

Early detection of diseases in forests and agricultural crops using advanced aircraft-based imaging

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Joint Research Centre

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** now at University of Melbourne*



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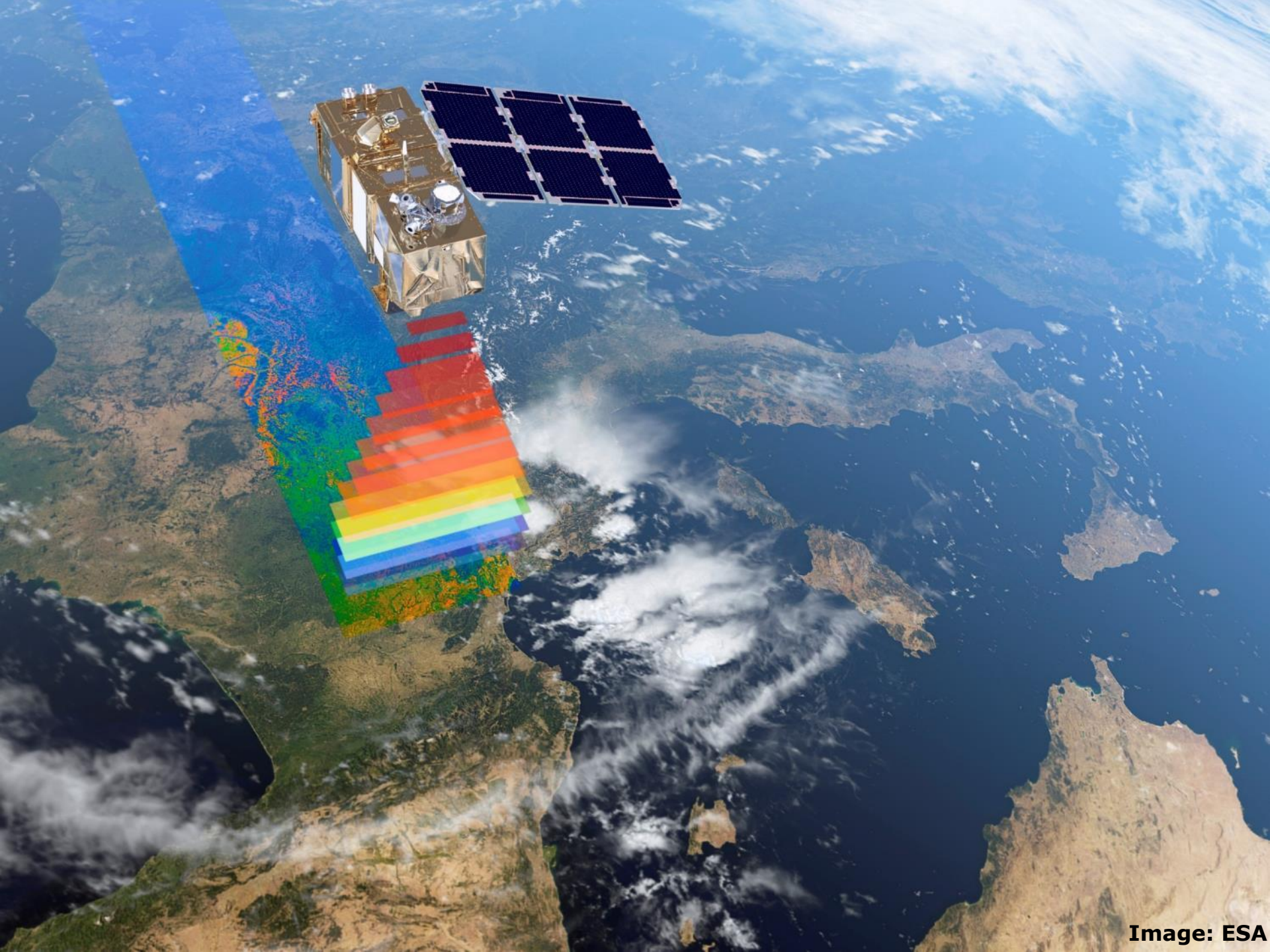
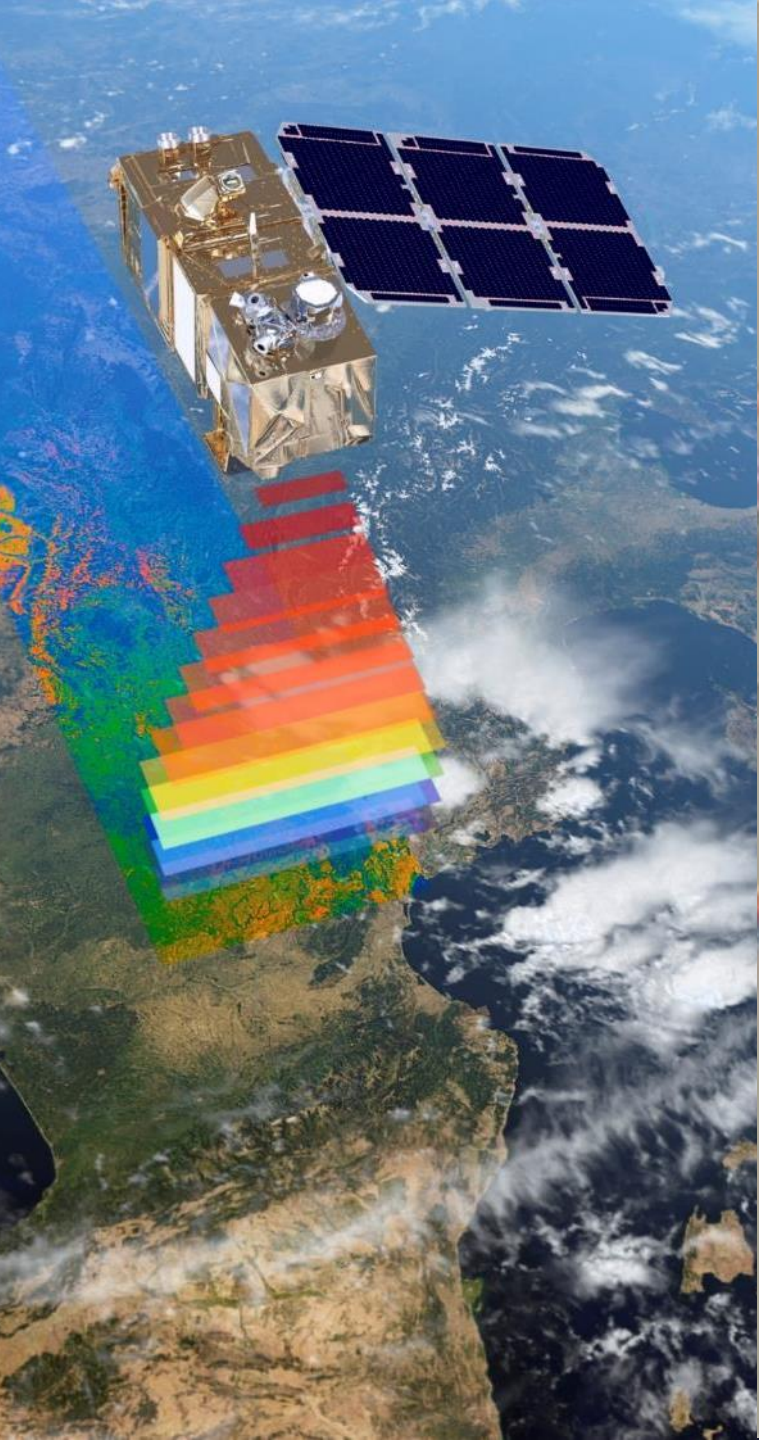


Image: ESA





With choice, come trade-offs

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How large is the area you are monitoring?

How often do you need a new observation?



 Met Office

 EUMETSAT



European
Commission

With choice, come trade-offs

How large is the area you are monitoring?

How often do you need a new observation?

How small are the features you want to analyze?



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With choice, come trade-offs

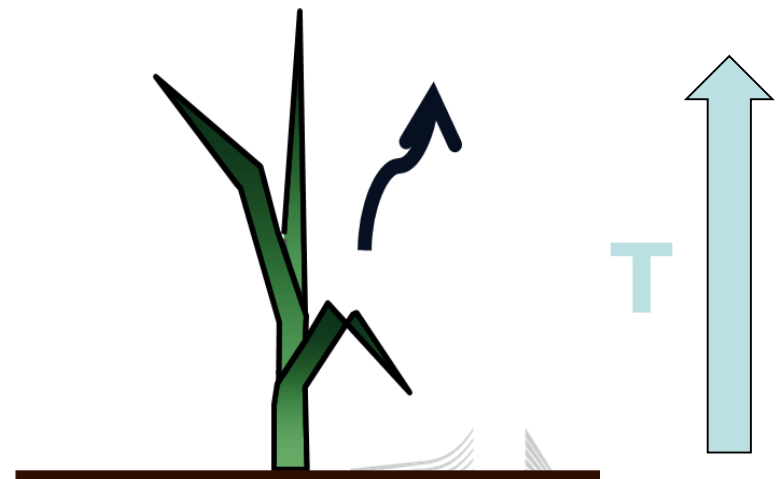
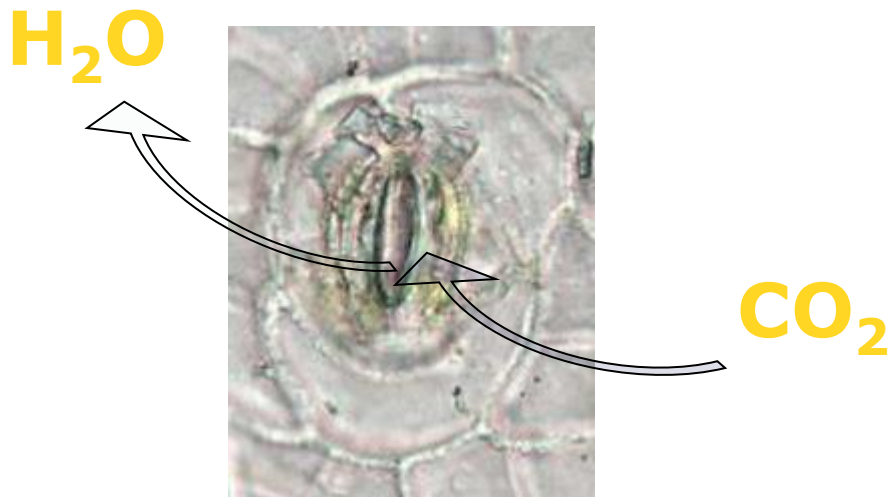
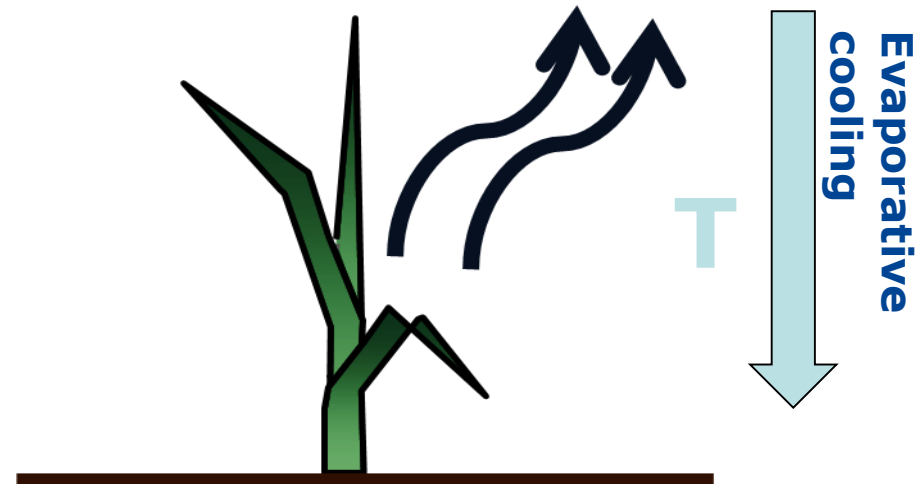
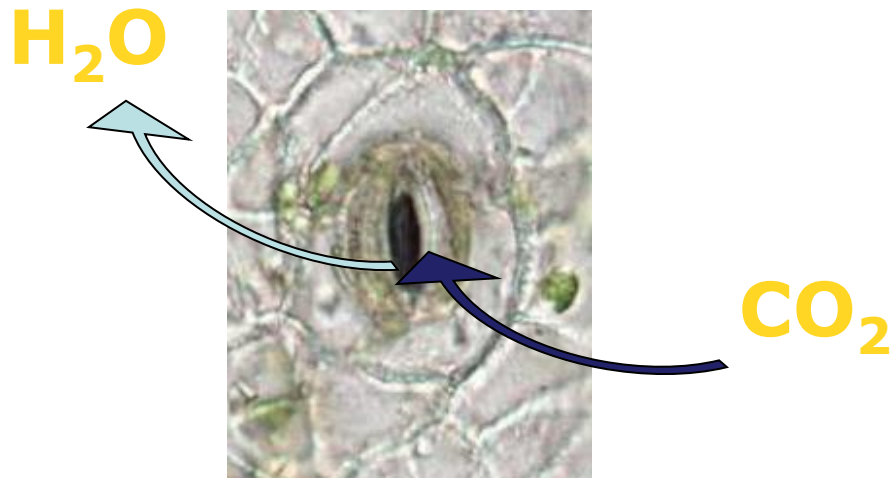
How large is the area you are monitoring?

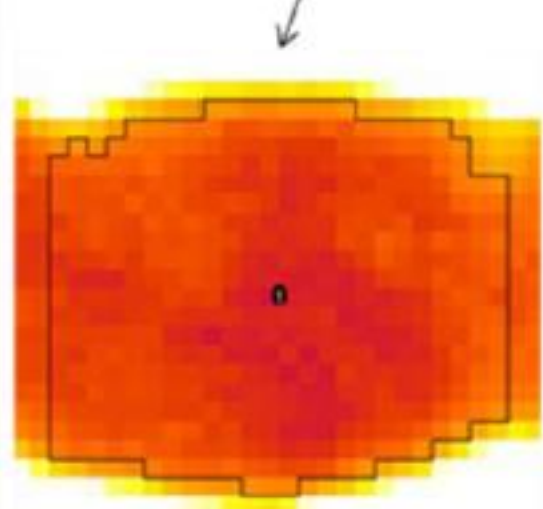
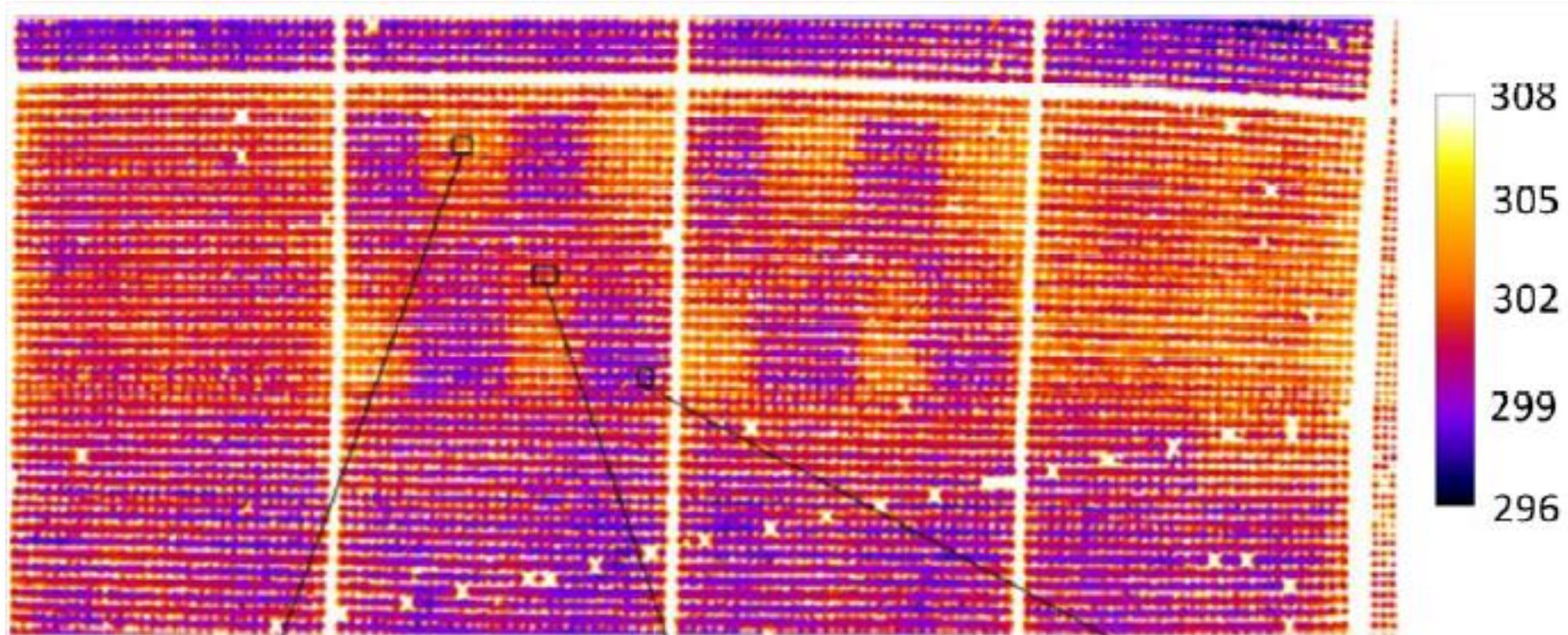
How often do you need a new observation?

How small are the features you want to see?

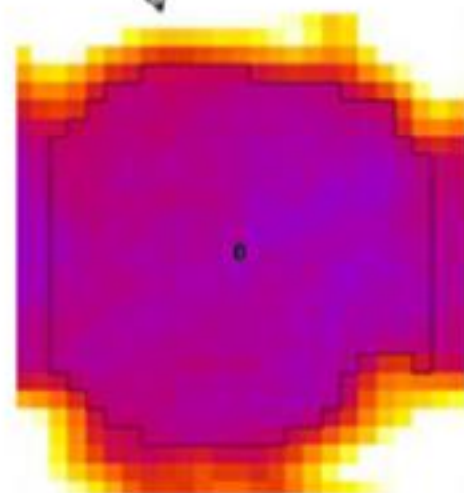
What are you looking for?

Indicators of vegetation stress

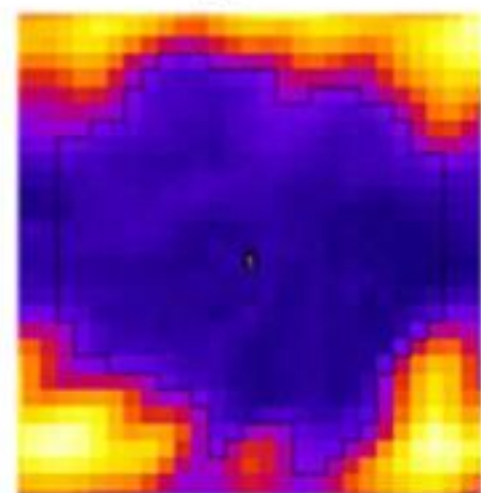




A

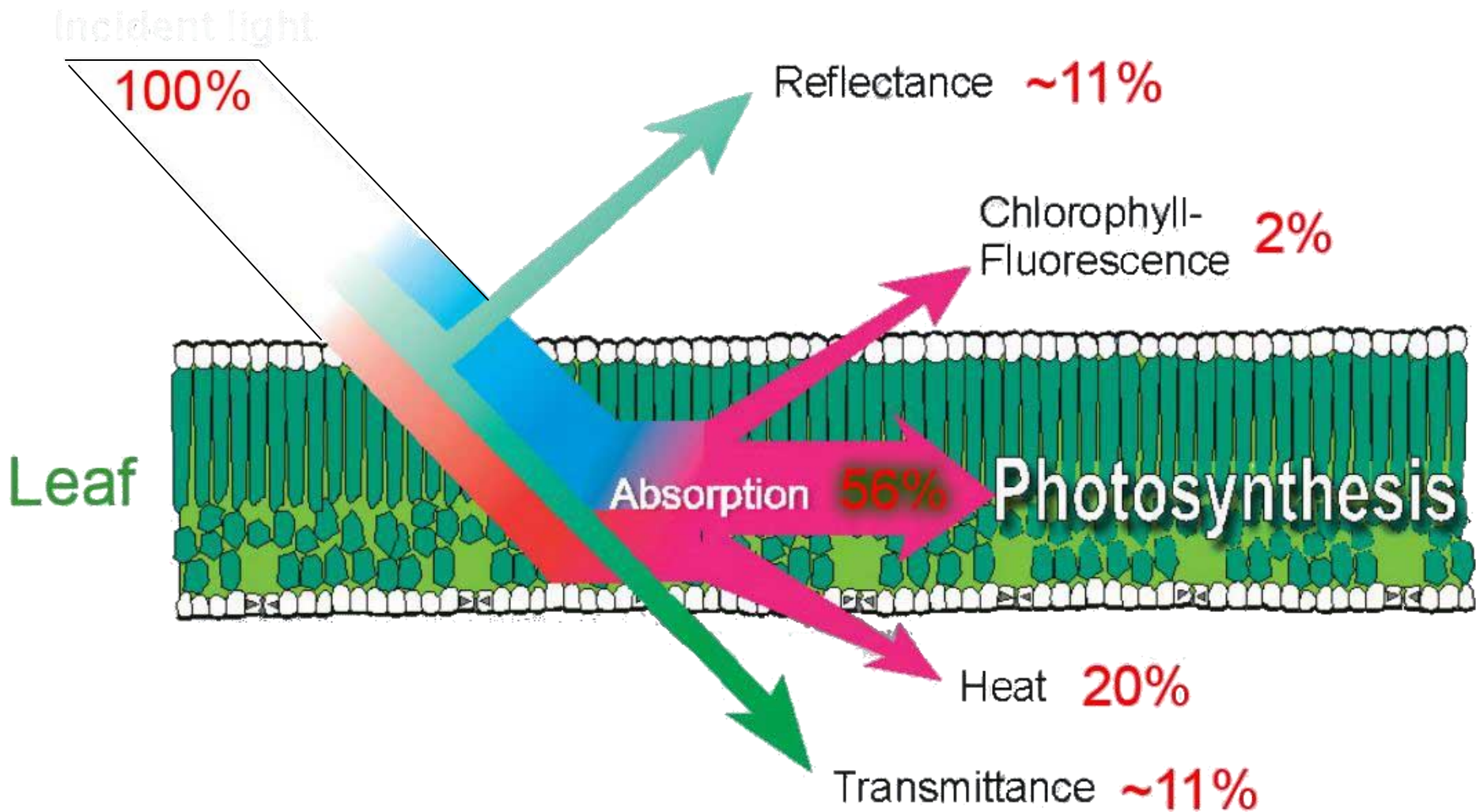


B

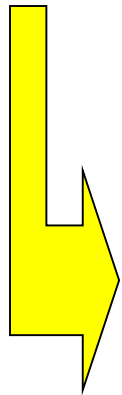


C

Photon-vegetation interactions: Energy budget



Indicators of vegetation stress

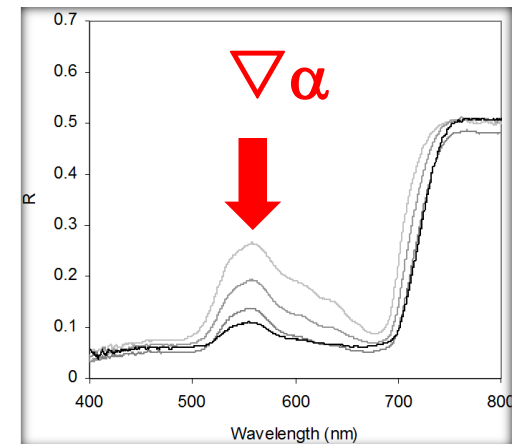


- Transpiration and CO₂ absorption reduction
- Photosynthesis reduction



Temperature

Photosynthetic pigments



Indicators of vegetation stress

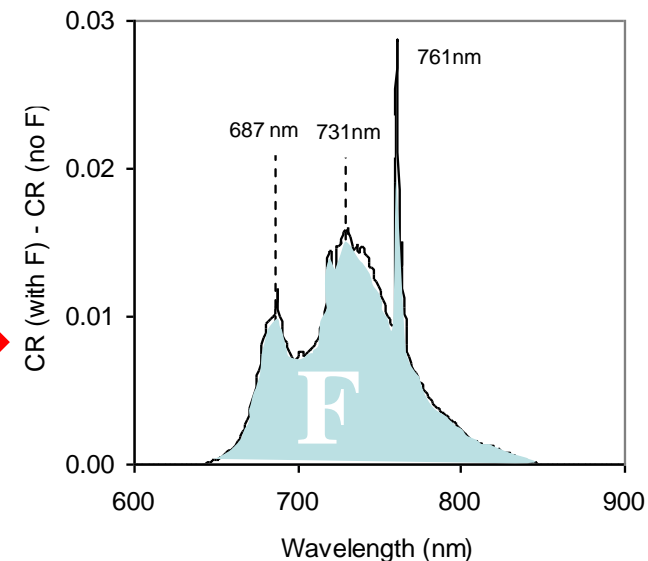
- 
- Transpiration and CO₂ absorption reduction
 - Photosynthesis reduction



Temperature

Photosynthetic pigments

Chlorophyll Fluorescence



Vegetation stress indicators from RS

Canopy



- 
- Transpiration and CO₂ absorption reduction
 - Photosynthesis reduction

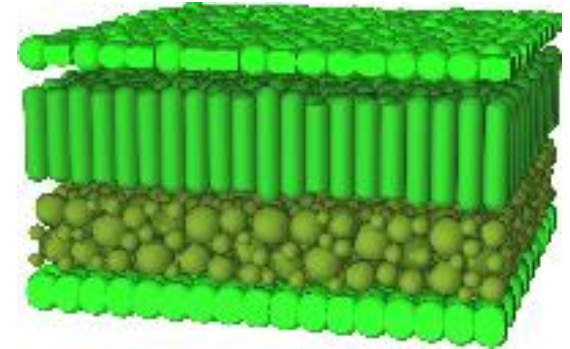


Temperature

Photosynthetic pigments

Chlorophyll Fluorescence

Structure



Leaf



Remote Sensing Indicators of Vegetation Stress

Visual

- **Pigment – related indices: $C_{ab} / C_{ar} \rightarrow$ nutrition / chlorosis**
 - Nutrient deficiencies \rightarrow pigment degradation \rightarrow less absorption at specific bands \rightarrow captured by indices sensitive to chlorophyll changes
- **Structural indices \rightarrow canopy structure / vegetative growth**
 - Nutrient / water stress \rightarrow affects canopy growth \rightarrow effects in the near infrared \rightarrow captured by indices sensitive to canopy structure

Pre-visual

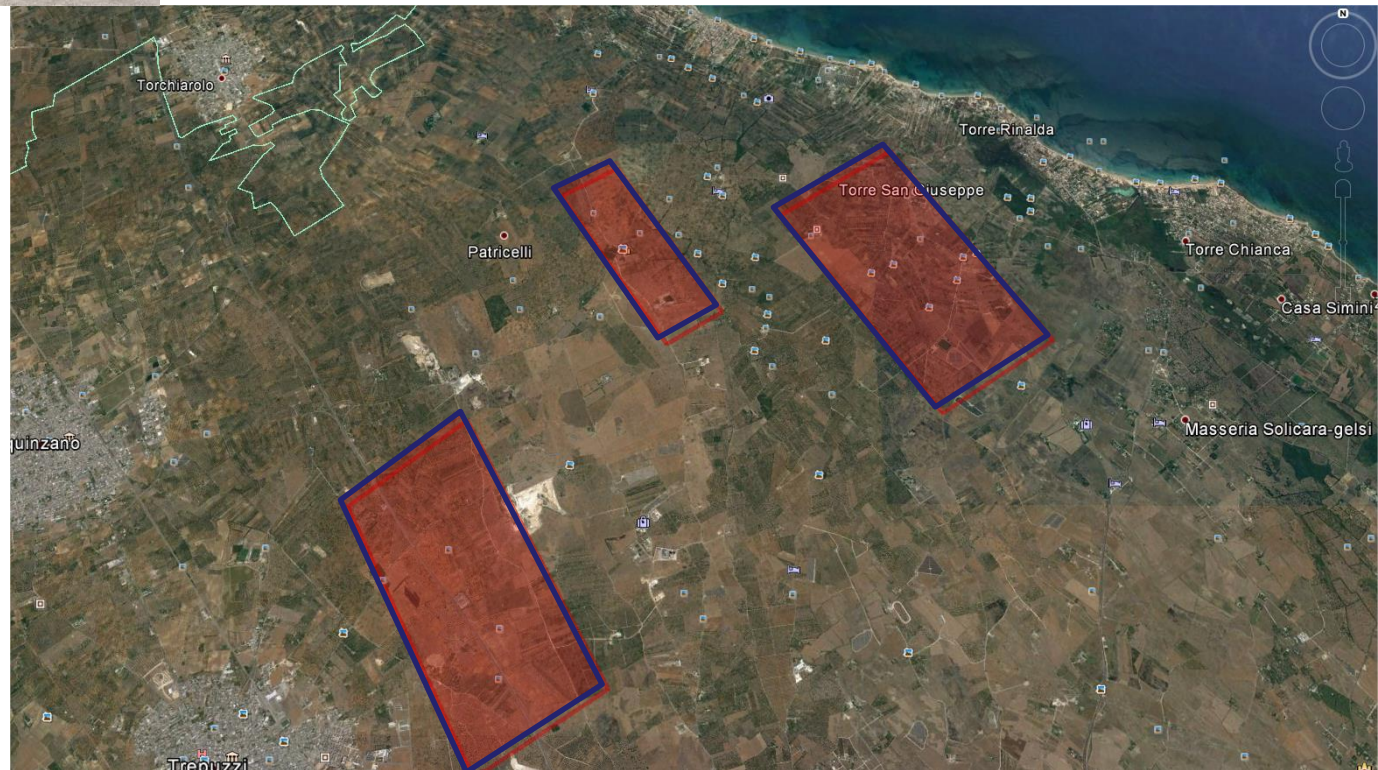
- **Xanthophyll cycle pigments (V+A+Z) \rightarrow rapid changes phot. efficiency**
 - PRI: Indicator of the epoxidation state (EPS) of the xanthophyll pigments \rightarrow under stress $V+A+Z \uparrow \rightarrow R530 \downarrow \rightarrow PRI \uparrow$
- **Chlorophyll Fluorescence (CF) \rightarrow F emission \rightarrow Photosynthesis**
 - Excess energy \rightarrow function of the photosynthetic state
 - 3% - 4 % of the radiance levels
 - Main interest to monitor remotely photosynthesis & stress condition
- **Temperature: $T_c \rightarrow T_c - T_a \rightarrow$ CWSI**
 - Stomata closure \rightarrow Reduction in transpiration and CO_2 uptake \rightarrow Decreased photosynthesis \rightarrow *Temperature increase*

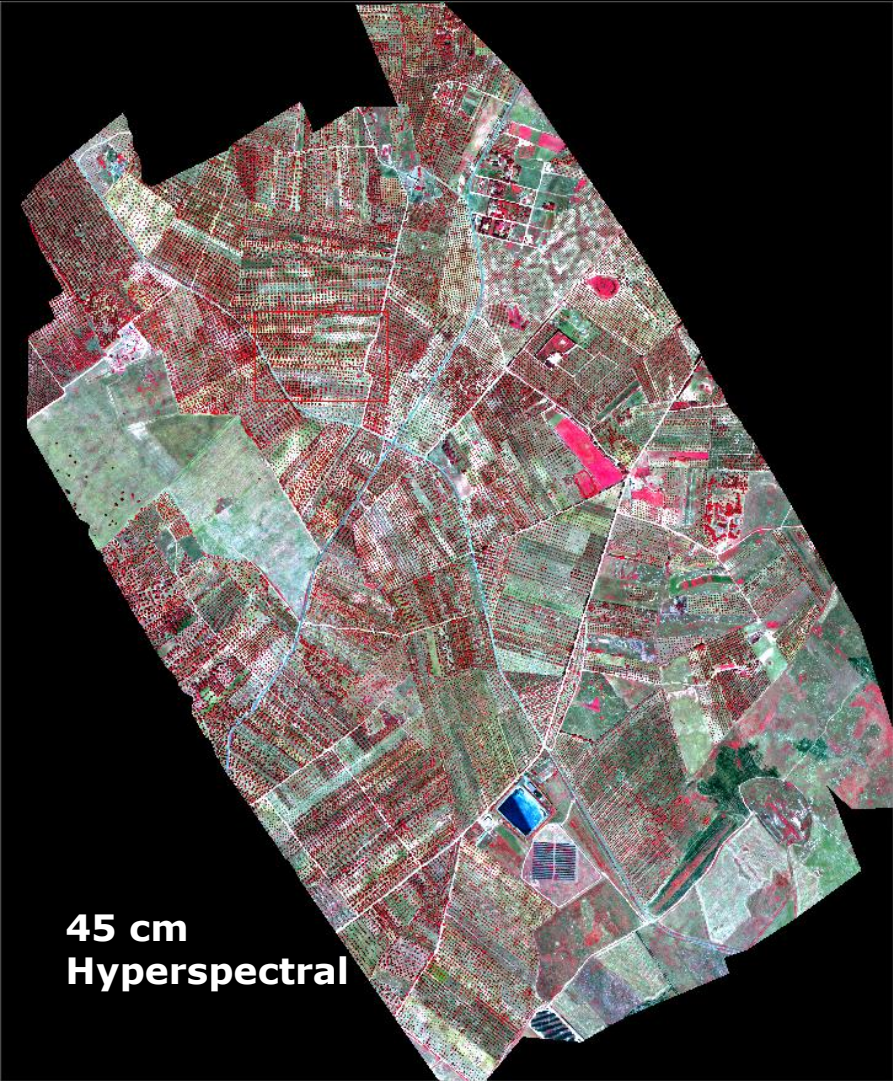
Remote Sensing–based detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* infection symptoms



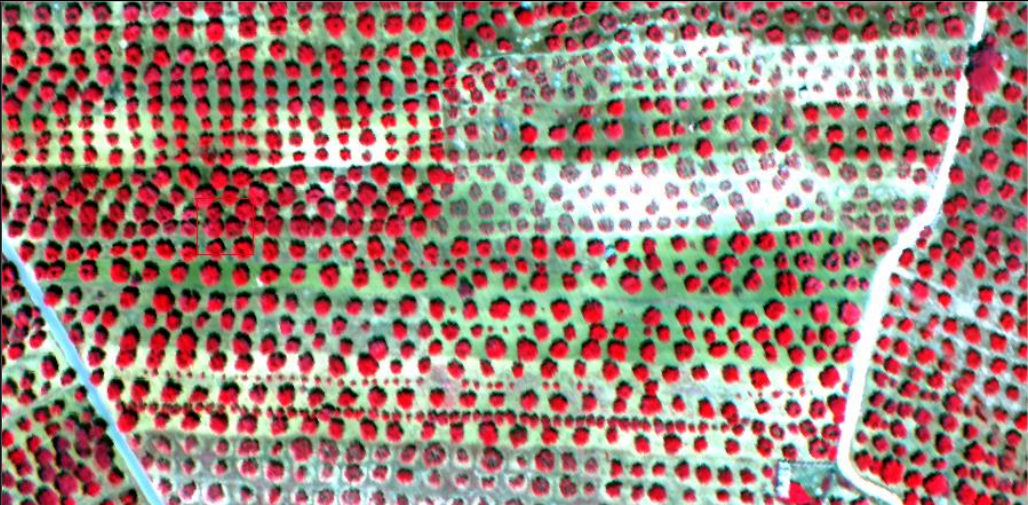
Airborne campaigns 2016 + 2017
1,200 ha
200,000 trees scanned
Resolution ranging 7-60 cm
Hyperspectral + Thermal + RGB

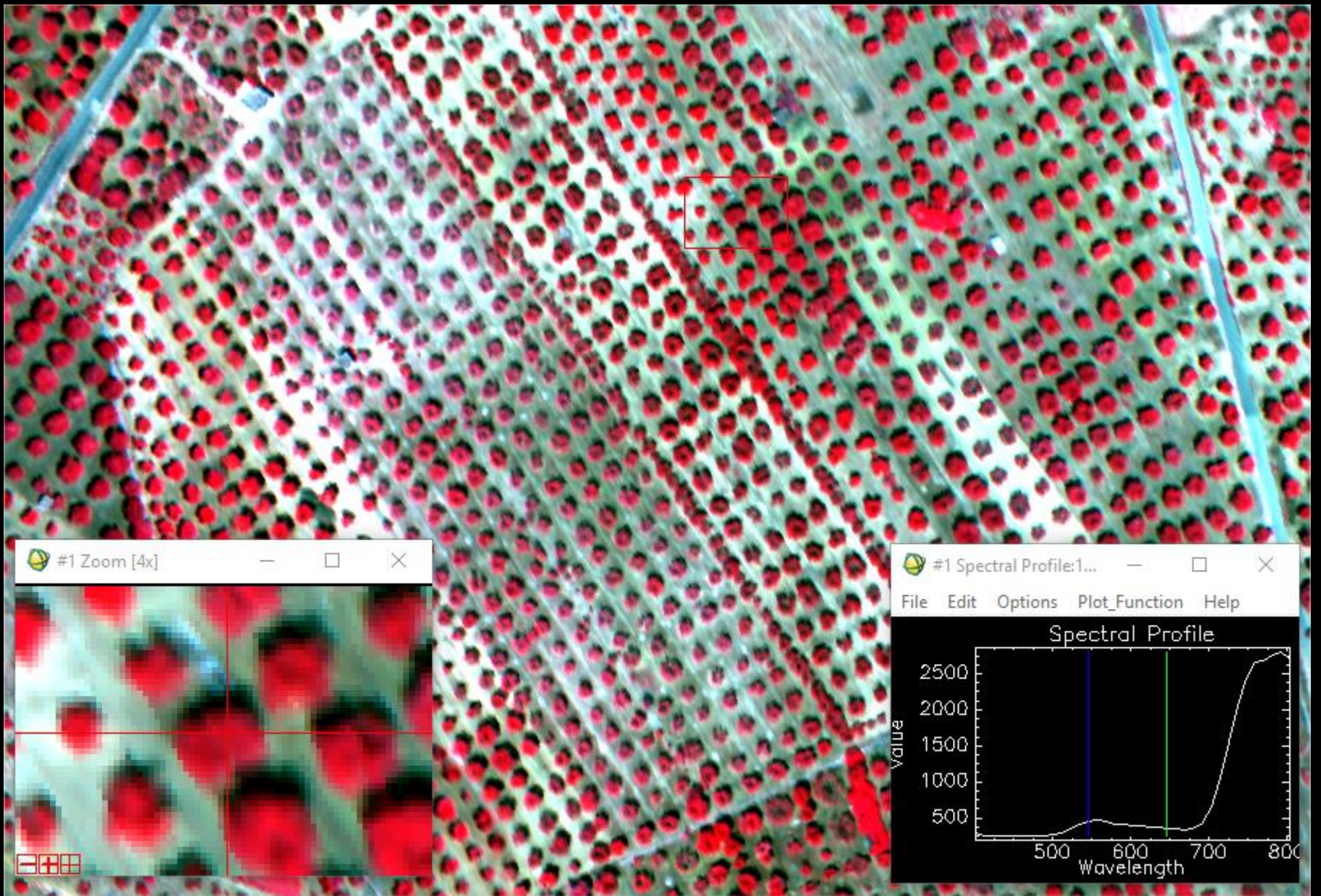
5 field campaigns
4000 trees/year

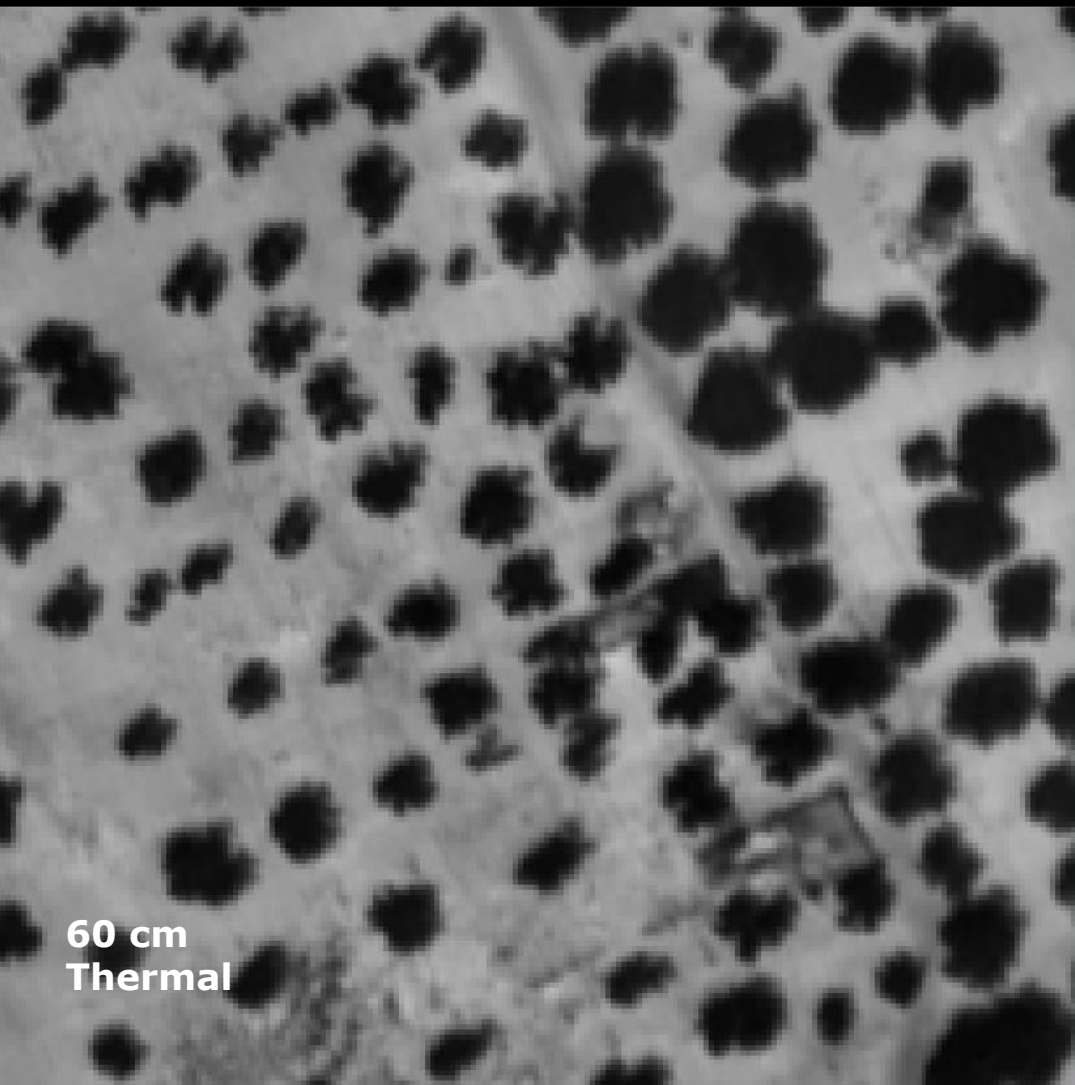


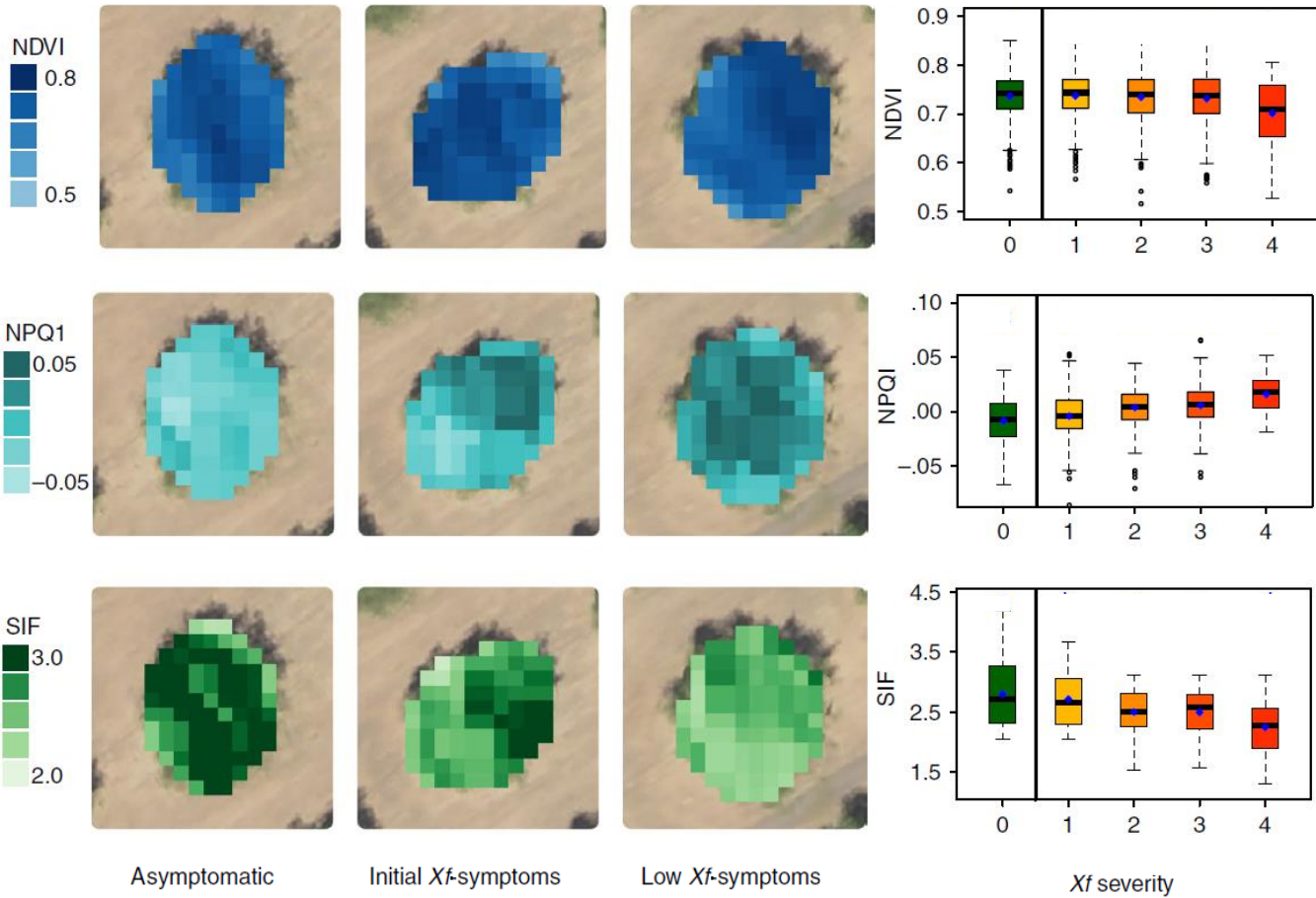


45 cm
Hyperspectral







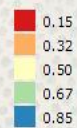


Detection accuracy for symptomatic trees (κ) > 80%

2016

2016 VNIR
hyperspectral

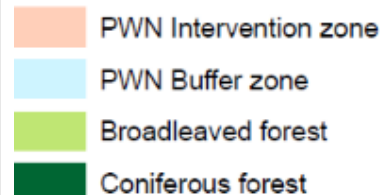
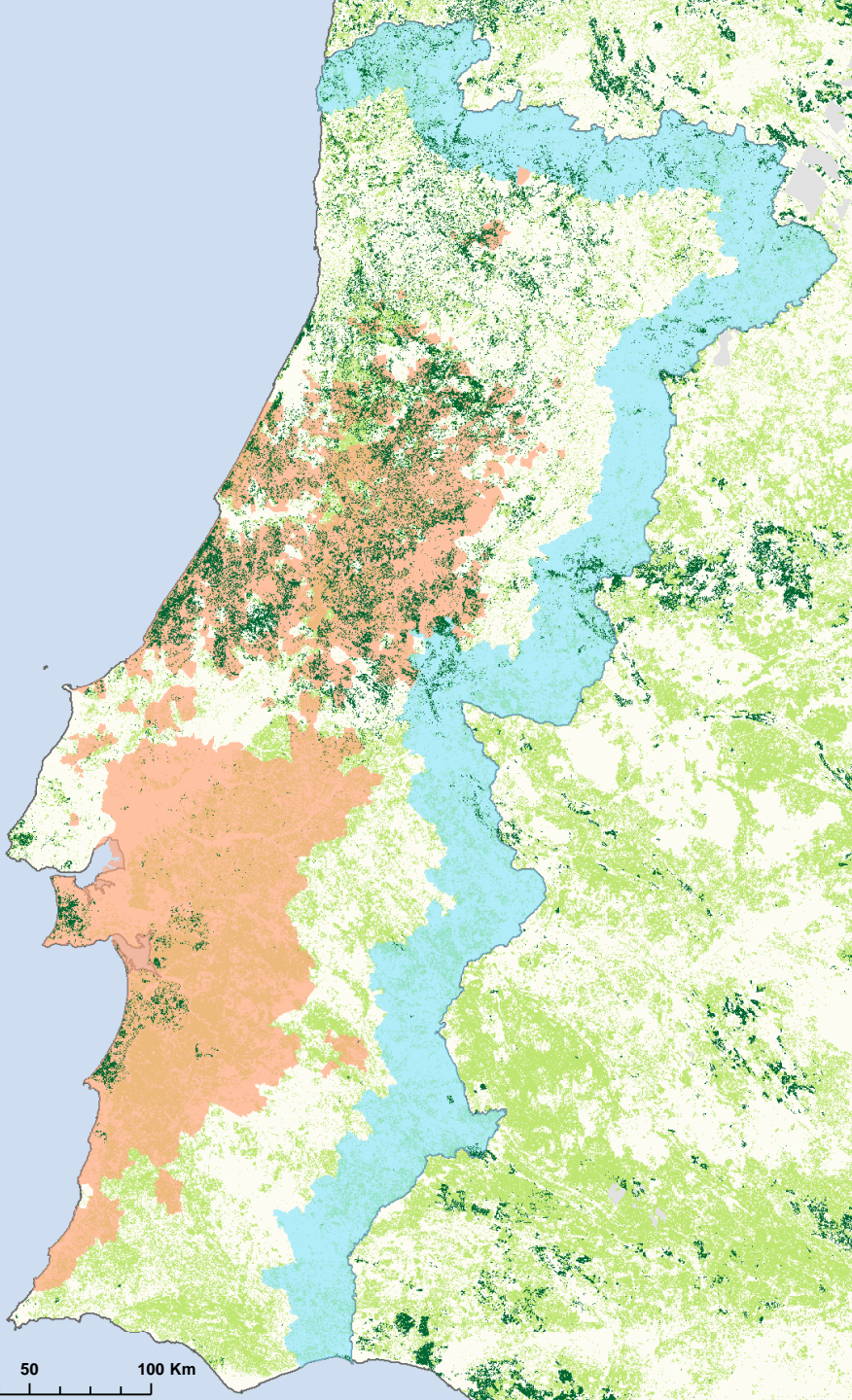
OSAVI 2016



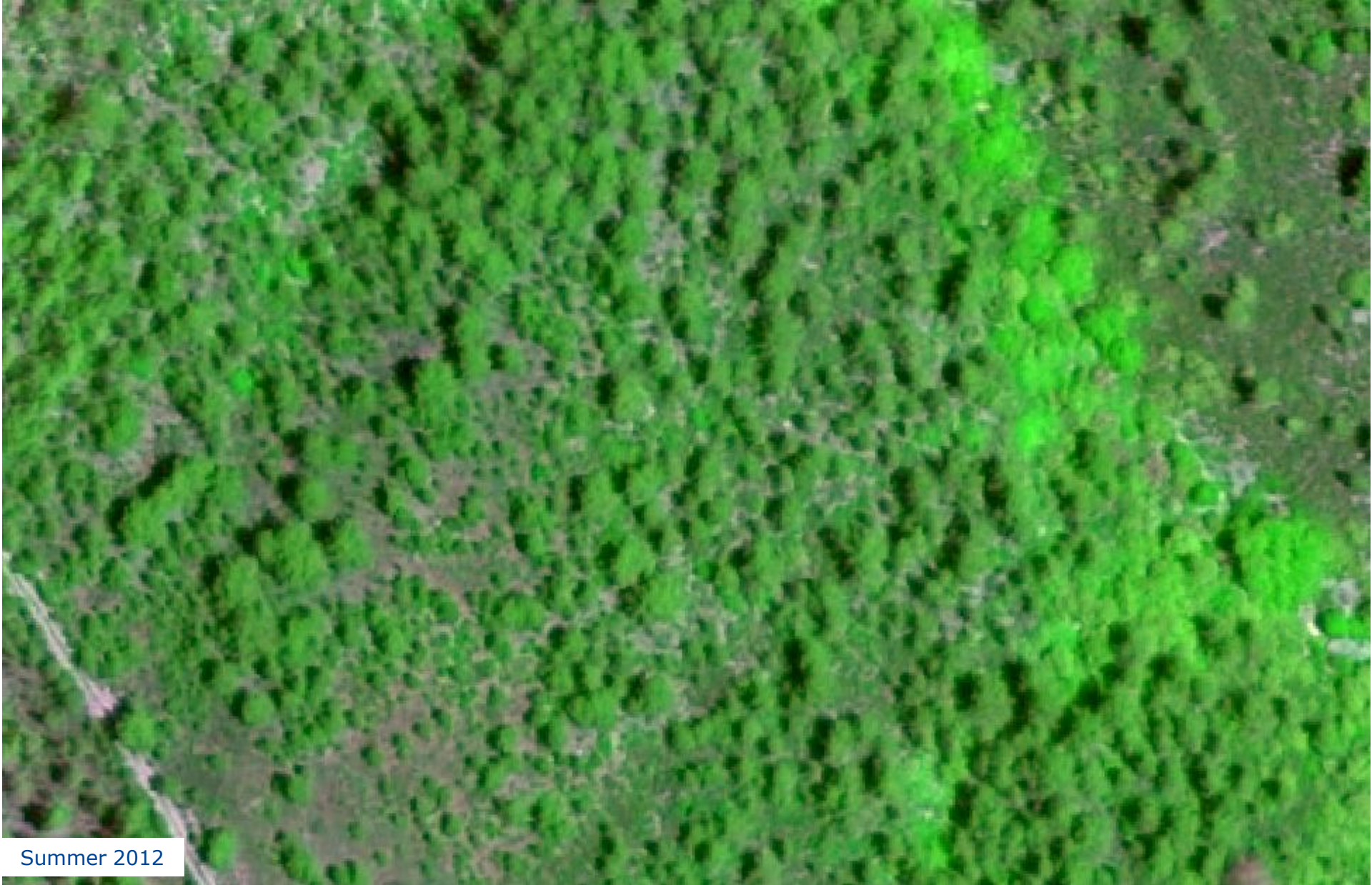
EC Decision on Pine Wood Nematode (2012/535/EU):

[...] *In the buffer zones ...
identify and fell all susceptible plants which are dead, in poor health or situated in fire- or storm-affected areas.*

[...]







Summer 2012

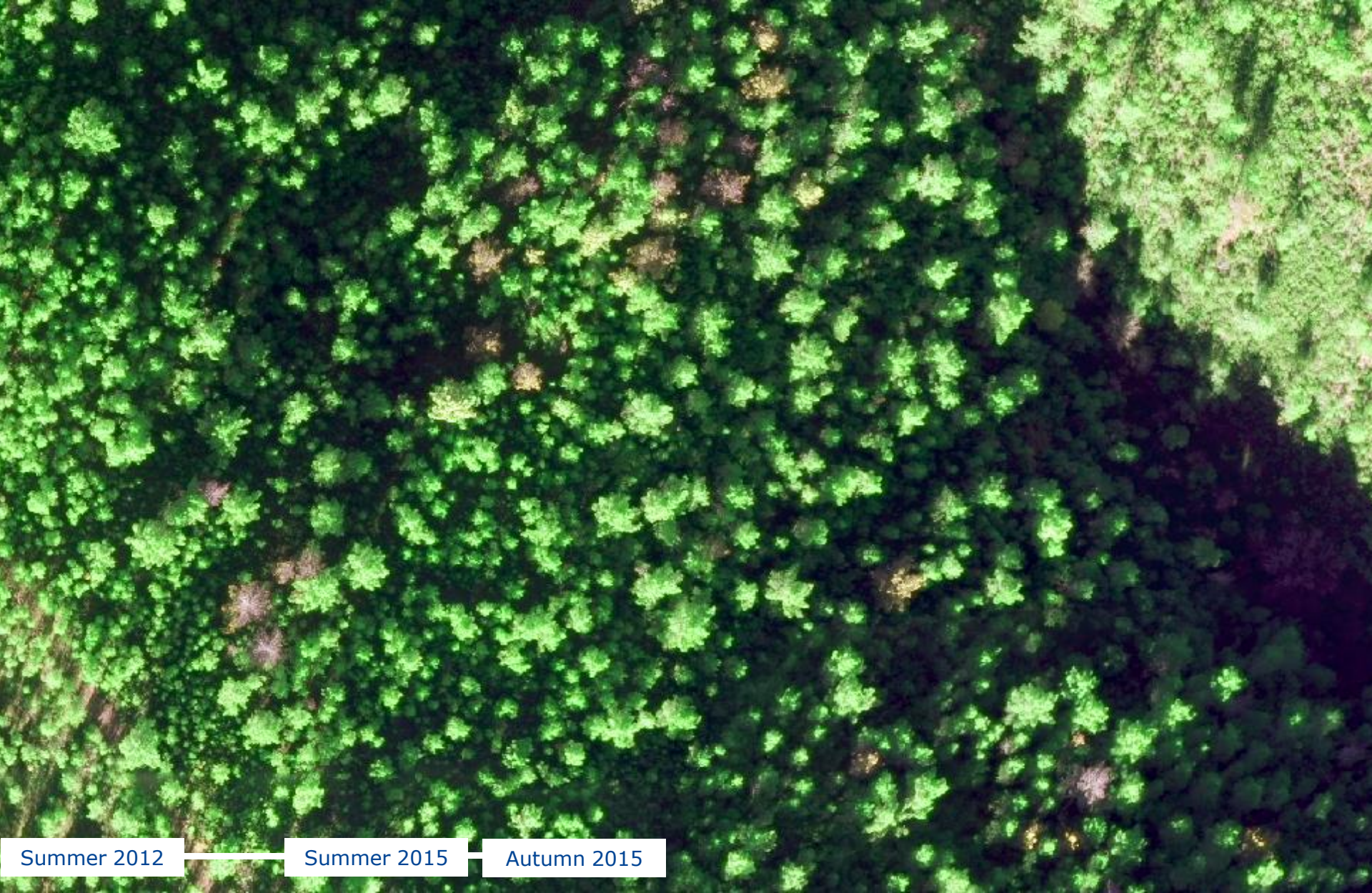


Summer 2012

Summer 2015



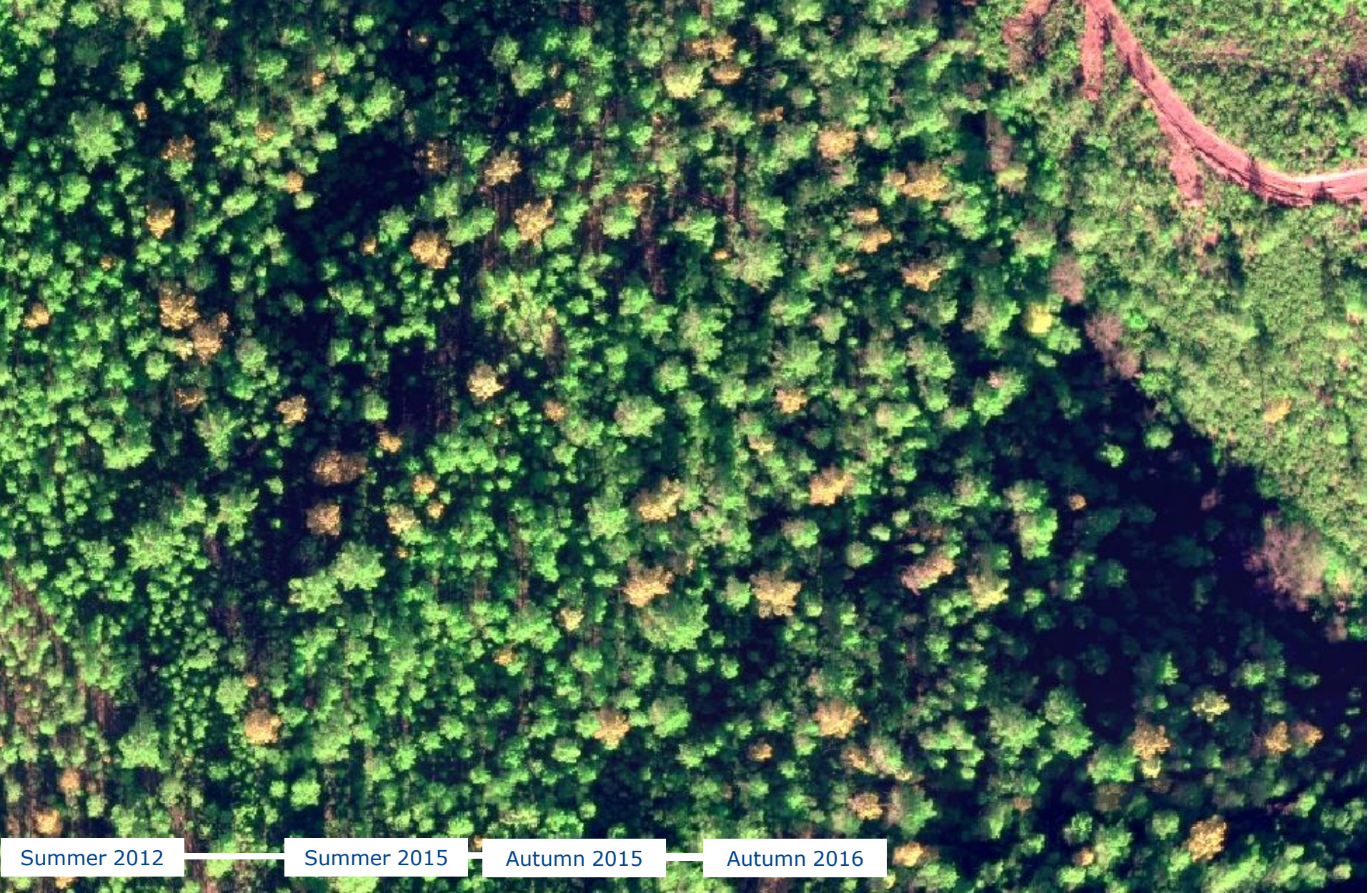
European
Commission



Summer 2012

Summer 2015

Autumn 2015

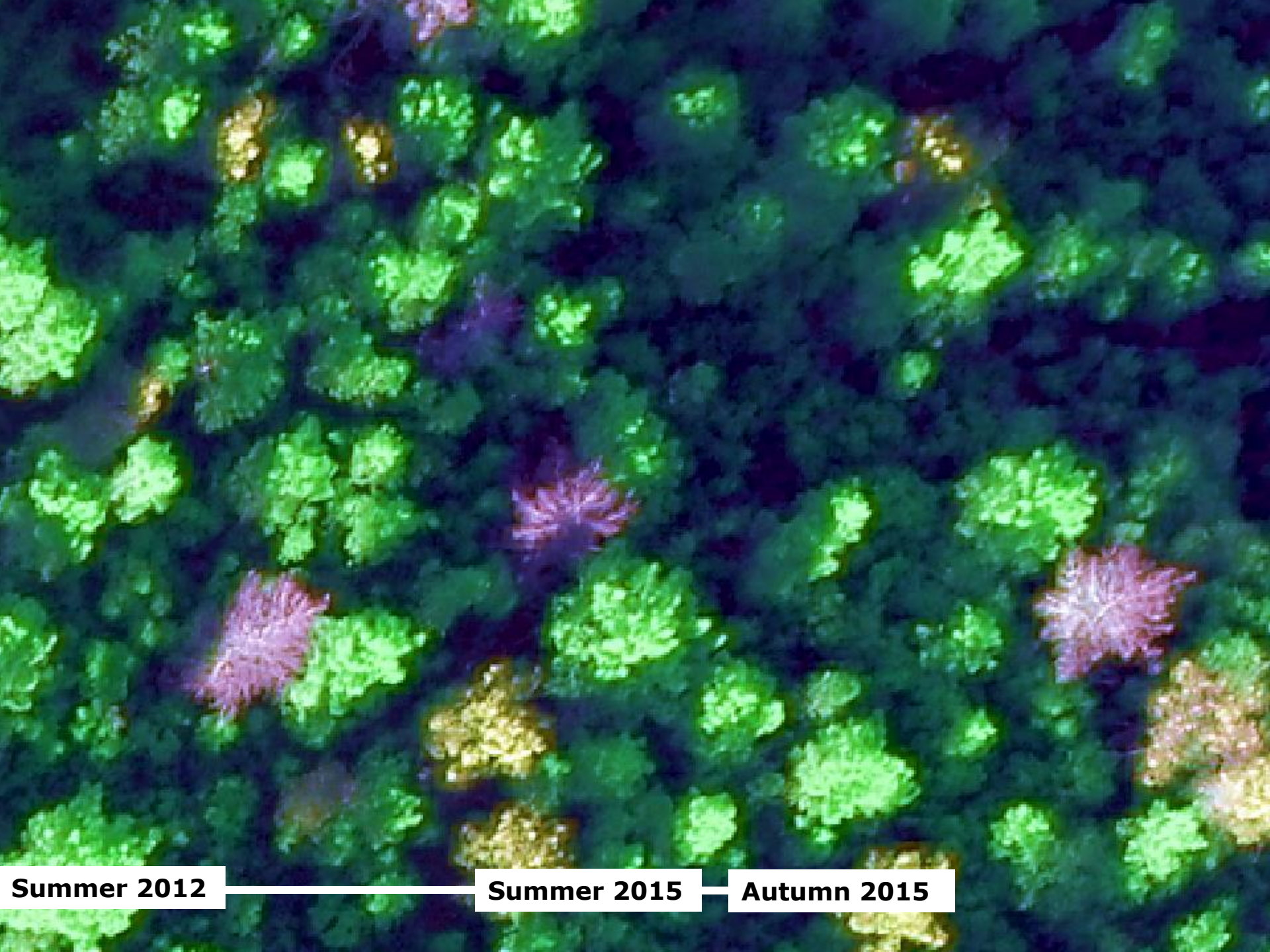


Summer 2012

Summer 2015

Autumn 2015

Autumn 2016



Summer 2012

Summer 2015

Autumn 2015

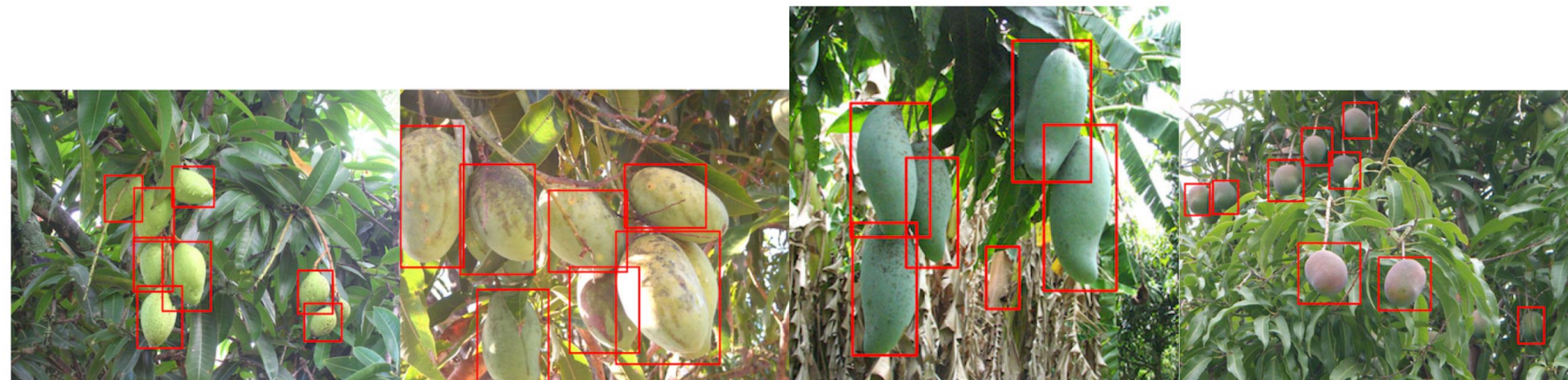


(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)



(e)

(f)

(g)

(h)



(a)



(b)

d'Andrimont, Raphaël, Guido Lemoine, and Marijn van der Velde. "Targeted Grassland Monitoring at Parcel Level Using Sentinels, Street-Level Images and Field Observations." *Remote Sensing* 10.8 (2018): 1300.

Take home message 1 of 4

There is **no 'one-size-fits-all' approach** for the use of remote sensing to detect diseases in crops and forests. Approaches need to be tailored to the disease system.

Take home message 2 of 4

The range of remote sensing **data, platforms, and sensors** is rapidly expanding.

The increasing data volumes require matching processing platforms.

Take home message 3 of 4

For plant health applications there is, for now, a spectrum of applications ranging from those that are **grounded in plant physiology** (and can target non-visible disease symptoms), to those that rely heavily on **feature-recognition and machine learning** (largely restricted to visible symptoms)

Final take home message

Remote sensing won't replace other diagnostic tools in plant health any time soon, but hold the potential to make plant health monitoring more (cost-)efficient if it is deployed as **complement** of other inspection and testing methods.