

Visual and Thermal Imaging

An Imaging Component of the Precision Ag Toolkit

Jim Etro

jim@crop-vu.com

703-489-8507



Precision Agriculture

is spatial and temporal

Precision Agriculture enables a detailed view and understanding of the crop as it is growing so that it can be managed affordably.

Tools of the Trade

High Fidelity Sensing and Analyses

Precise Positioning - GIS

Precise Machines

An Agronomist in the Field

Precision Leads to Increased Margins

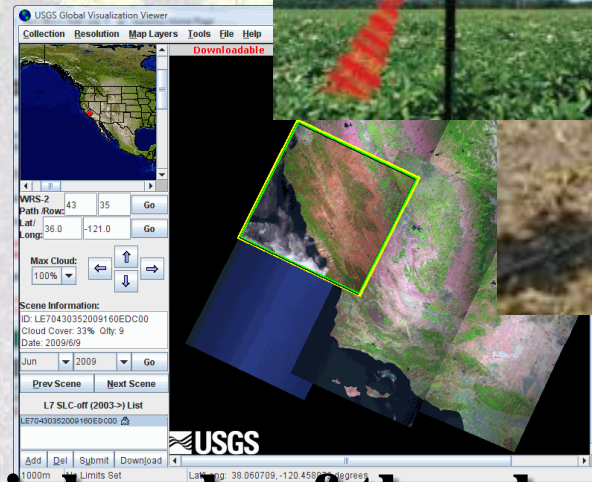
High Fidelity Sensing

In Soil

In Plant & Near Plant

Aircraft & Satellite

at the temporal and spatial scale of the plant



Applying Imaging

at the temporal and spatial scale of the plant

Provides the information needed for making agricultural decisions.

- **Disease and Pest and Irrigation Scouting/Assessment**
- **Help Guide Management of Water & Amendments & Herbicides & Pesticides**
- **Canopy Management**
- **Life Cycle Mapping**
 - Follow Growth**
 - Mapping for Variable/Precision Harvest Operations**
- **Direct Resources** (Labor/Water/Amendments/Herbicides/Pesticides)

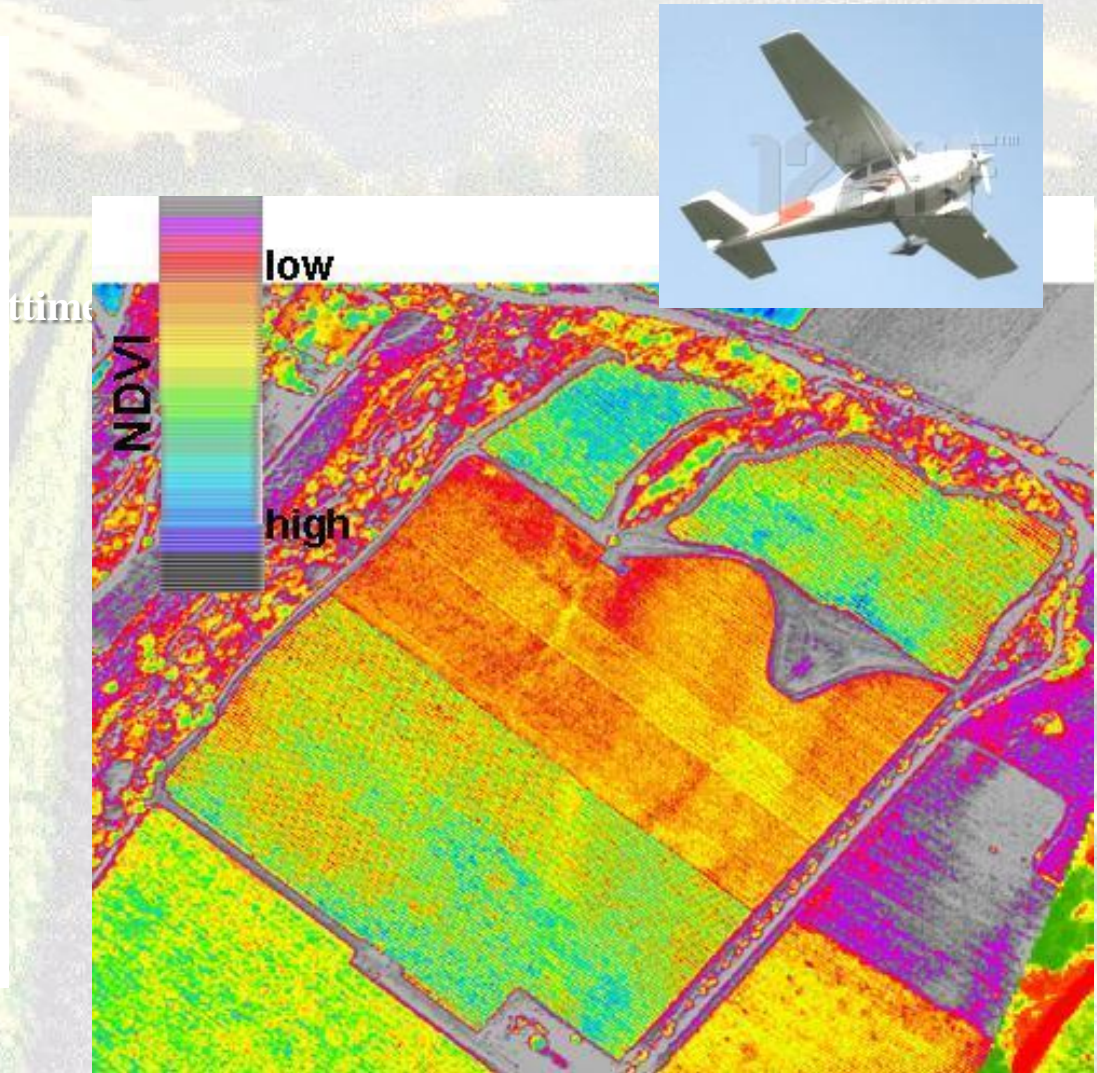
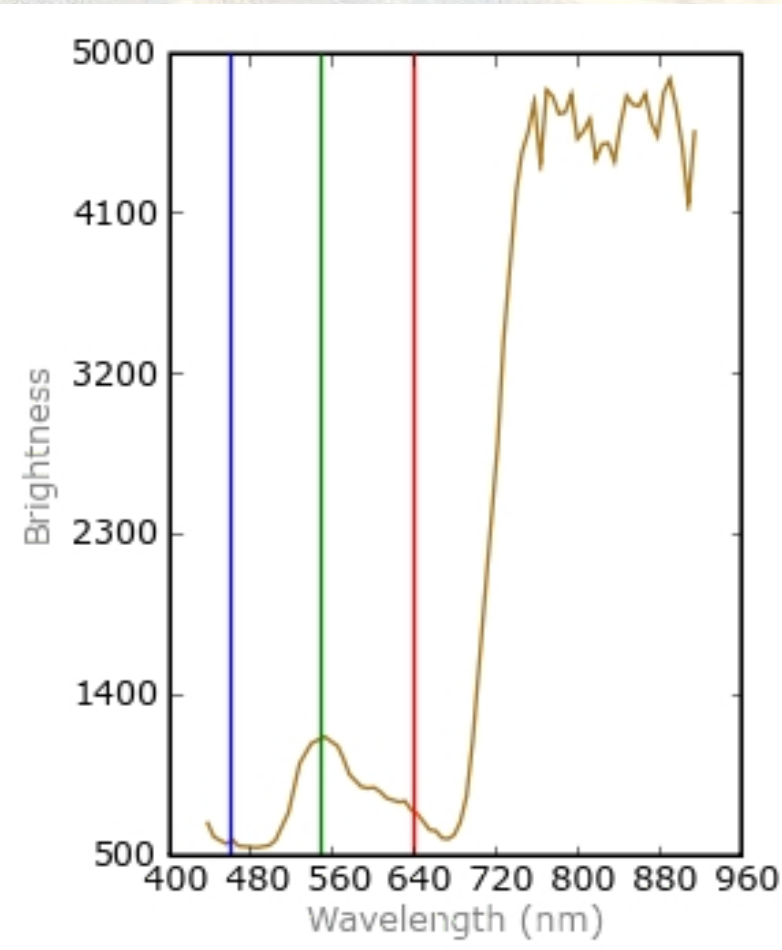
To be at the temporal and spatial scale of the plant the imagery must be:

High Resolution

On-Demand

Affordability!!!

Remote Sensing & Analysis by Visual Imaging using NDVI



Hawk-Eye™ Remote Sensing System

**Thermal and Visual Views of the
Field
Oblique
Steerable Views
On-Demand**

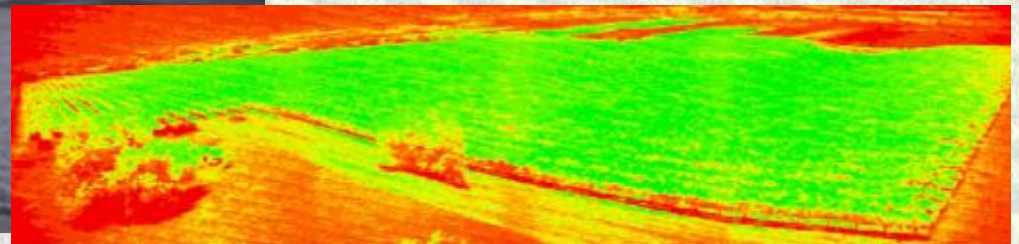


Remote Sensing & Analysis

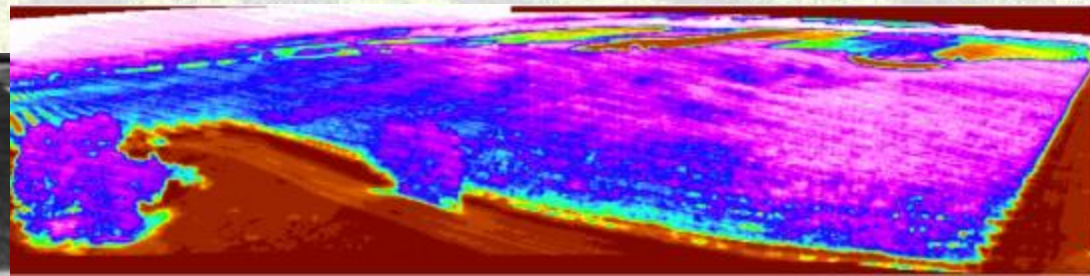
by Imaging



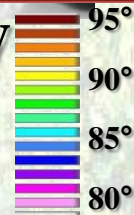
Visual – sensing reflected energy



Near-Infrared – sensing reflected energy



Far-Infrared – sensing emitted energy



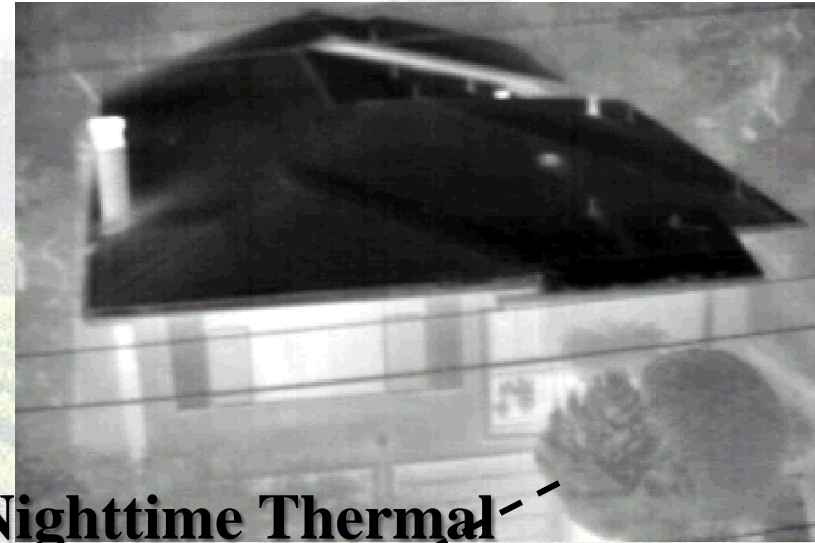
The Imaging Spectrum



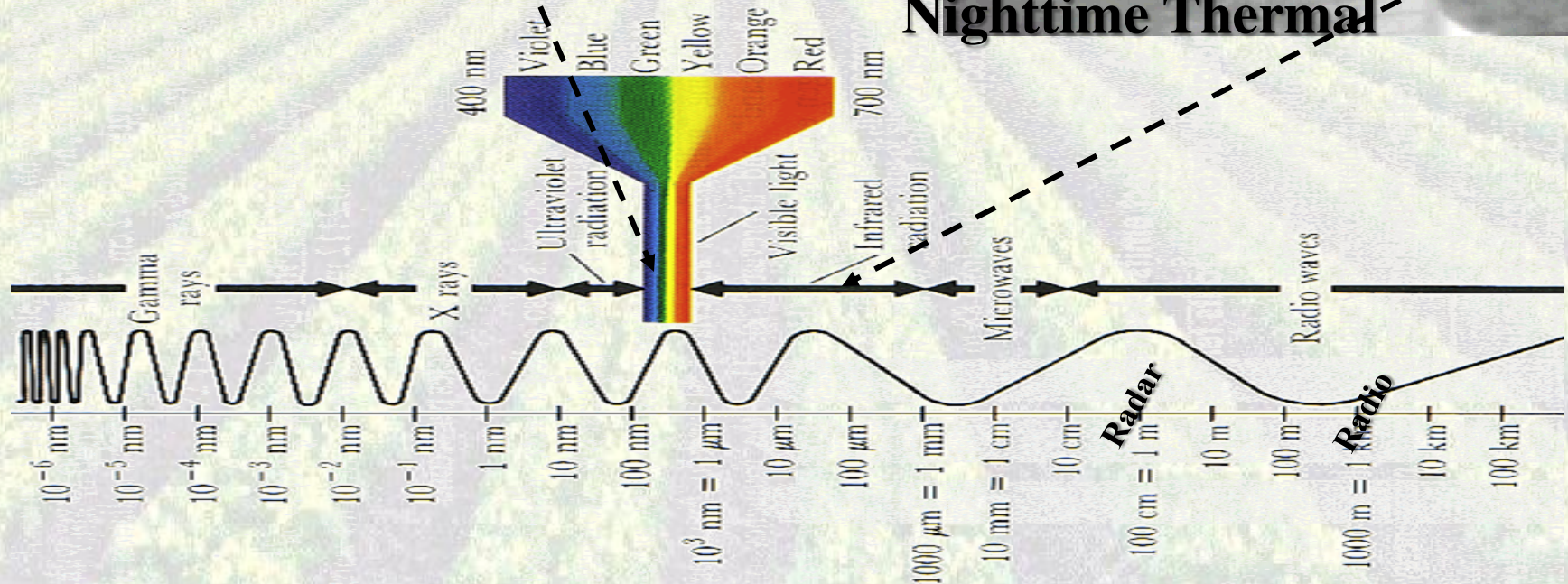
Daytime Visual



Nighttime Visual

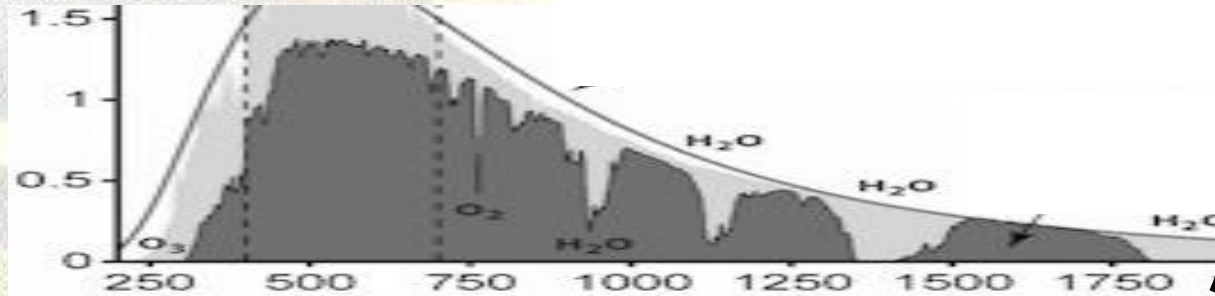


Nighttime Thermal

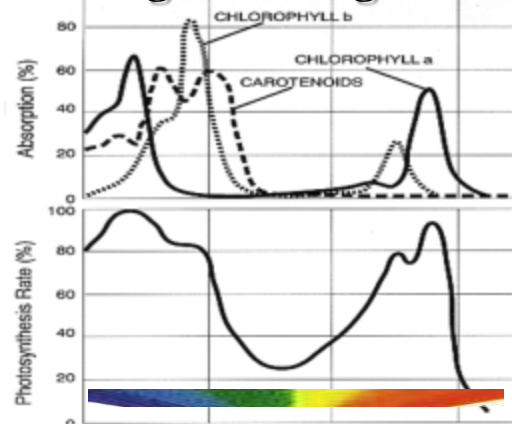


Thermal Regulation in Isohydric Plants

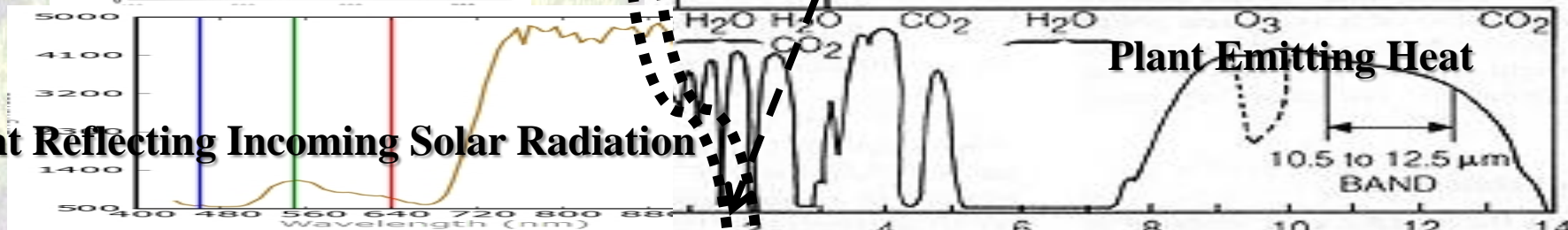
Incoming Solar Radiation



Plant Using Incoming Solar Radiation



Plant Reflecting Incoming Solar Radiation



- ☐ Scatter Visible and n-IR energy that isn't used
- ☐ Transpiration
- ☐ Shade/Shape of the Canopy

Plant Emitting Heat

Vineyard Thermal Observations

As the day progresses **the canopy warms to a 'comfortable' range.**

- Near sunrise, healthy grapevine canopy **temperatures tend to be within a few degrees of the ambient air temperature.**
- As the day progresses canopy temperatures warm so that during the middle of the day the healthy canopies reach a **range of temperatures between 83°F and 91°F.**
- **Day-time temperature range is maintained** even when the ambient air temperatures are as much as 10°F lower than the canopy temperature and when the ambient air temperatures are as much as 15°F higher than the canopy temperature.

As the canopy fills out **canopy temperatures are inverse to the vigor (greenness).**

- relatively cool temperatures inversely proportional to high vigor patterns.
- Relatively warmer temperatures are normally reflected in relatively lower vigor patterns.
- When high vigor – **warmer temperatures is usually the signature of stress.**
- the pattern over the extent of the field leads one to understand if it is water stress or a disease/insect stress.

As grapes approach **ripeness this phase relationship may invert (become directly proportional)**

- the canopy temperatures decrease and the vigor (leaf greenness) also decreases.

Thermal (far-IR) Imaging Daytime Warm-Up

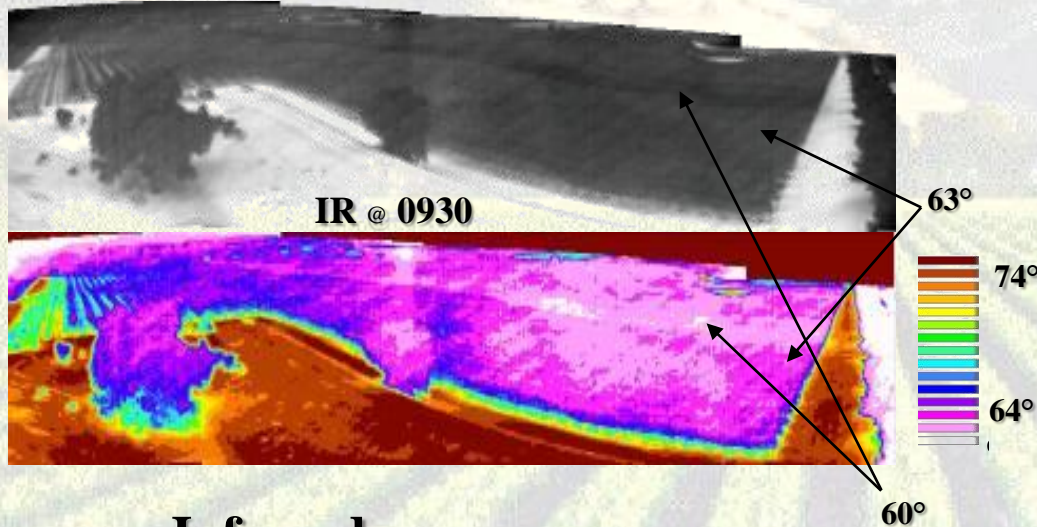
11 July 2008
Salinas Valley, WestSide

0930 Environment

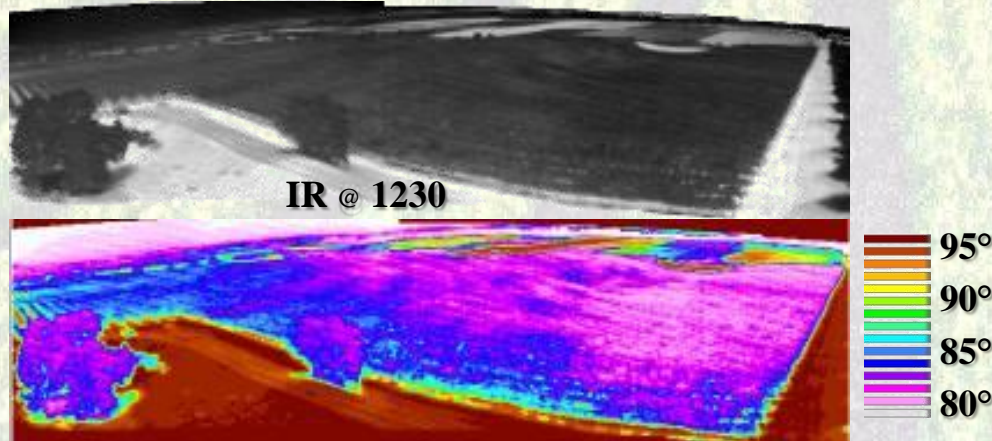
airtemp - 64°
grndtemp - 73°
leaf temp - 64°
wind - calm
sky - 10/10
low stratus
vsby - 5mi]

1230 Environment

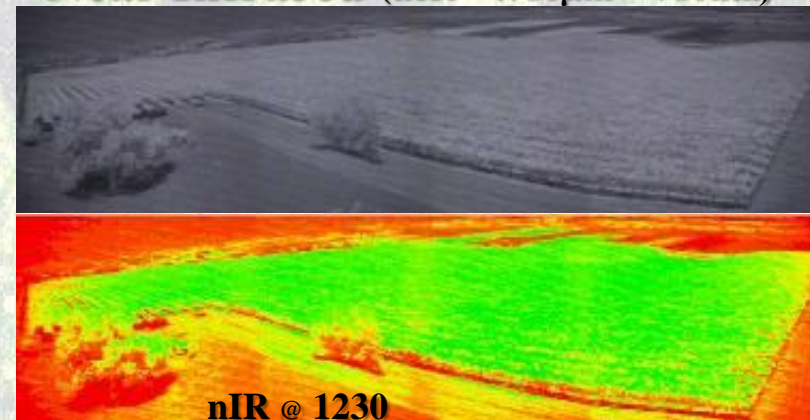
airtemp - 74°
grndtemp - 96° sun / 79° shade
leaf temp - 83° - 90° sunside
wind - ~04/020
sky - 0/10
vsby - 9mi



Infrared (IR = 8-14μm)

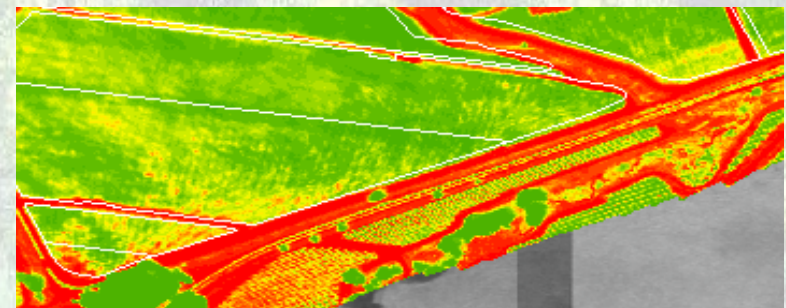
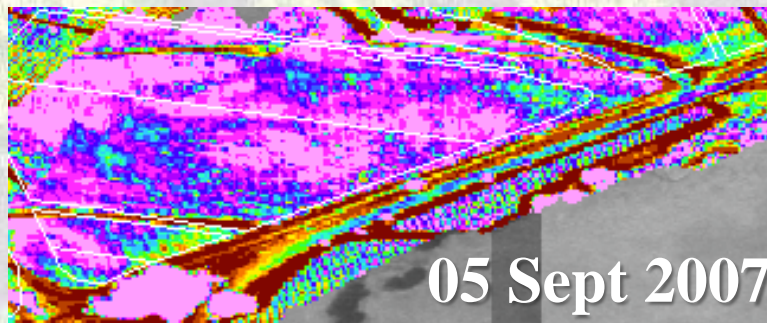
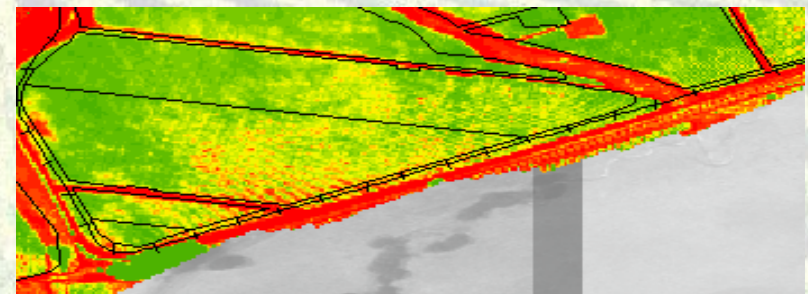
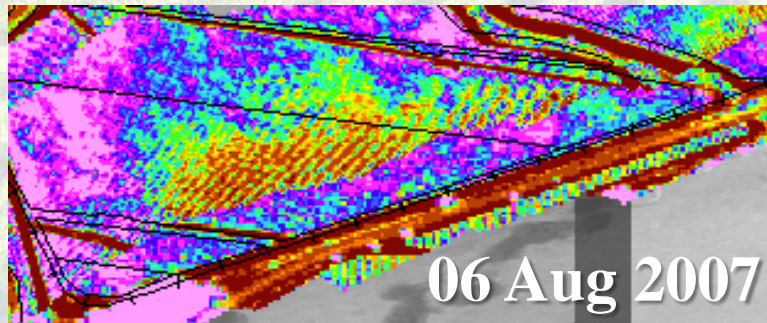
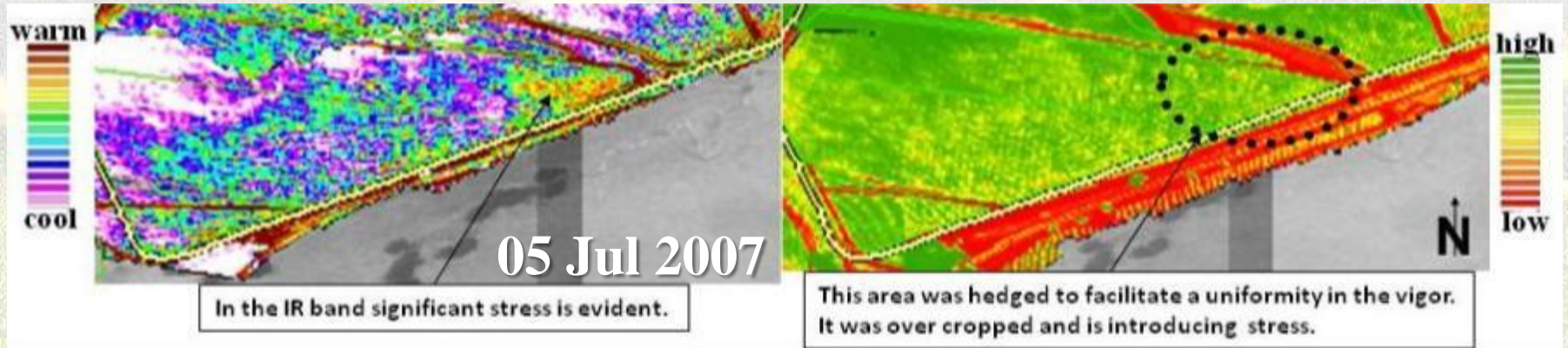


Near Infrared (nIR = .780μm = 780nm)



Thermal (far-IR) Imaging

Temperature - Vigor Relationship



Grape Vine

Canopy Temperature - Related Notes

Quality

- 70°F to 80°F favor the accumulation of malic acid
- above 100°F accumulation of malic acid is degraded
- accumulation of anthocyanin is repressed when temperatures above 86°F

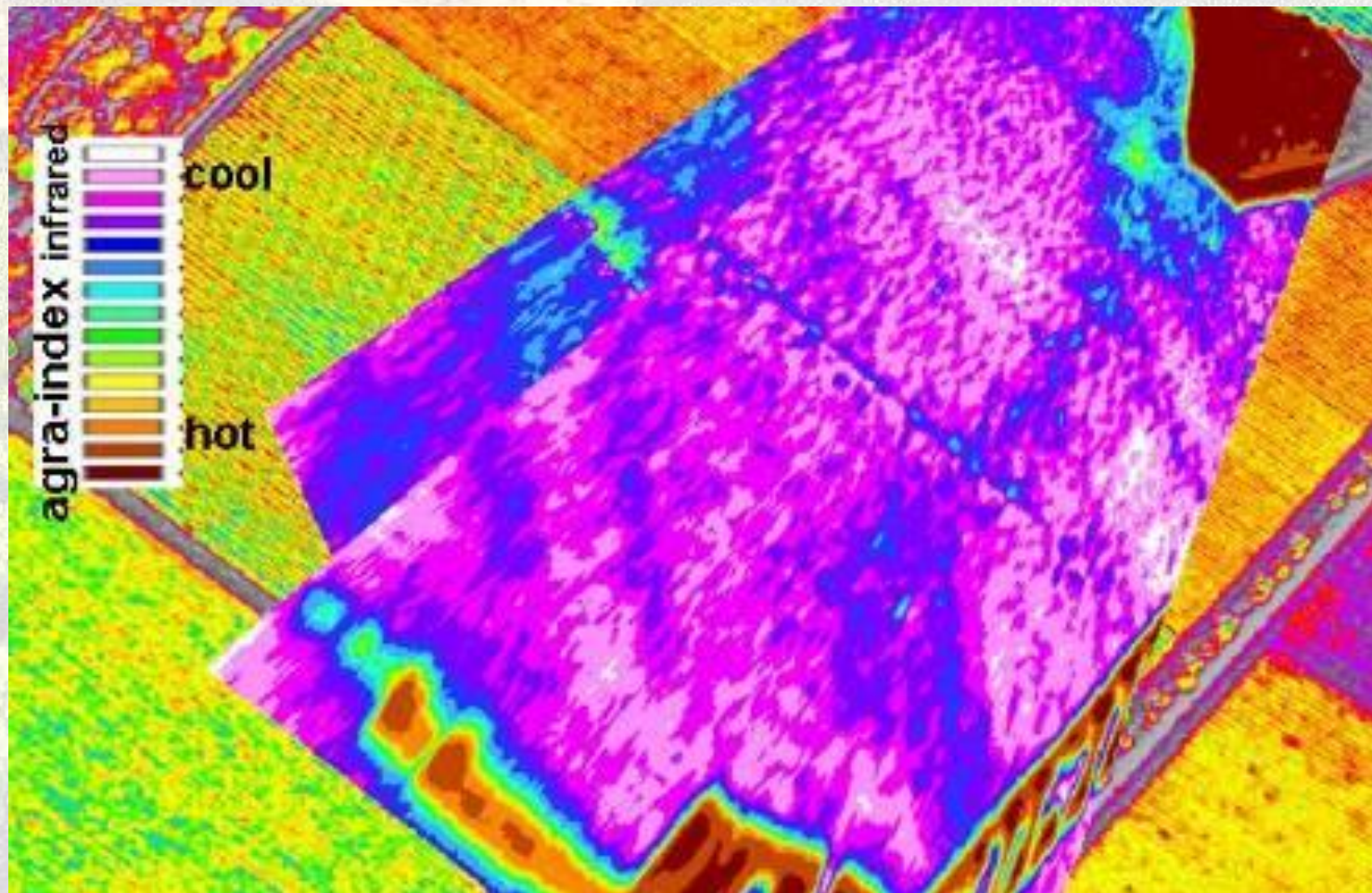
Disease

- The primary factor that controls the spread of Powdery Mildew is temperature.
- fungus can multiply rapidly when temperatures are in the mid-60s to mid-80s
- inactive while temperatures remain above 90°F and some spores and colonies are killed after relatively short exposures above 95°F

Pests

- As the canopy temperatures increase above 86°F Pacific Spider Mites tend to bloom and at 95°F the rate of development is at a maximum

Thermal (far-IR) Imaging Heat/Water Stress



Stress Scouting

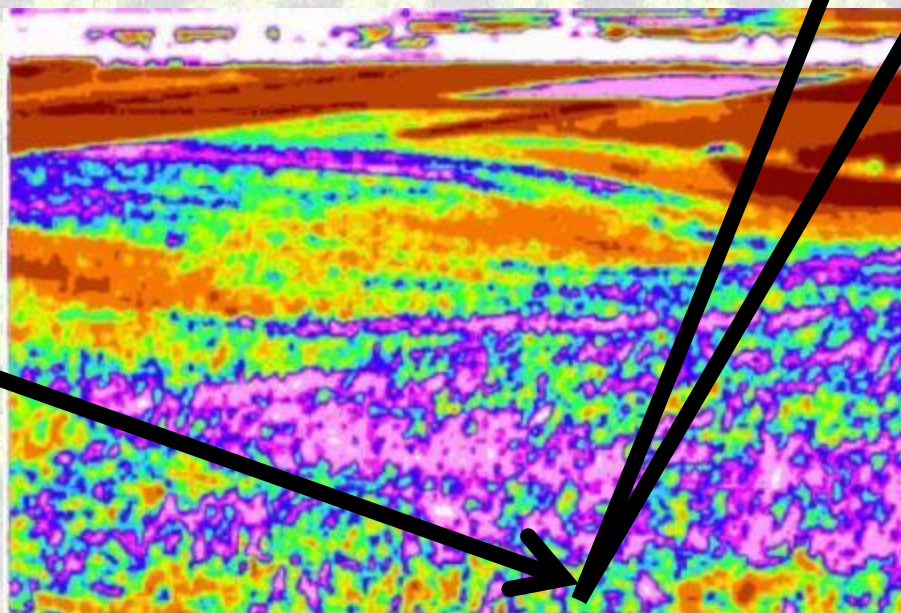
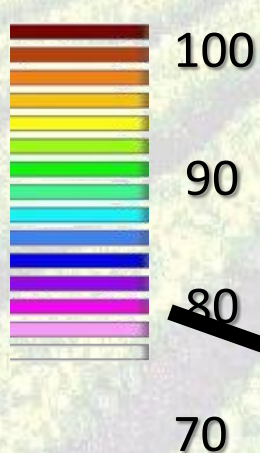
Salinas Valley

1130 PDT, 23 July 09

Air Temp - 71°

Sky - 0/8 cover

Vsby - unrestricted





Irrigation Scouting

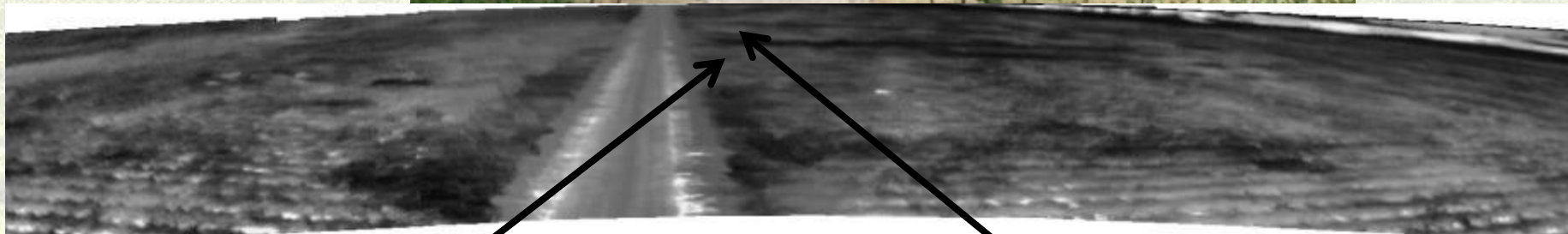
Salinas Valley

1500 PDT, 23 July 09

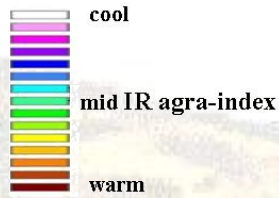
Air Temp - 74°

Sky - 0/8 cover

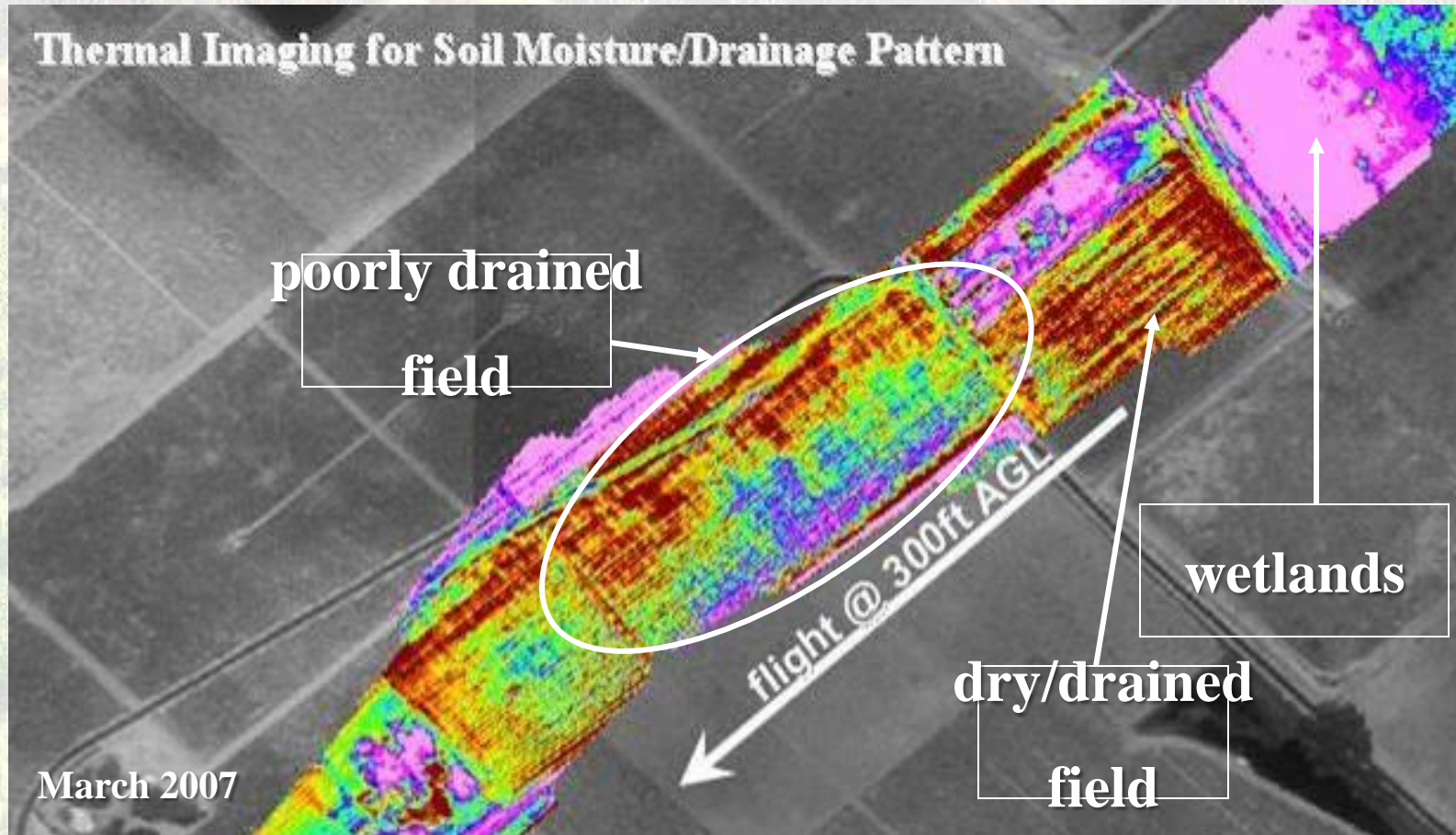
Vsby - unrestricted



Thermal



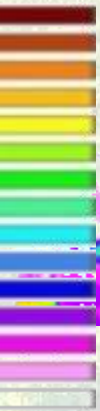
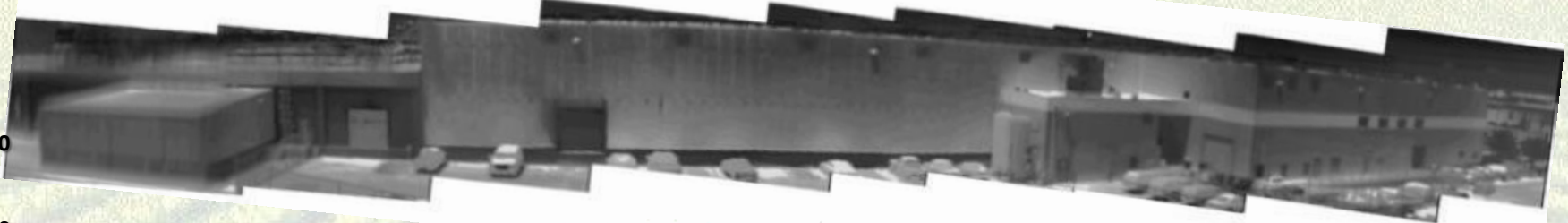
Assessing Surface Soil Moisture Using Thermal IR Imaging



**Checking Drainage
Planning Irrigation Strategies**

Another Application for Thermal Imaging

Controlled Climate Building Audits



90

80

70

Action	\$\$\$ Impact Approximate	% Impact Approximate
..... access doors	\$ 4,700/Yr	> 1%
..... Walls	\$ 24,000/Yr	2.5%
..... on roof surface	\$145,000/Yr	15%
Increase Insulation by factor of 3	\$170,000/Yr	18%