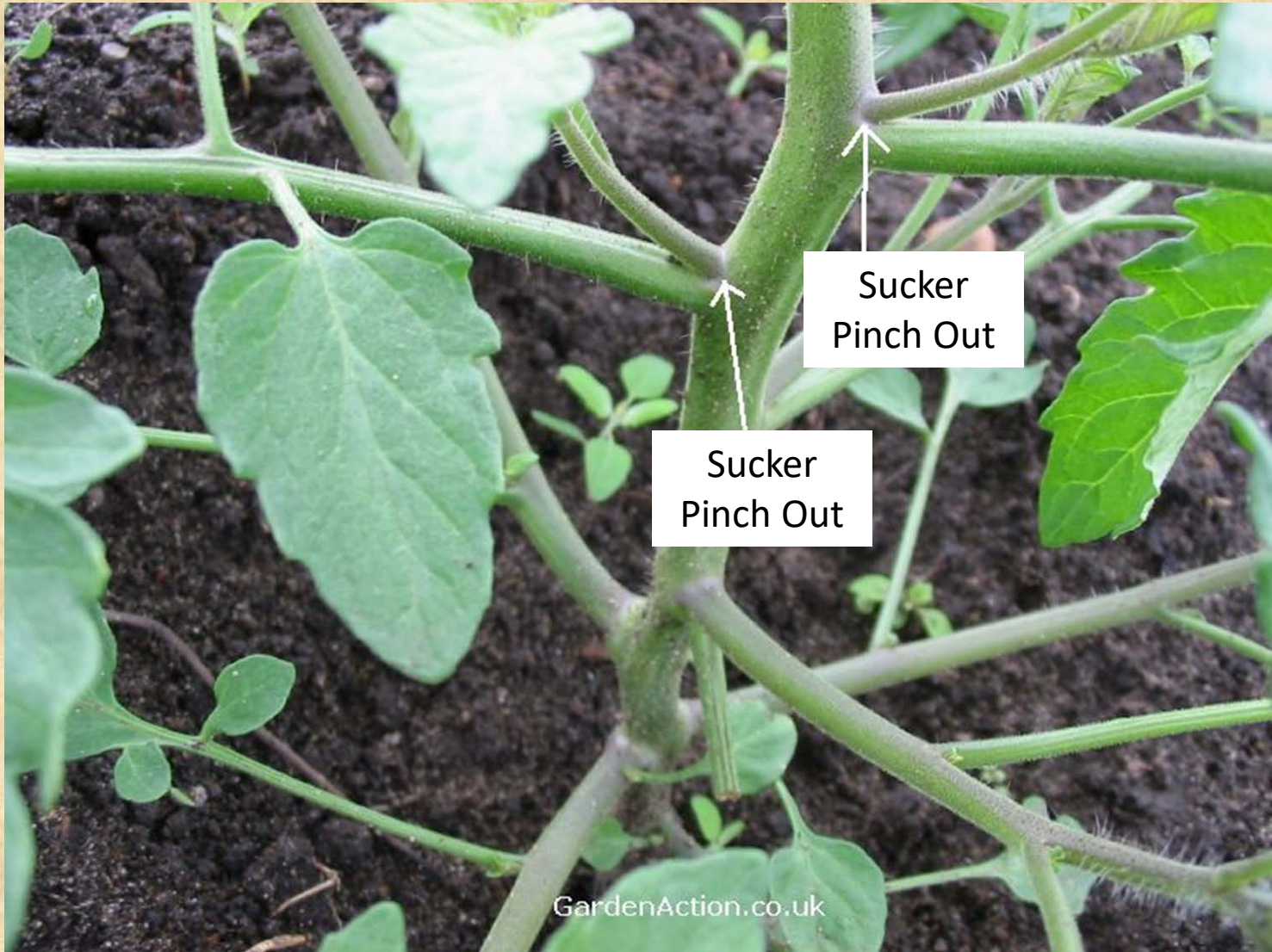
- Planted May 25
- 3 treatments, 4 reps
- Harvested 3x/week
- July 13 - Sept 10
- Supersweet 100



Single Leader remove every sucker



Keep ALL suckers pruned off



Double leader start with 'strong Y'



July 29

Single Leader



4 Leaders Plus

Double Leader



July 29

1 leader/2 leader, 2 leader/4 leader



Aug 2
4 on left, single on right



August 31

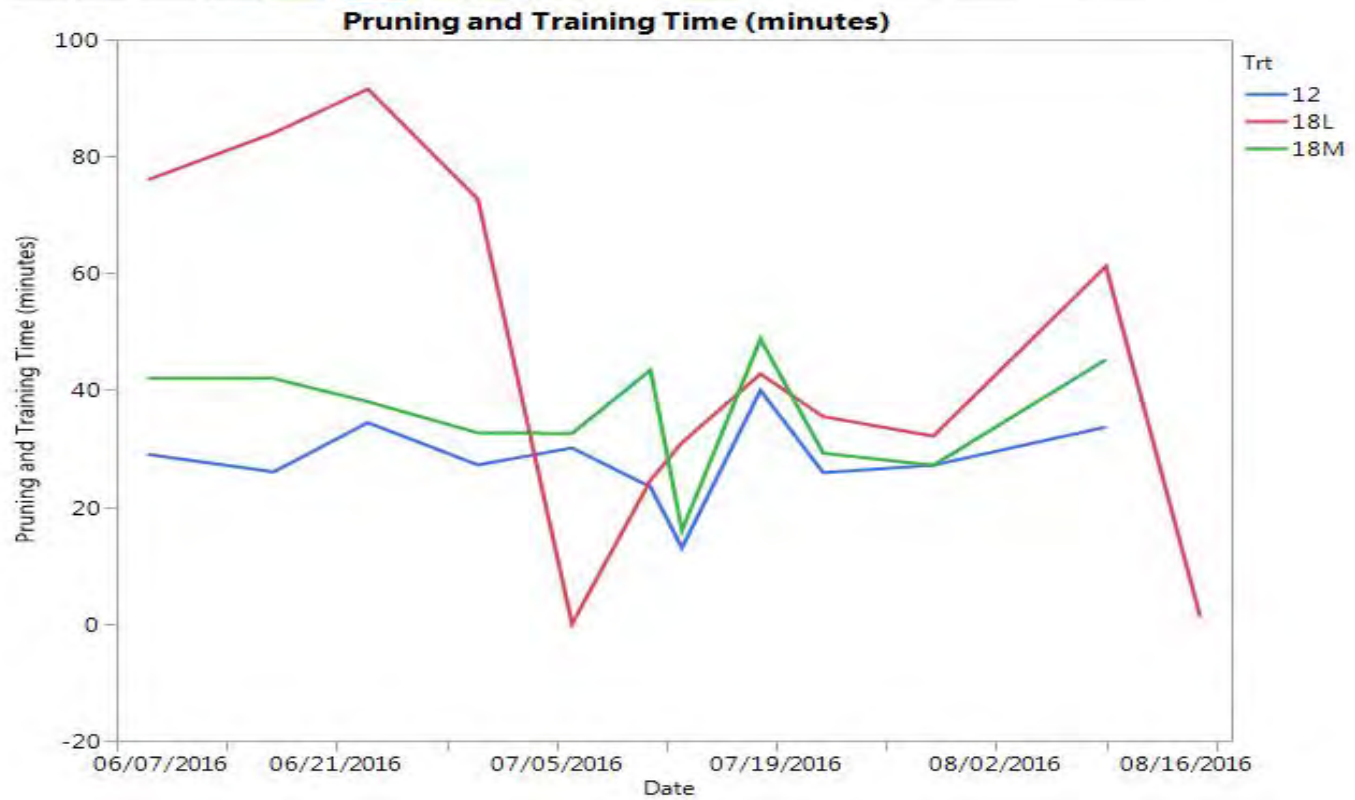
2 leader, 4 leader



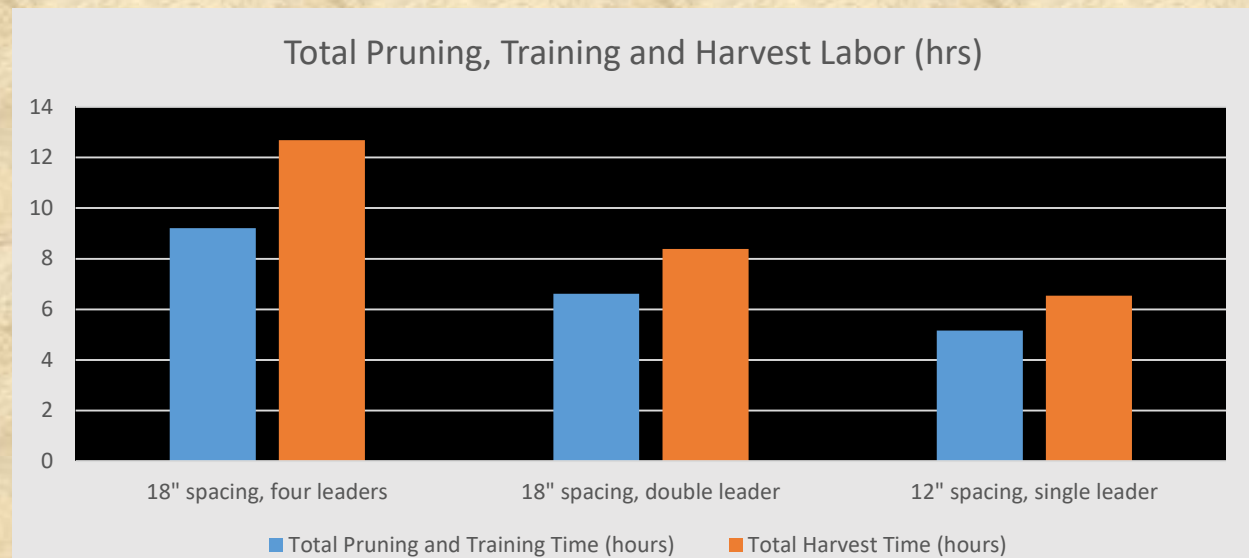
Single leader, 4 leader



Pruning & Training Time

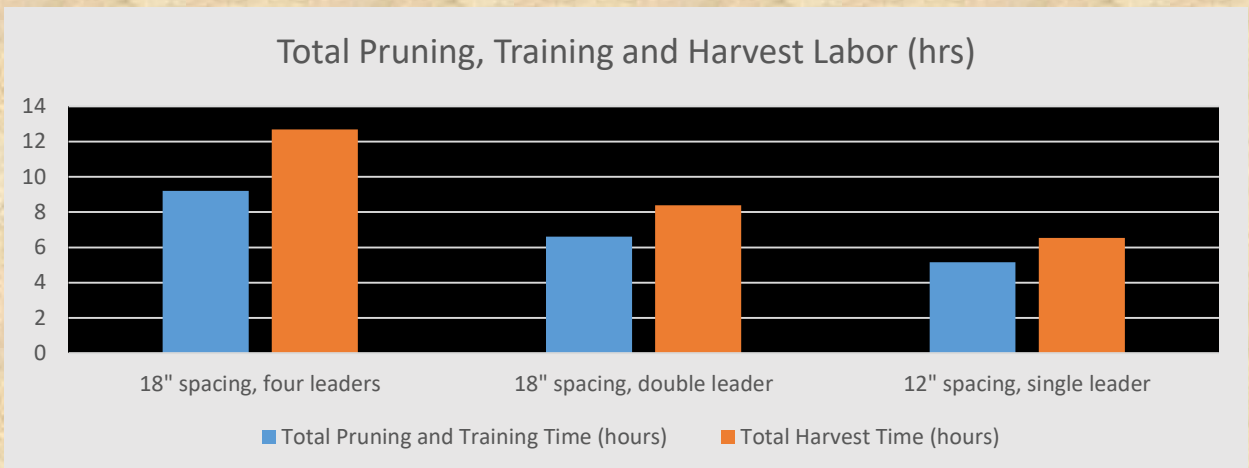
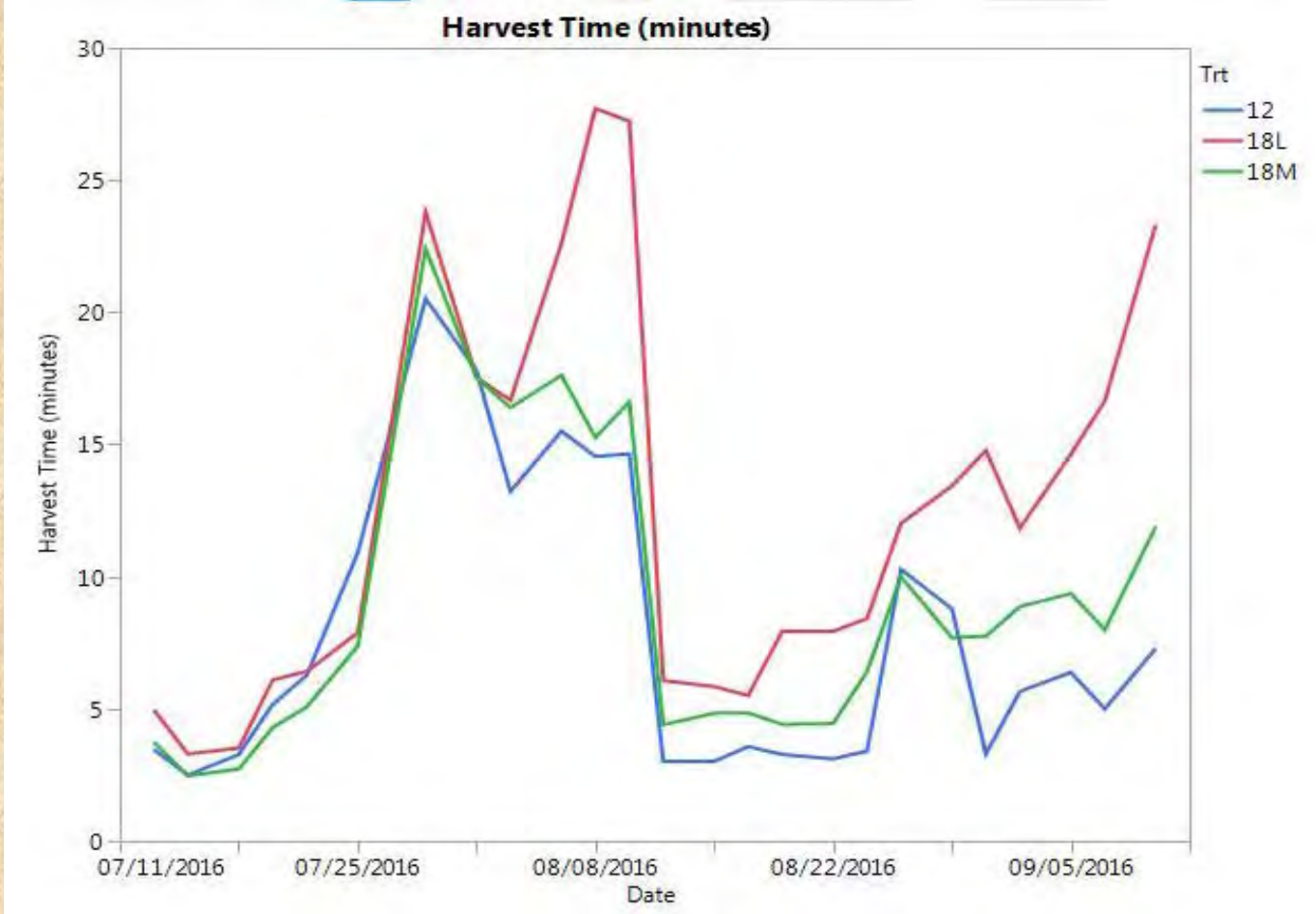


Key:
blue line - single leader
green line - double leader
red line - 4 leaders



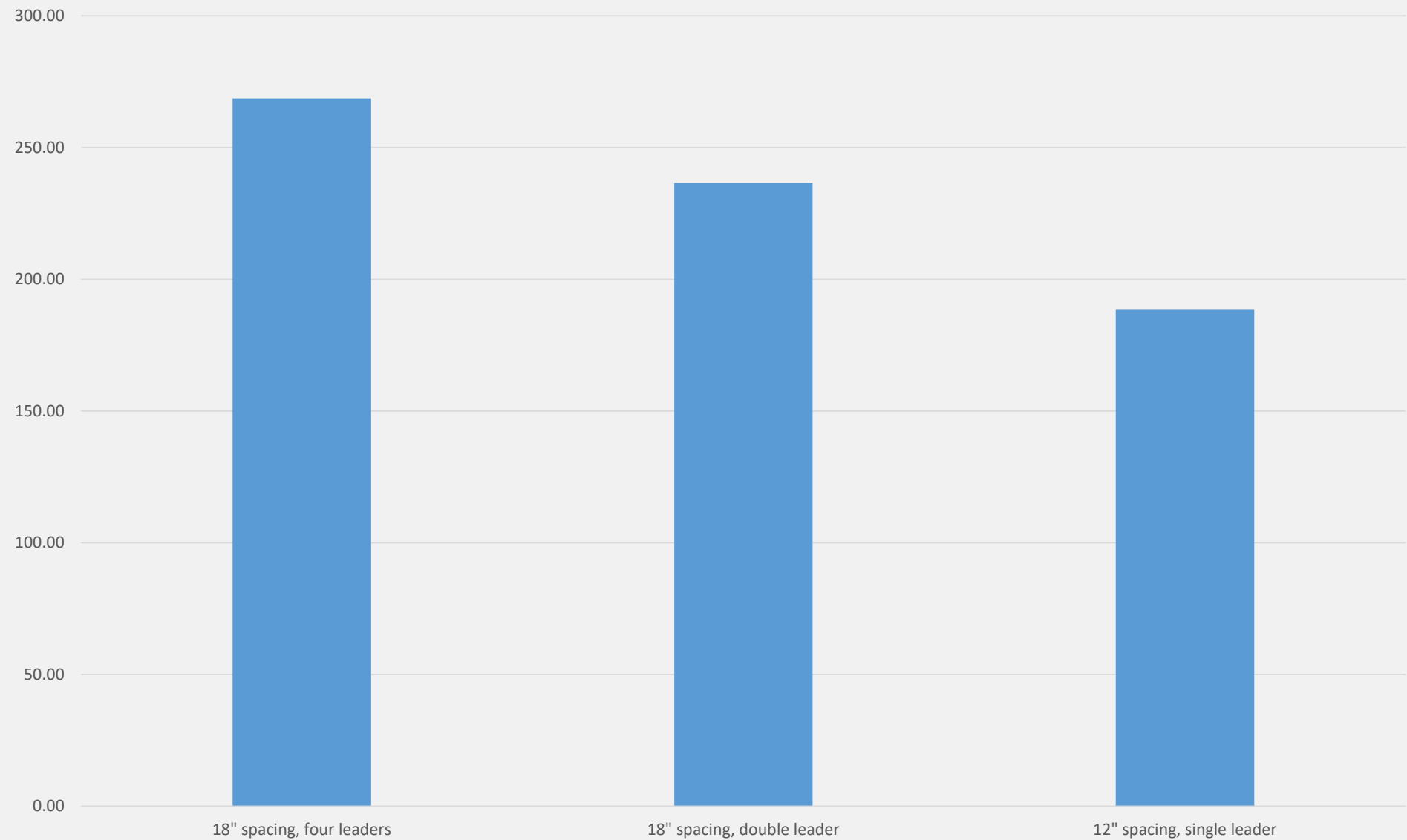
Harvest Time

Key:
blue line - single leader
green line - double leader
red line - 4 leaders



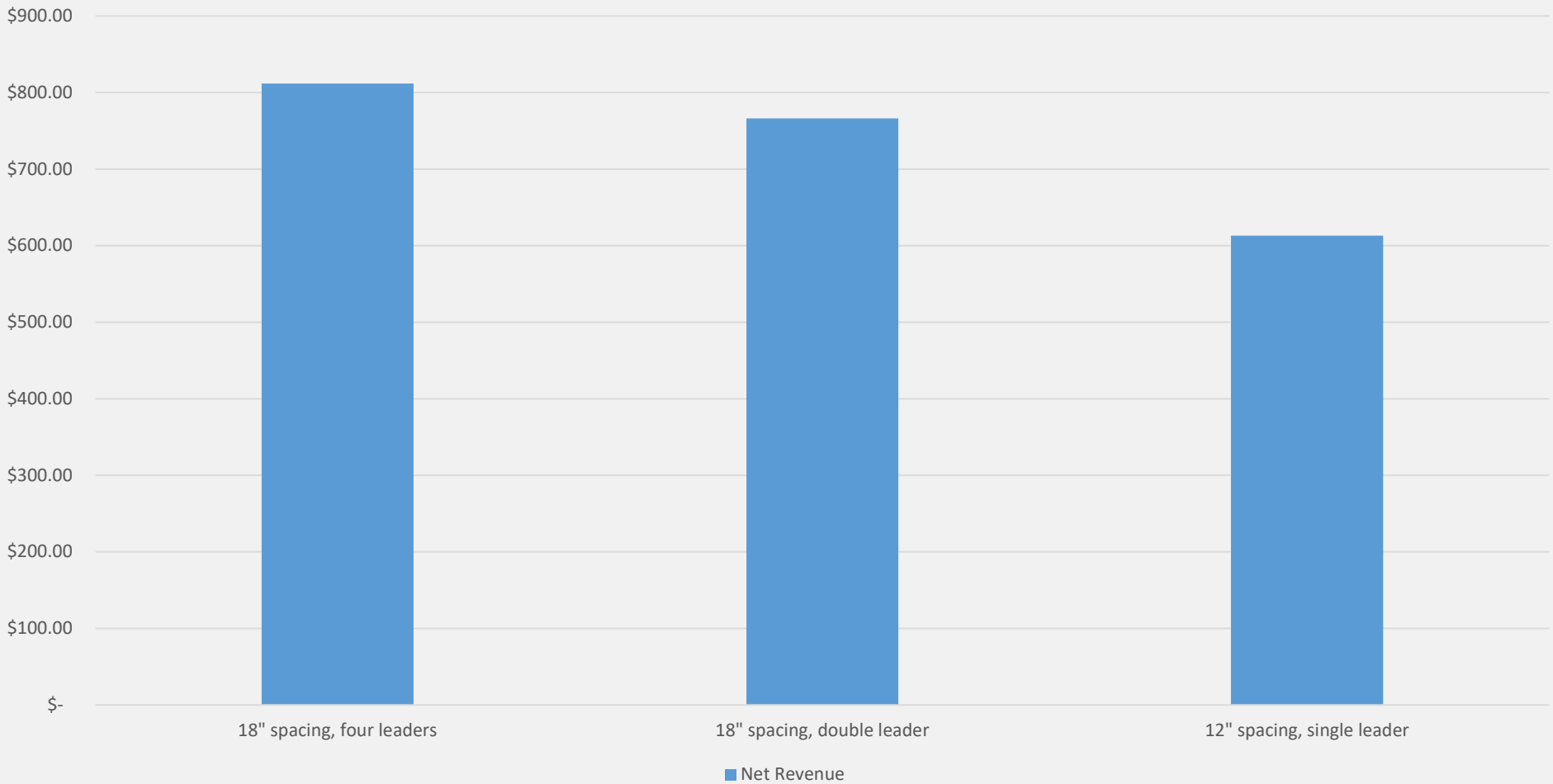
Yield (lbs)

Total Marketable Harvest (lb)



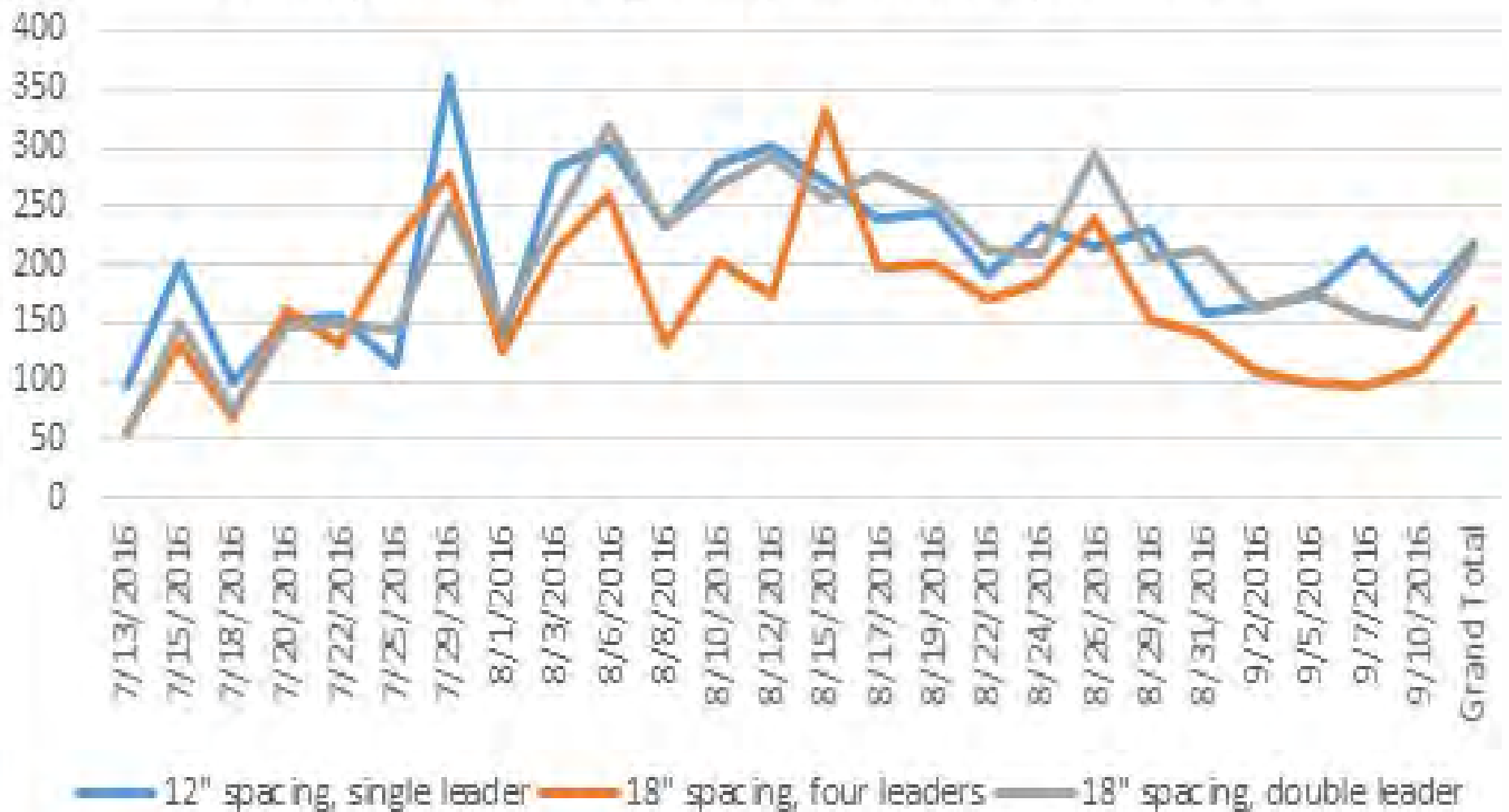
Net Revenue by Treatment

Net Revenue by treatment



Harvest Efficiency

Cherry tomatoes (grams) harvested per minute



Variety Trial of Leaf Mold Resistant Cherry Tomatoes



Early symptoms of leaf mold



Esterina, Natures Bites, Sakura, Sungold*



* Sungold is the variety susceptible to leaf mold

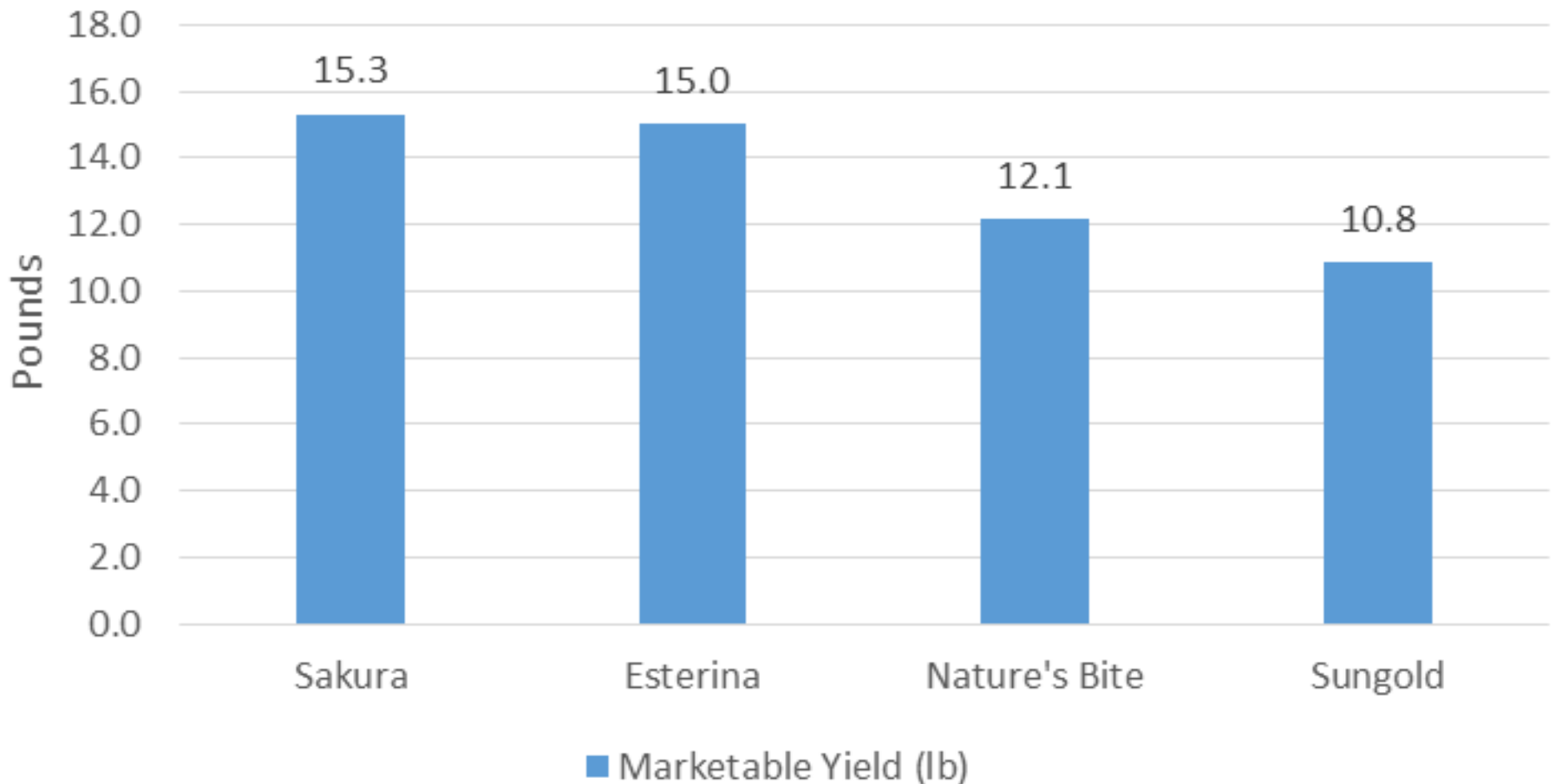


Variety trial at the Cornell Willsboro Research Farm
4 reps, 4 varieties

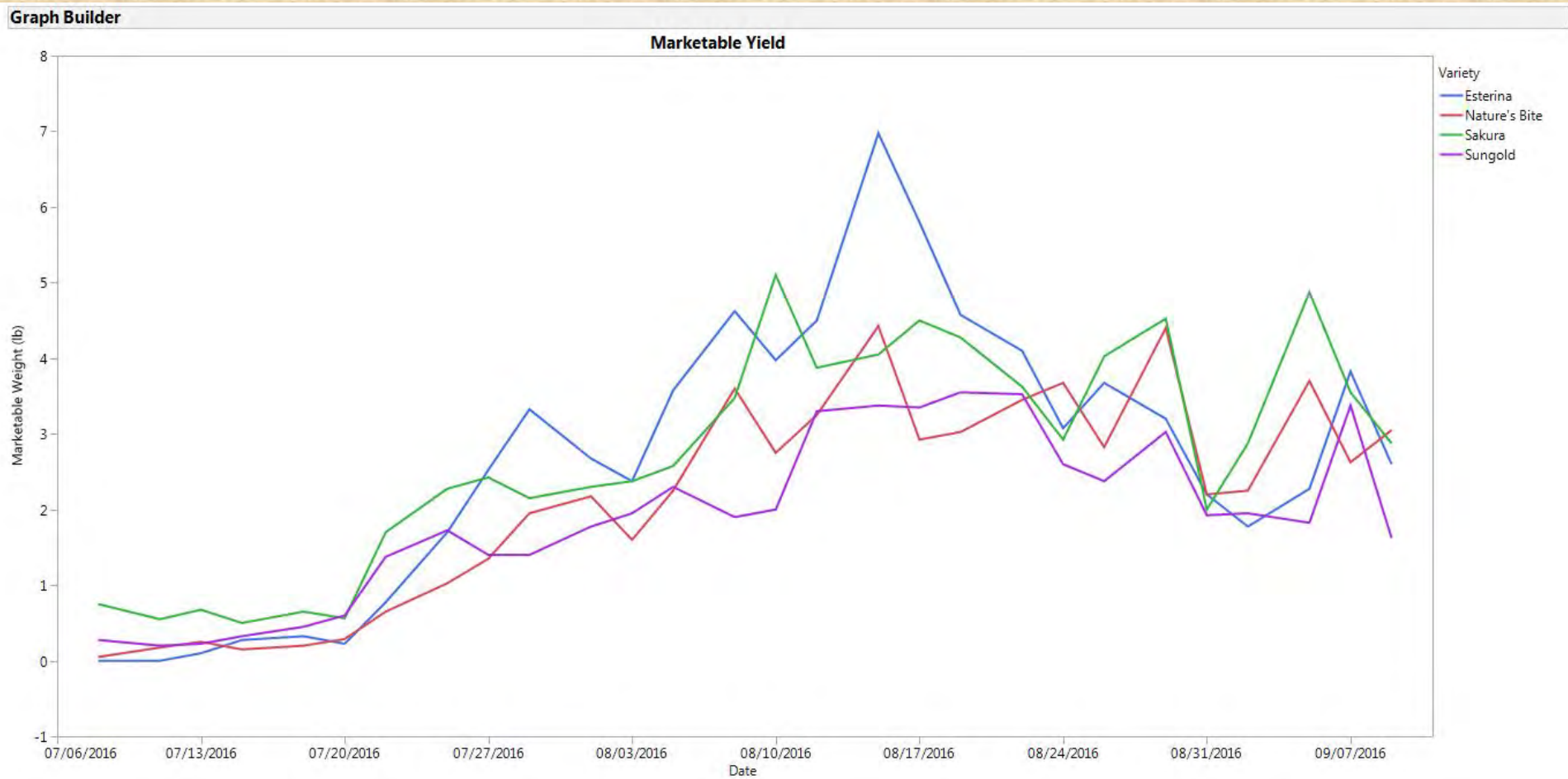
Marketable Yield

7/13 – 9/10

Total Yield Per Plant (lbs)



Cherry Tomato Trial yield over time



Esterina

Natures Bites

Sakura

Sungold

Thank you!

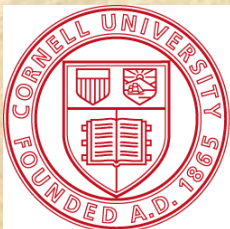
- Northern NY Agricultural Development Program
- Mike Davis, manager of the Cornell Willsboro Research Farm
- Judson Reid, Cornell Vegetable Program
- Lauren Fessler, Cornell Summer Intern
- Calvin Arno, summer farm employee
- We have funding to repeat the pruning trial in 2017



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Cooperative Extension