

*Infrared Thermometry and Opportunities to  
Quantify Water Stress and Crop ET*

*Kendall DeJonge*

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**Water Management Research Unit**

Fort Collins, CO



United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Research Service

*Innovations in  
Irrigation Water  
Management  
since 1911*

$$ET_c = ET_r (K_{cb} K_s + K_e) \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

Weather  
Station

Canopy  
Cover

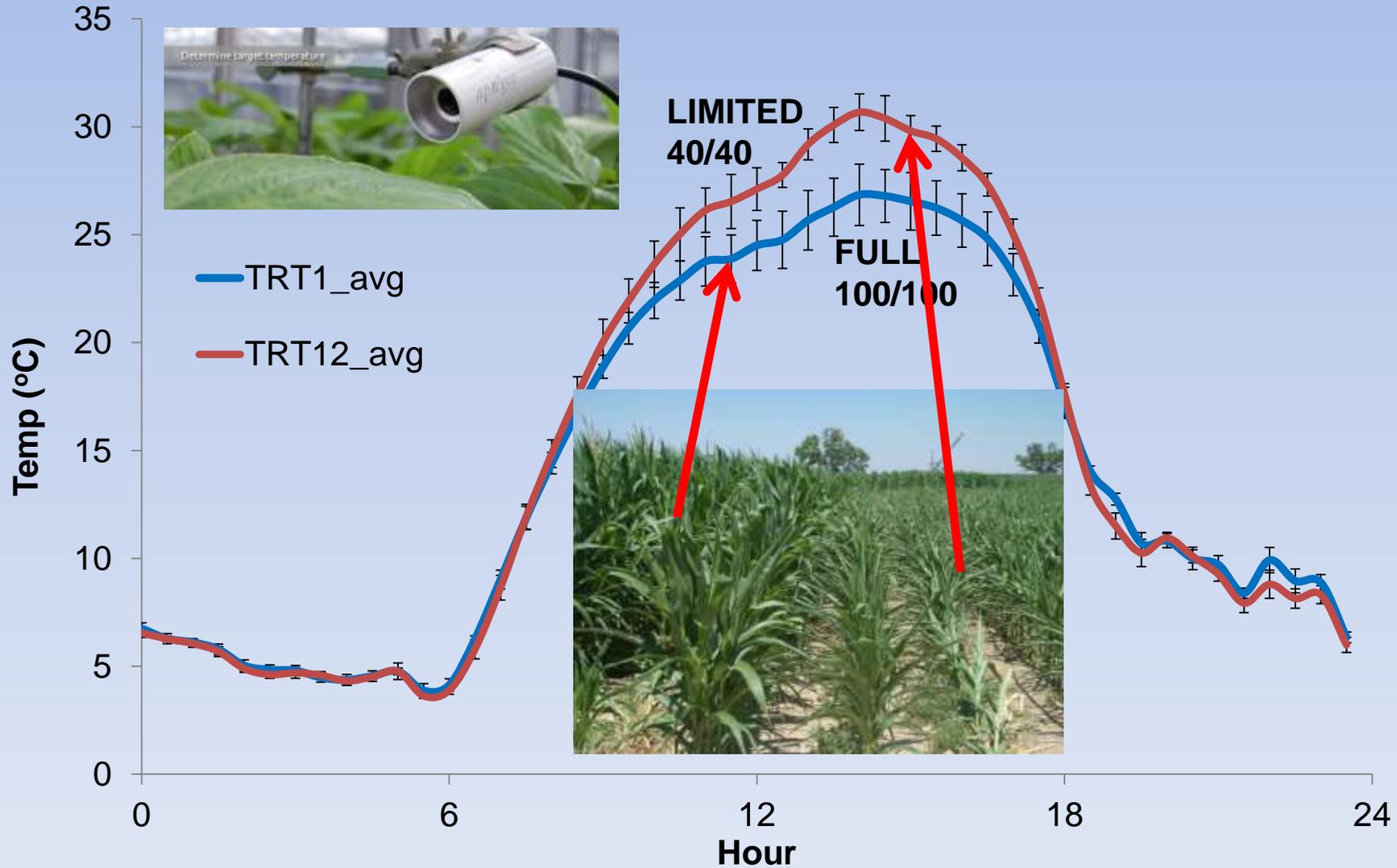
Canopy  
Temperature

Water  
Balance,

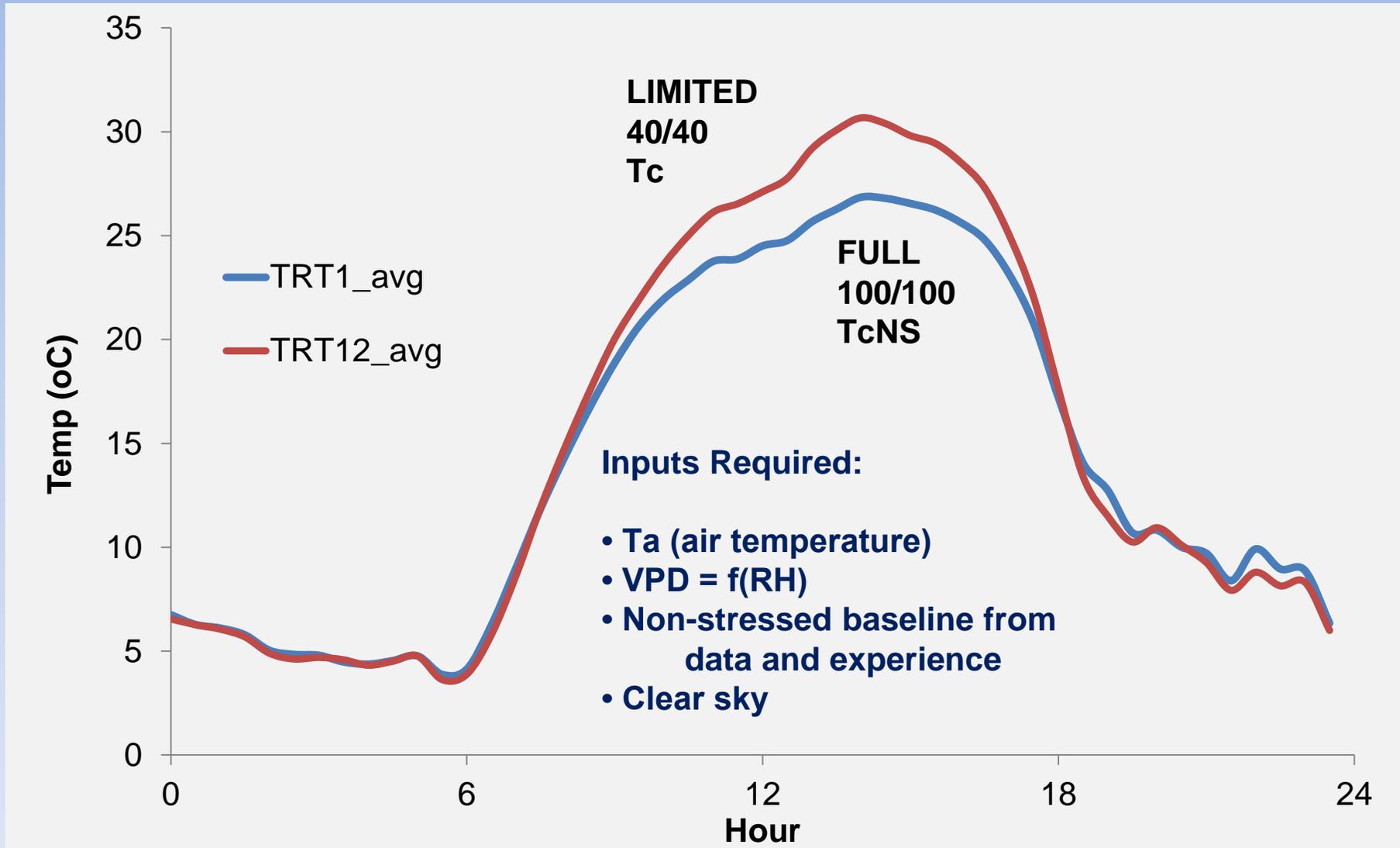
**FULL  
IRRIGATION**

**LIMITED  
IRRIGATION**

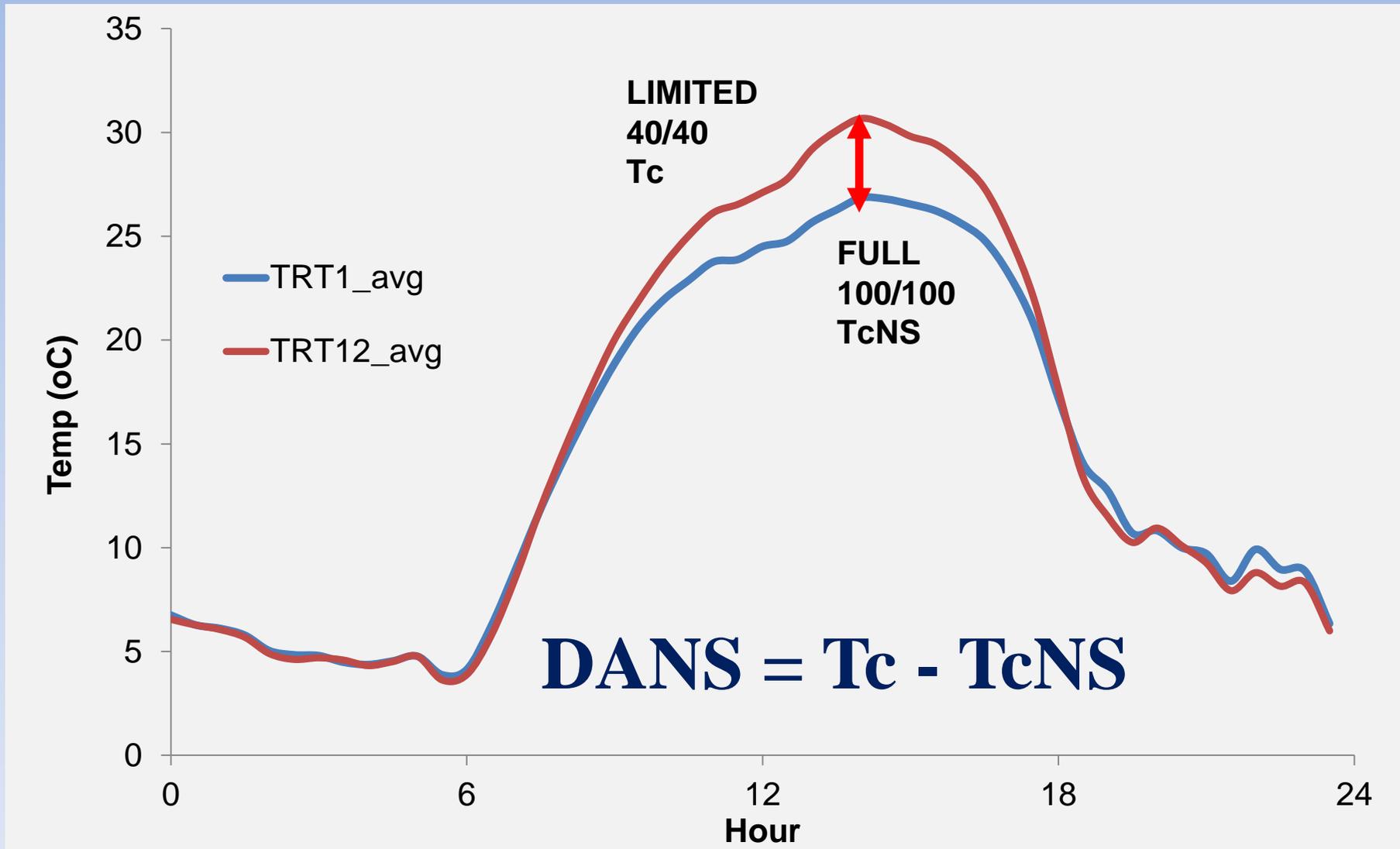
# Continuous infrared thermometer (IRT)



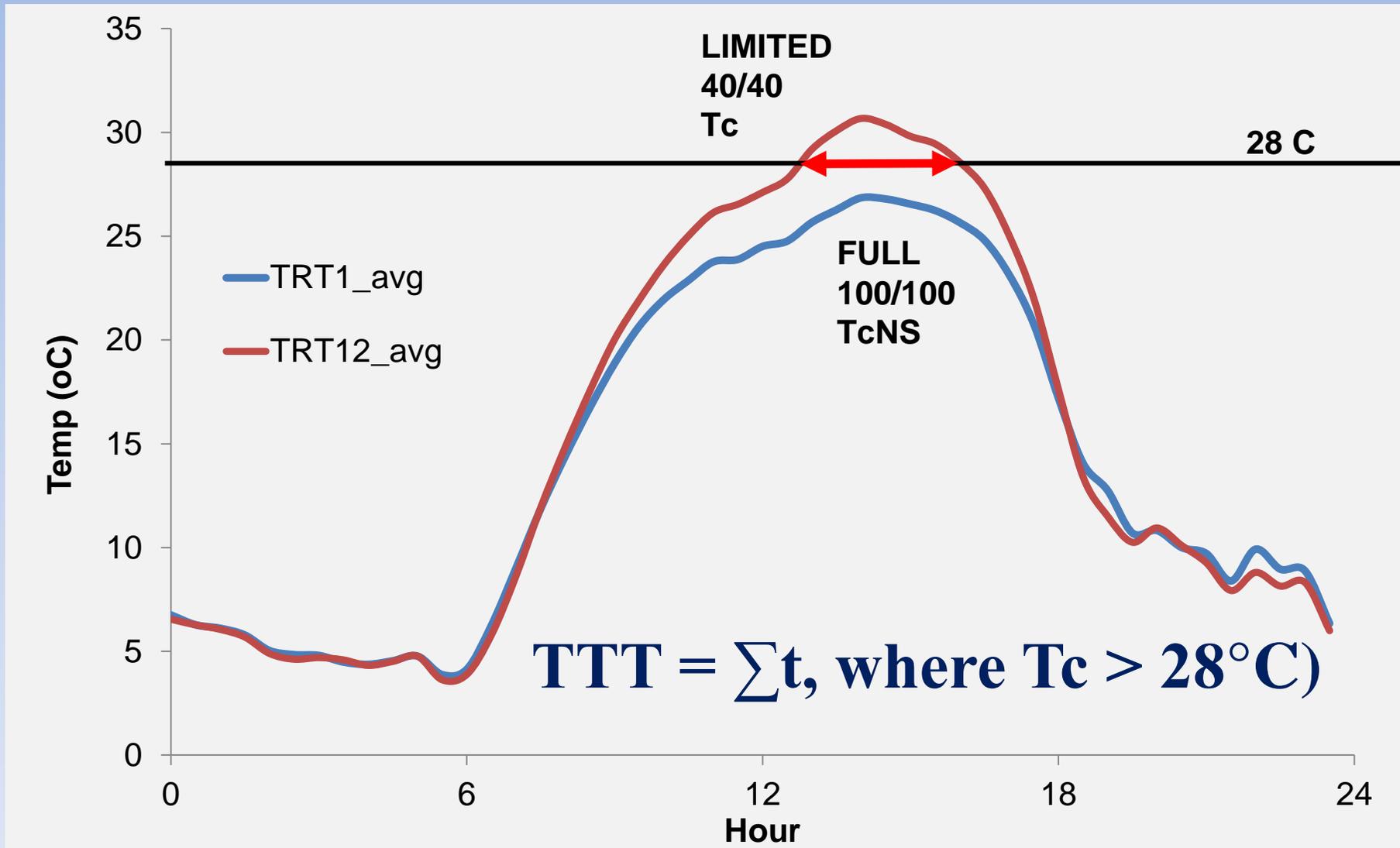
# Crop Water Stress Index (CWSI)



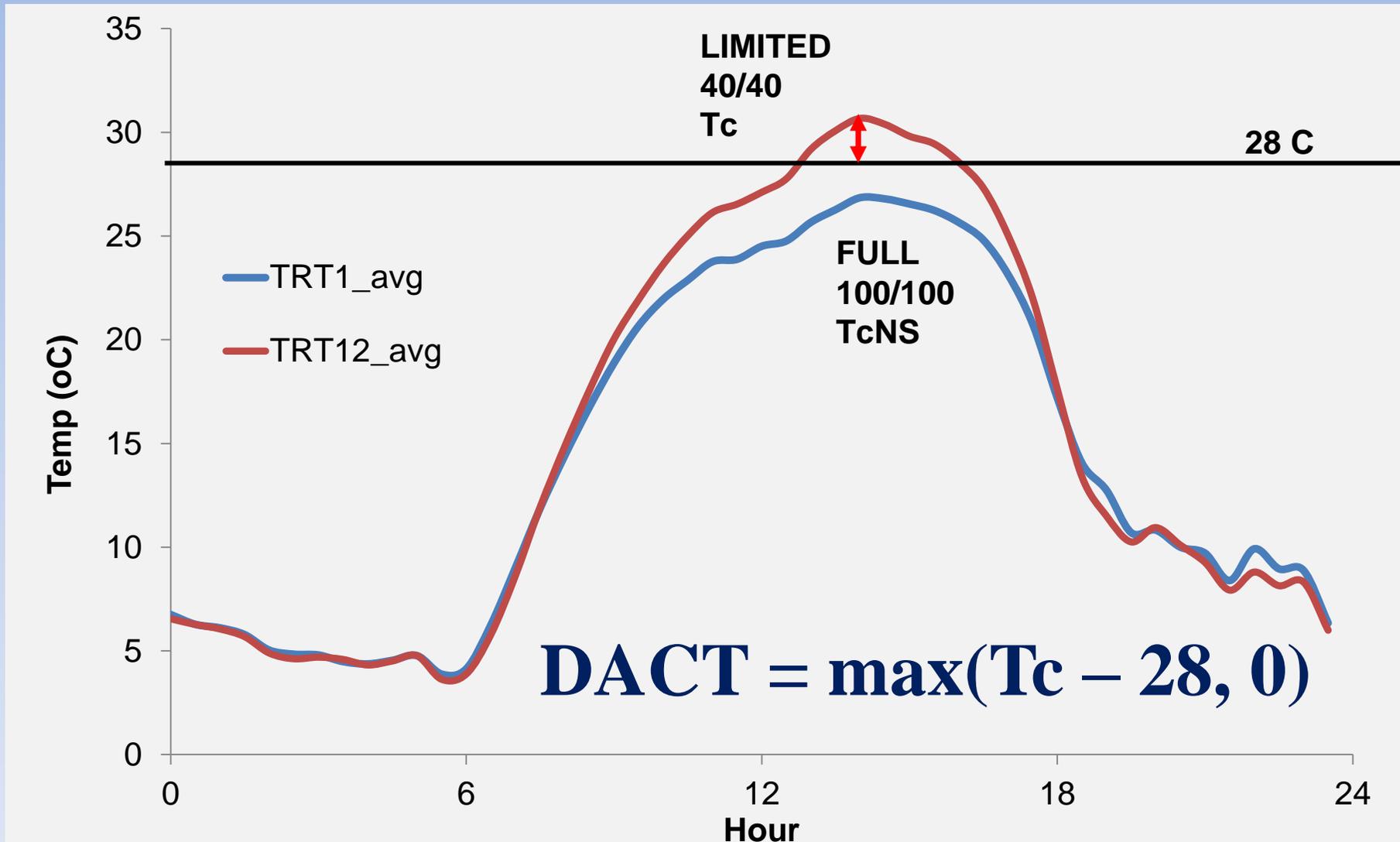
# Degrees Above Non-Stressed (DANS)



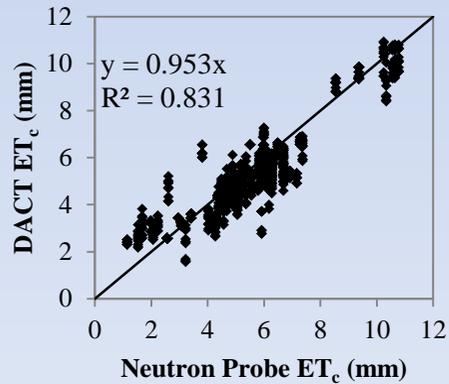
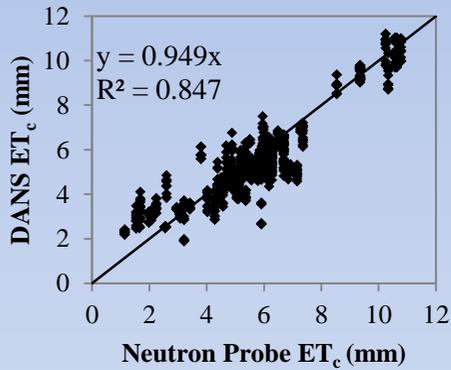
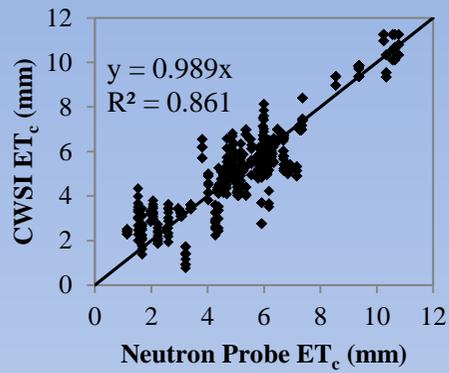
# Time Temperature Threshold (TTT)



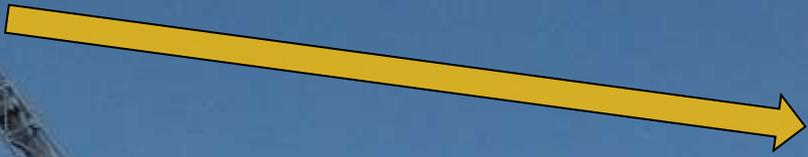
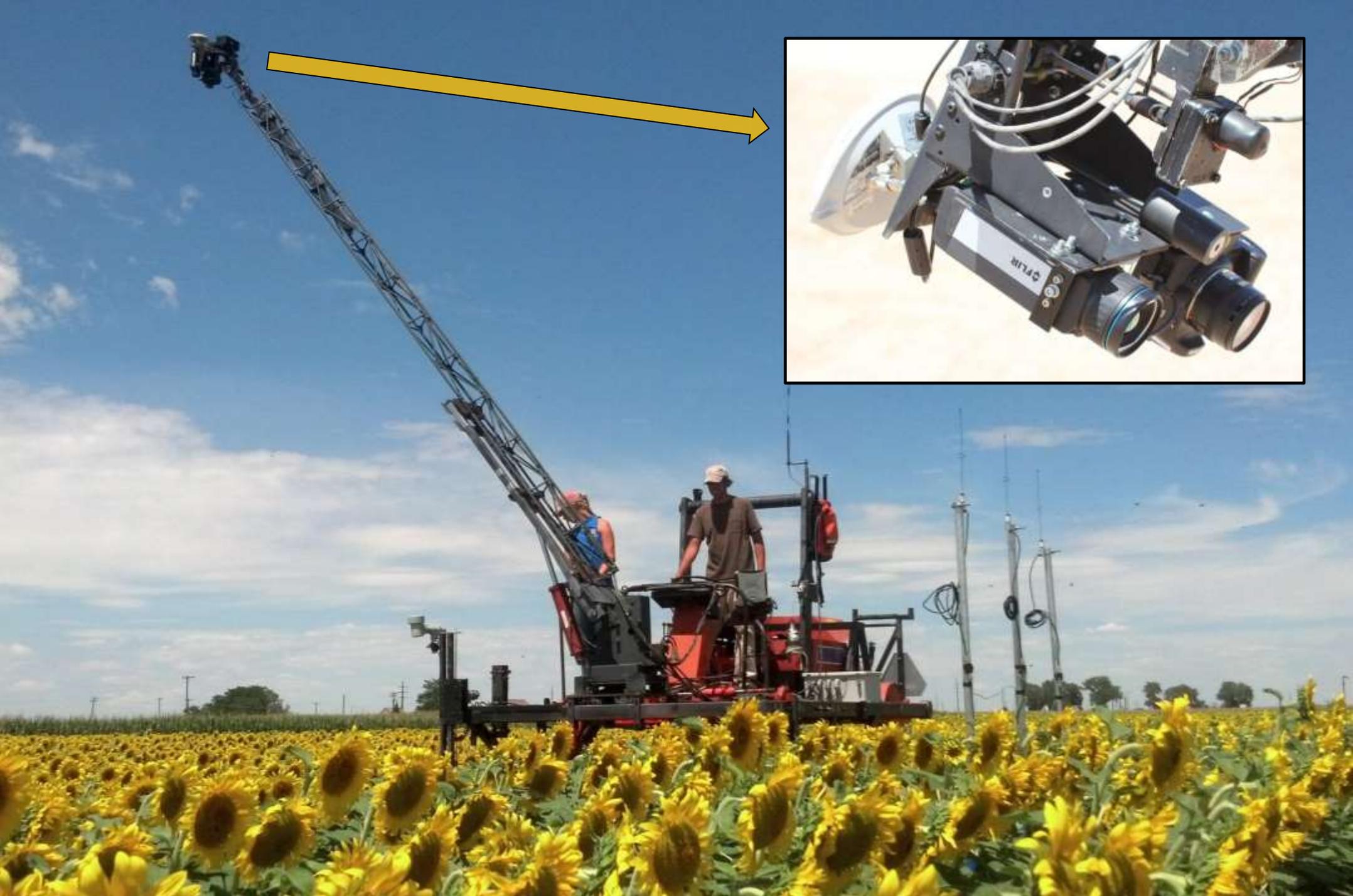
# Degrees Above Critical Temperature (DACT)

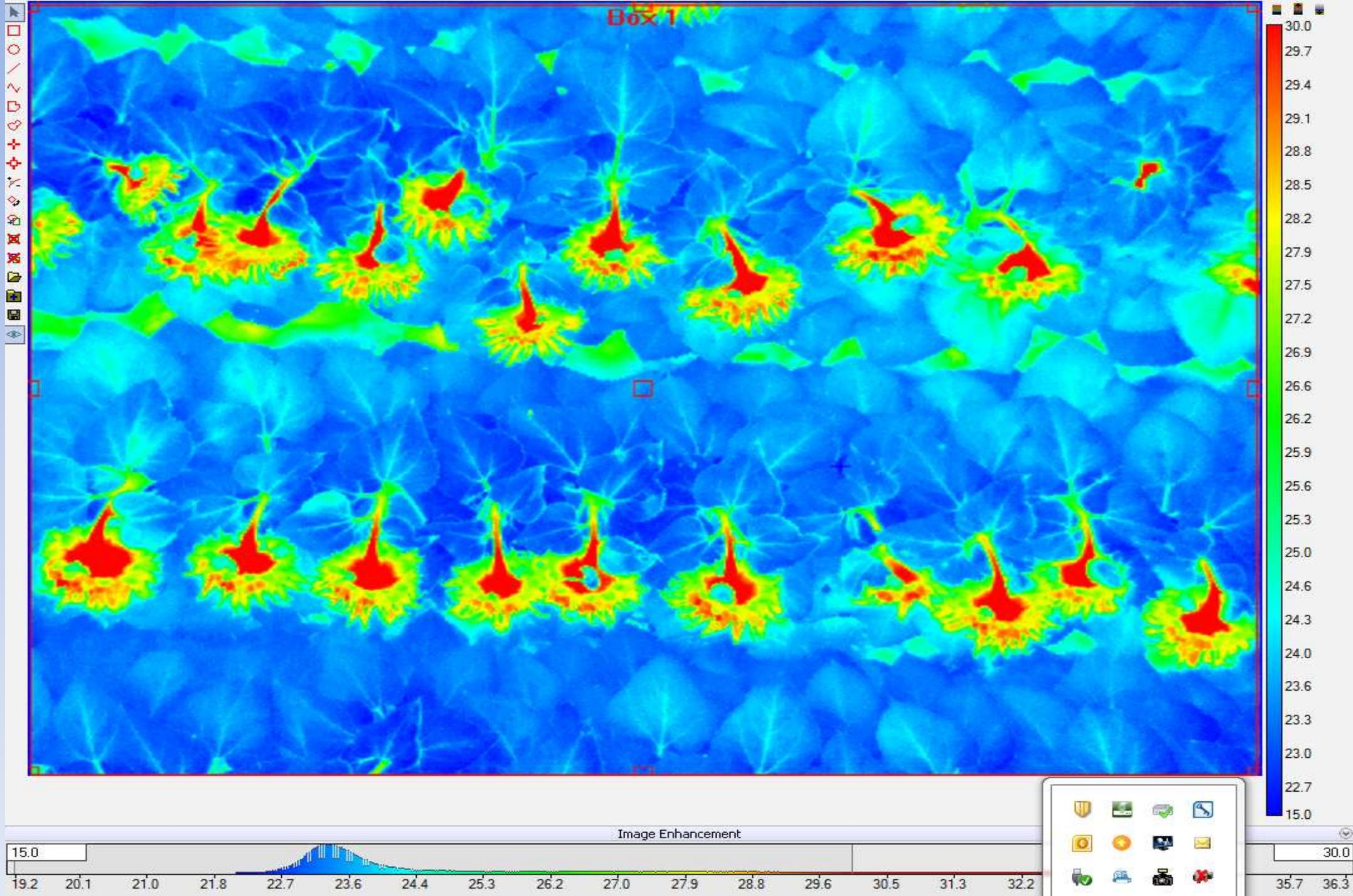


DeJonge, K.C., S. Taghvaeian, T.J. Trout, L.H. Comas. 2015. Comparison of canopy temperature-based water stress indices for maize. *Agricultural Water Management*. 156: 51-62.



Category	Requirement	$K_c$ method		
		CWSI	DANS	DACT
Canopy Temperature	Target	X	X	X
	Non-Stressed Reference		X	
	Relative Humidity	X		
Environmental	Air Temperature	X		
	Clear Sky	X	X	X
Pre-Calculation	Baselines (locally calibrated)	X		
	Threshold Temperature			X
	Scaling Coefficient (locally calibrated)		X	X
	Daily $ET_c$ RMSE (mm/day)	0.77	0.80	0.80
	Daily $ET_c$ RMSE (%)	14.6	15.2	15.2

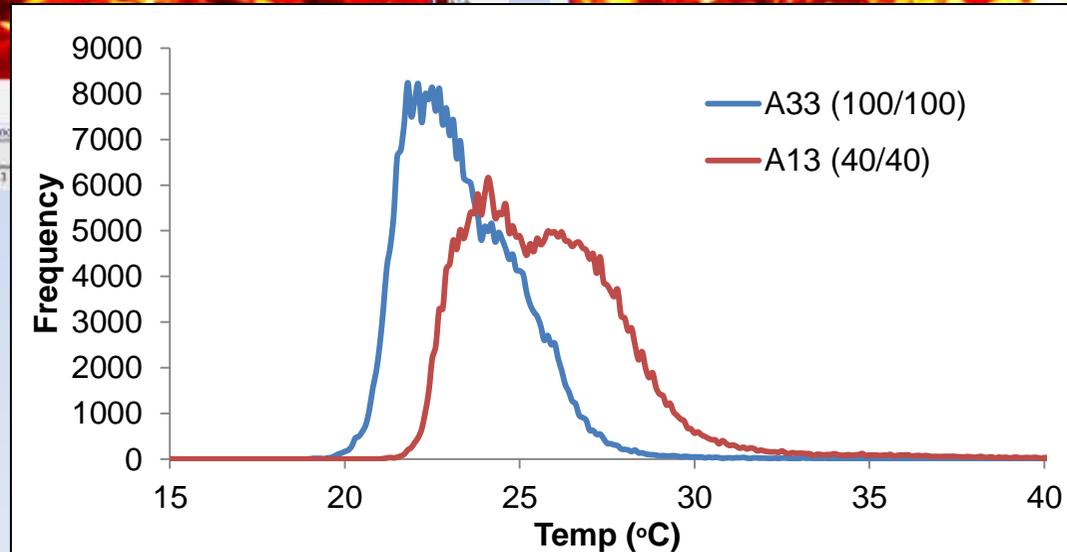
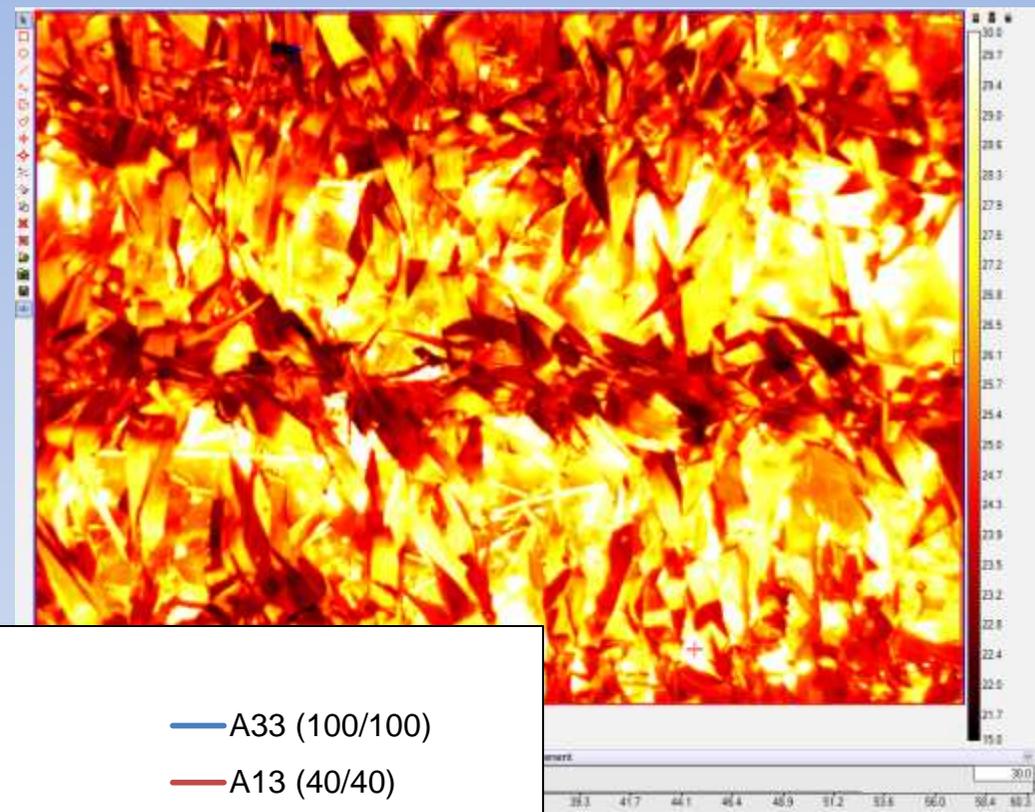
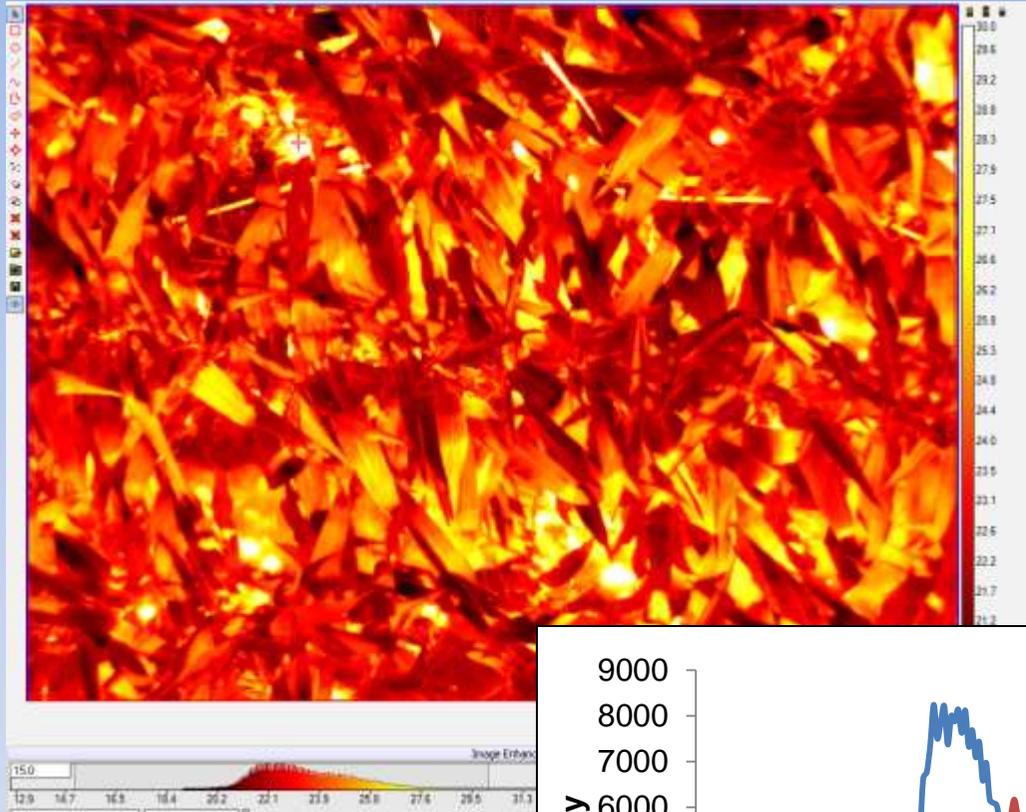




# THERMAL IMAGING (~1 $\mu$ m)

Trt: 100/100 (full irrigation)

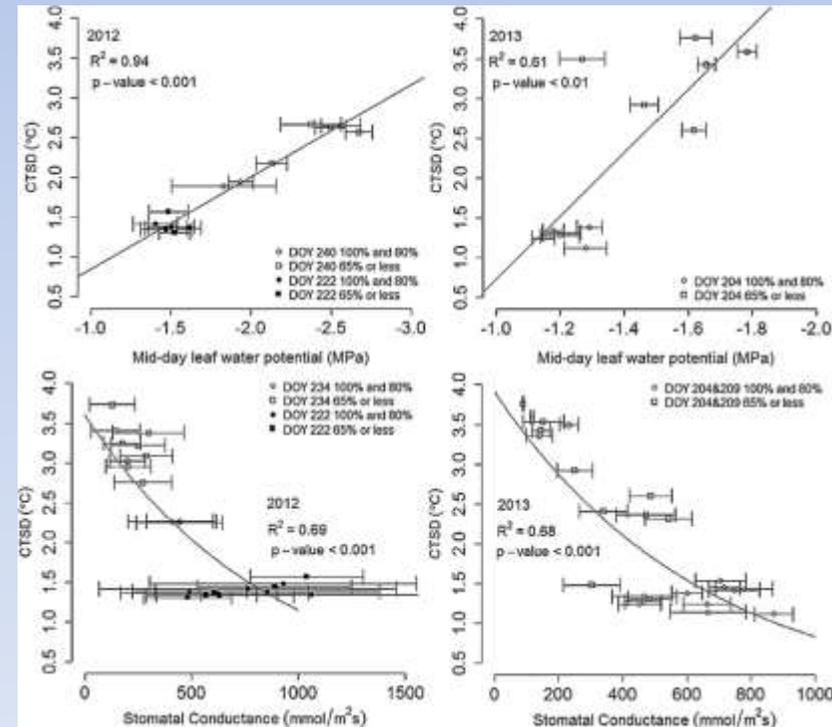
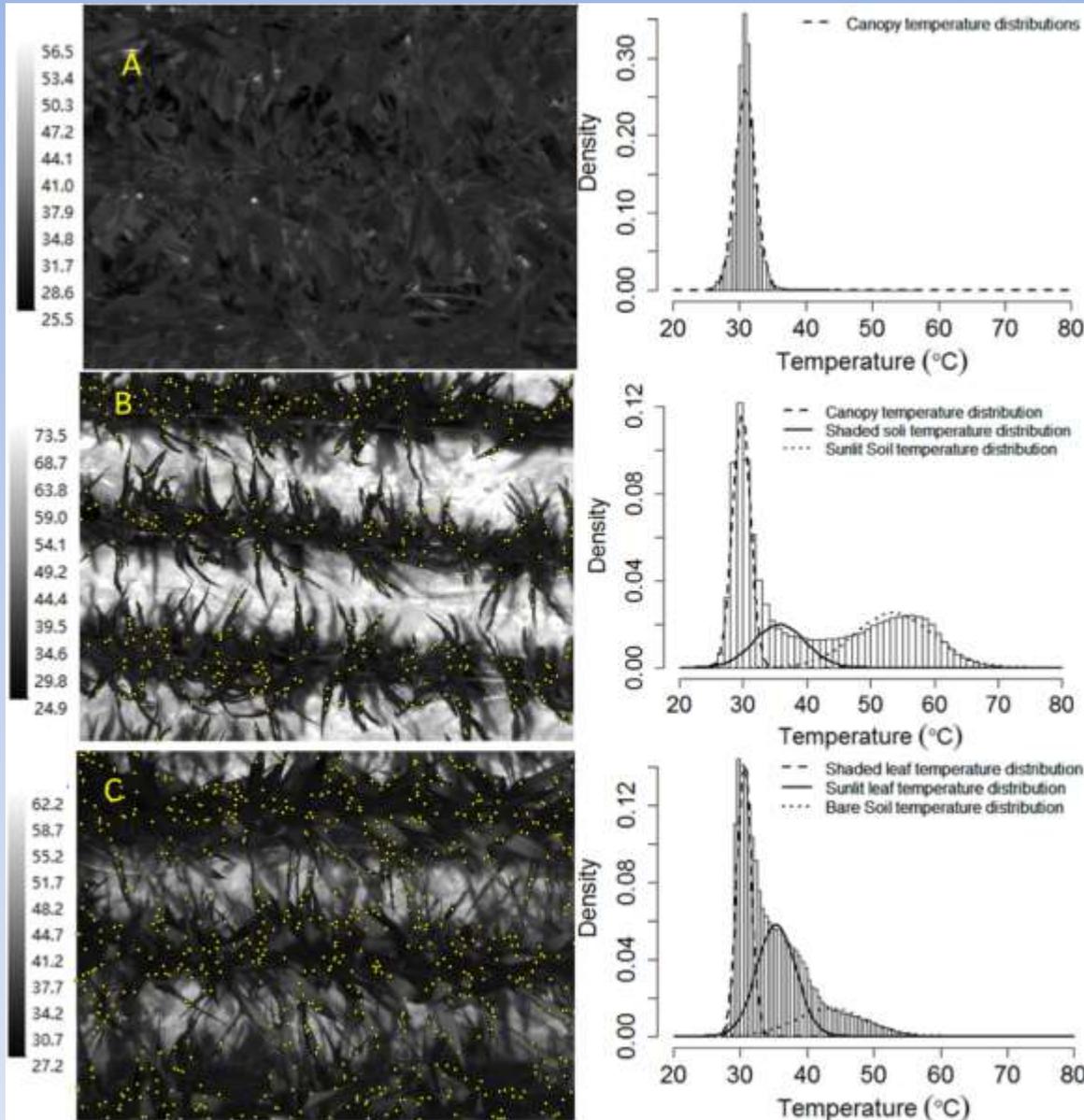
Trt: 40/40 (limited irrigation)



**Tmin = 18.9**  
**Tmean = 23.3**  
**Tmax = 43.3**  
**SD = 1.7**

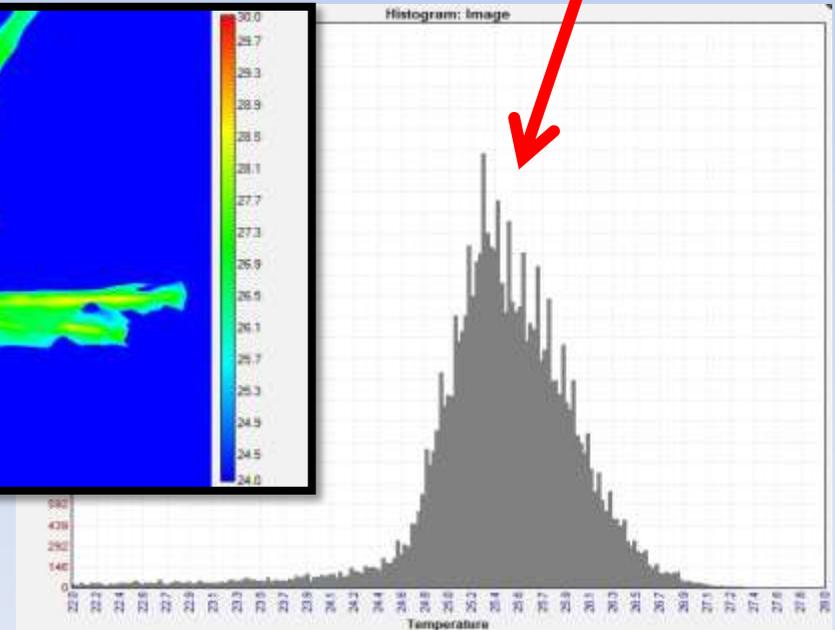
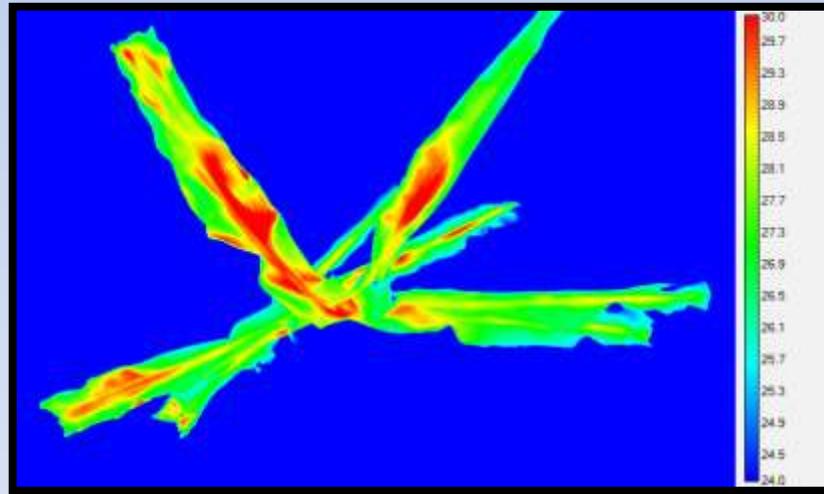
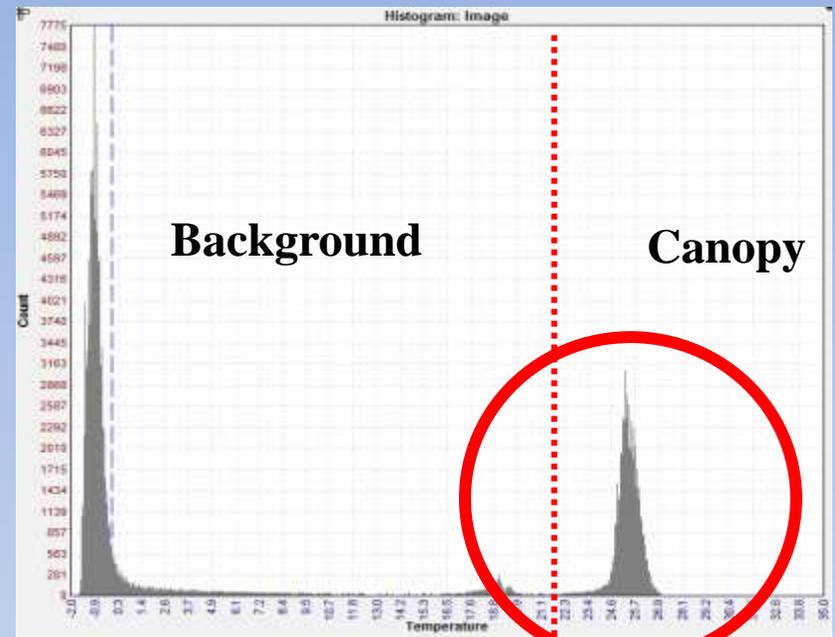
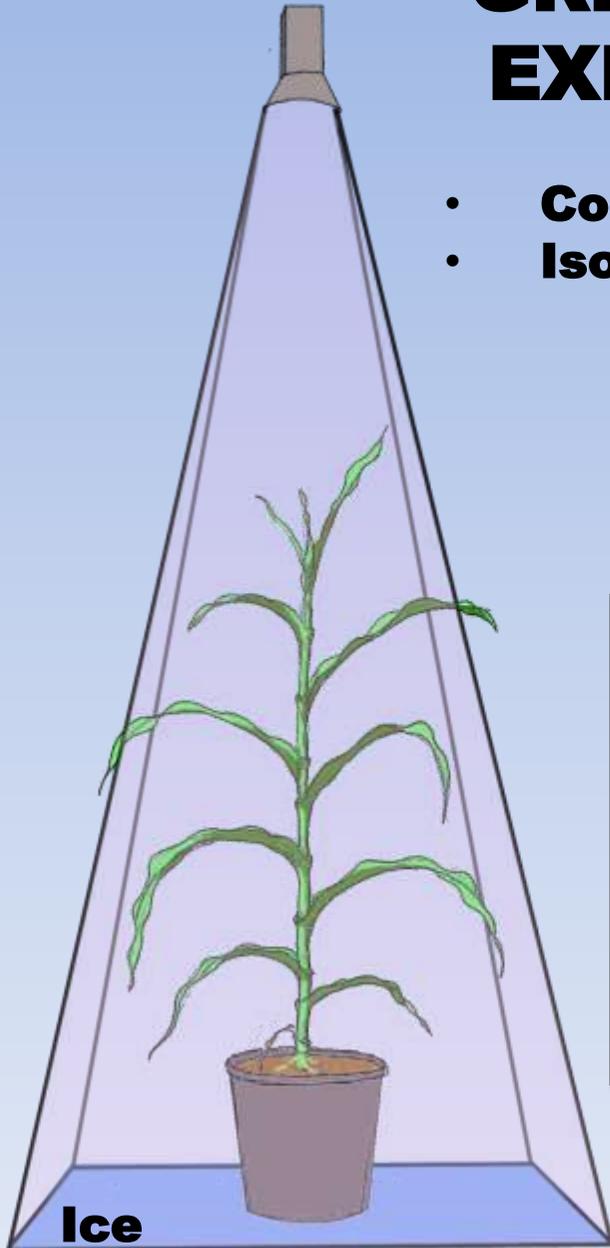
**Tmin = 20.9**  
**Tmean = 25.8**  
**Tmax = 52.4**  
**SD = 2.6**

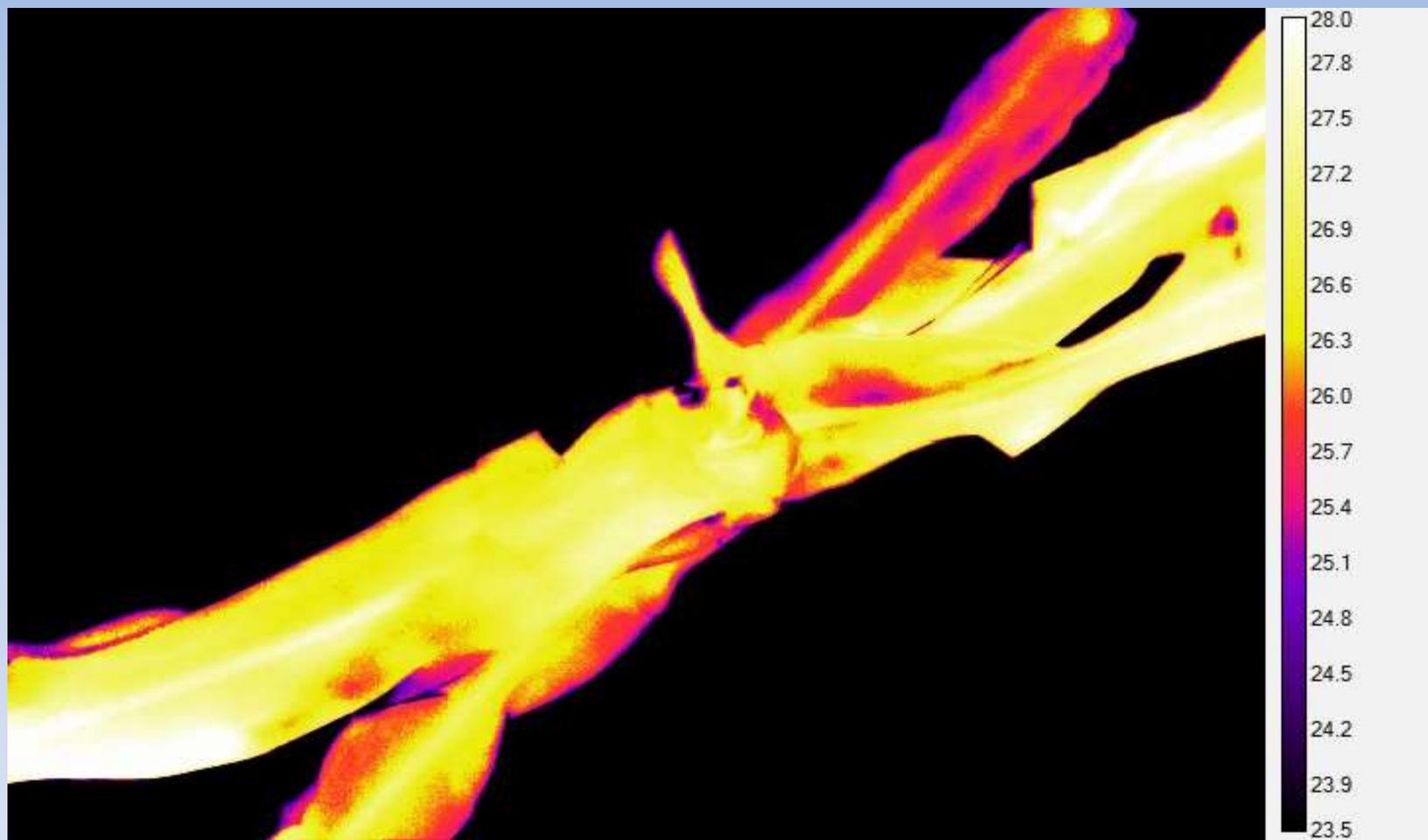
Han, M., H. Zhang, K.C. DeJonge,  
L. Comas, T.J. Trout. 2016.  
Estimating maize water stress by  
standard deviation of canopy  
temperature in thermal imagery.  
*Agricultural Water Management.*  
177: 400-409.

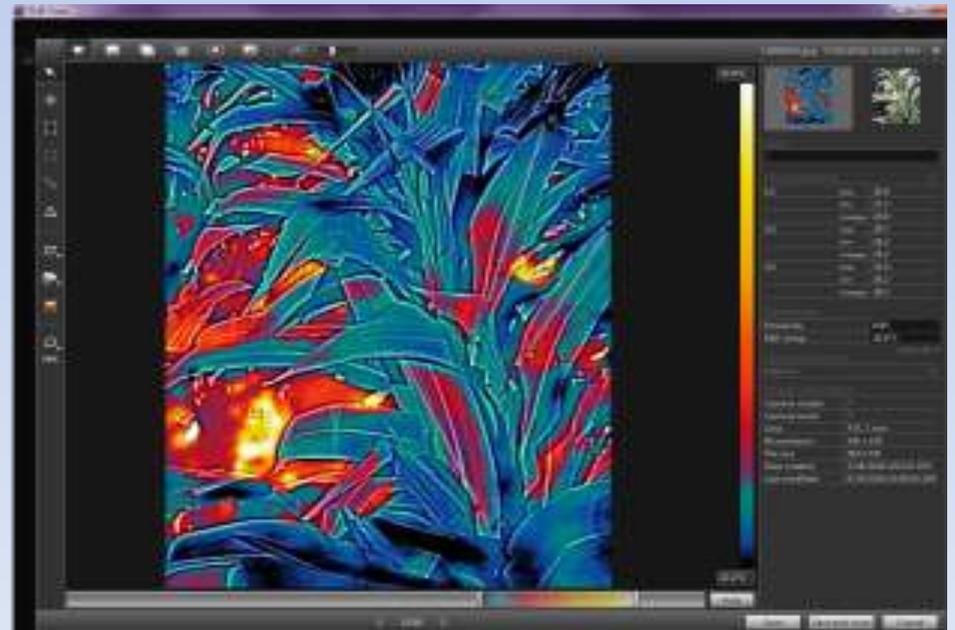
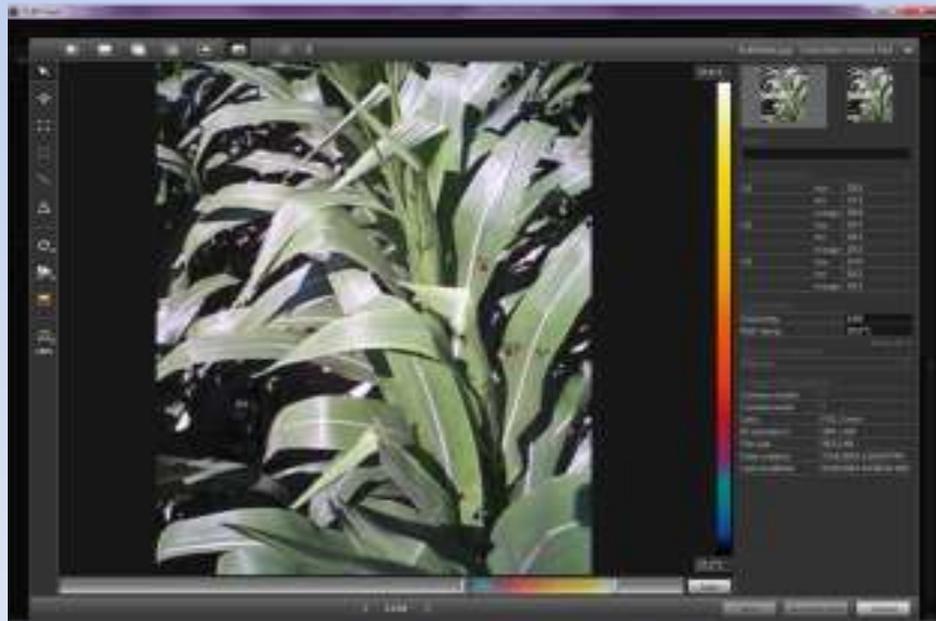


# GREENHOUSE EXPERIMENT

- **Cool background**
- **Isolate canopy Tc**







# References

- Han, M., H. Zhang, K.C. DeJonge, L. Comas, T.J. Trout. 2016. Estimating maize water stress by standard deviation of canopy temperature in thermal imagery. *Agricultural Water Management*. 177: 400-409.
- Kullberg, E.G., K.C. DeJonge, J.L. Chávez. 2016. Evaluation of thermal remote sensing indices to estimate crop evapotranspiration coefficients. *Agricultural Water Management*. (In Press)
- DeJonge, K.C., S. Taghvaeian, T.J. Trout, L.H. Comas. 2015. Comparison of canopy temperature-based water stress indices for maize. *Agricultural Water Management*. 156: 51-62.
- Taghvaeian, S., L.H. Comas, K.C. DeJonge, T.J. Trout. 2014. Conventional and simplified canopy temperature indices predict water stress in sunflower. *Agricultural Water Management*. 144: 69-80.
- Taghvaeian, S., J.L. Chávez, W.C. Bausch, K.C. DeJonge, T.J. Trout. 2014. Minimizing instrumentation requirement for estimating crop water stress index and transpiration of maize. *Irrigation Science*. 32(1):53-65.

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**Thank  
You!**