

# LESA Irrigation and Weed Updates

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

# Outline

- LESA Irrigation
  - Background
  - Previous research
  - Local case studies
- Brief Weed Control Updates
  - Chicory
  - Alfalfa

# Irrigation

- Meeting the water demand of the crop
- ET - Evapotranspiration
  - Crop stage
  - Weather
- Soil Storage
  - Texture
  - Organic matter
  - Rooting depth
- Efficiency
  - Water applied is water used
  - Losses



## High Pressure Impacts

- 
- Irrigation Efficiency ~60%
  - Operating Pressure 40-80 psi
  - Outlet Spacing ~20-30 ft
  - Application rate: Medium

# Mid Elevation Spray Application (MESA)

- 
- Irrigation Efficiency ~85%
  - Operating Pressure: ~40 psi.
    - Outlet Spacing: ~10ft
    - Application Rate: High

## Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA)



- Irrigation Efficiency ~97%
- Operating Pressure: ~15psi.
  - Outlet Spacing: <5ft
- Application rate: Very High

# Troy Peters - Alfalfa Symposium 2016

LEPA



# Troy Peters - 2017 Mobile Drip Irrigation Fact Sheet



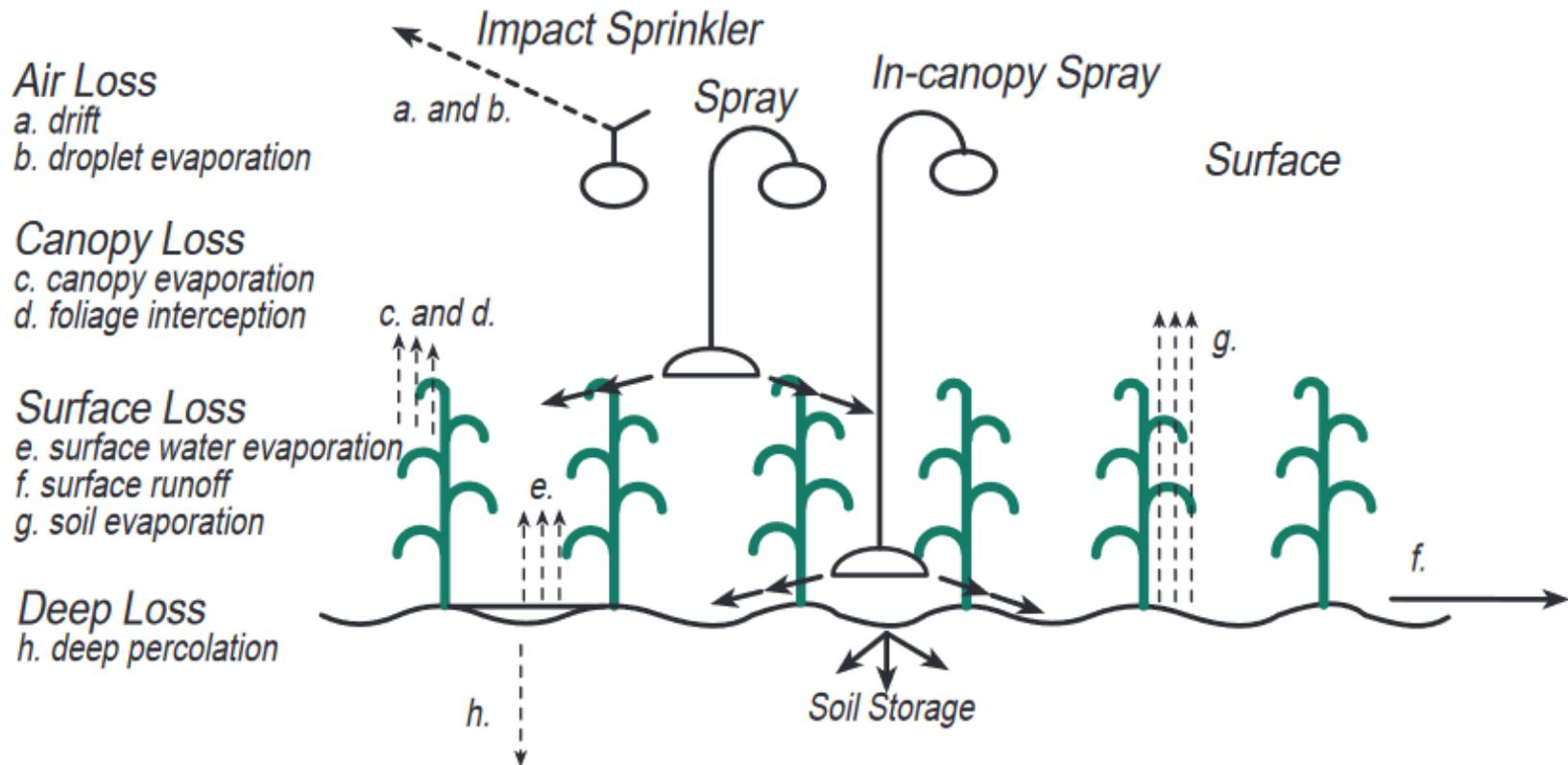


# Not New

- Testing began early 70s' to late 80's
  - LESA
  - LEPA
  - Mobile drip

# Rodgers et. al. 1997

**Figure 3.** Irrigation water loss and storage locations.

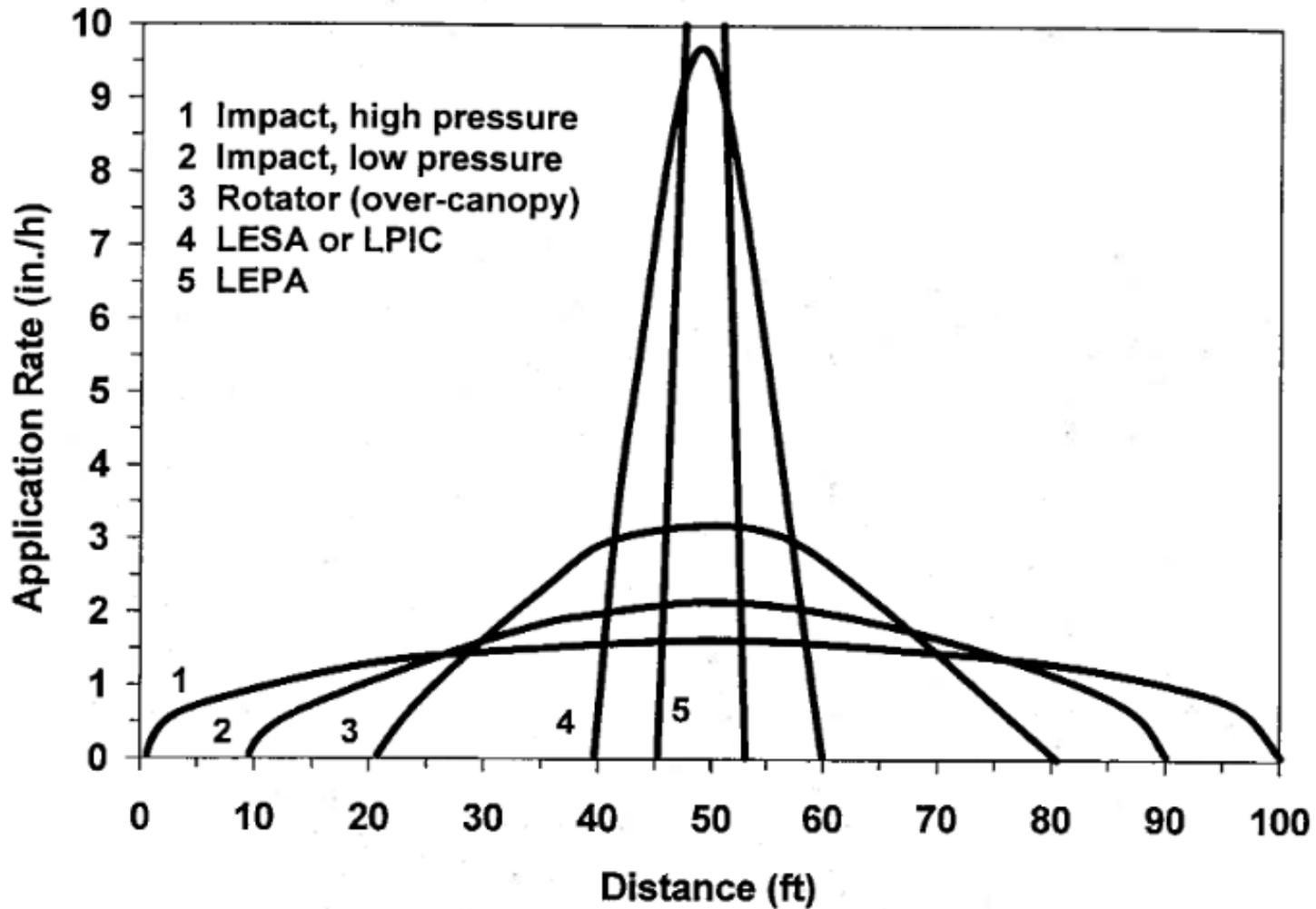




# Peters et. al. 2017

<b>Pivot Configuration</b>	<b>Wind Drift and Evaporation Losses</b>	<b>Emitter Height From Soil Surface</b>	<b>Sprinkler or Drop Spacing</b>	<b>Wetted Length (Infiltration Time)</b>
<b>Impact Sprinklers on Top of Pivot</b>	40%	15 ft	20 ft	50 - 60 ft
<b>Mid Elevation Spray Application (MESA)</b>	20%	5-10 ft	10 ft	30 ft
<b>Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA)</b>	3%	1 - 2 ft	< 5 ft	15 ft
<b>Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA)</b>	0%	0 ft	< 5 ft	1 ft
<b>Mobile Drip Irrigation (MDI)</b>	0%	0 ft	1.5 ft	Up to 65 ft

(Howell, T.A., 2003)



# LESA/LESA

- Cons

- Infiltration limited
- Slope limited
- Runoff/erosion
- Deep loss? (below rootzone)
- Cost

- Pros

- Reduced pressure
- Pumping cost
- Decreased evaporation/interception
- In canopy chemigation
- Less wheel track wetting

# Case Studies

## Lassen and Plumas 2017

- Orloff 2016- Scott Valley
- Follow Up/Demonstration
  
- North of Doyle - Honey Lake Valley
  - Orchard grass/fescue
  - Sandy loam (Coarse sand 3 ft.)
- Sierra Valley (Loyalton)
  - Alfalfa
  - Silt loam
    - Higher water table (saturated soil in spring)

# Installation

30-40 inches apart  
18 inches high

Senninger  
Irrigation

Donated sprinklers







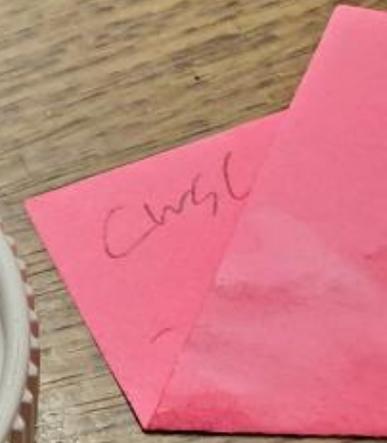








- Photo courtesy of Hunter Industries Incorporated.





Ch  
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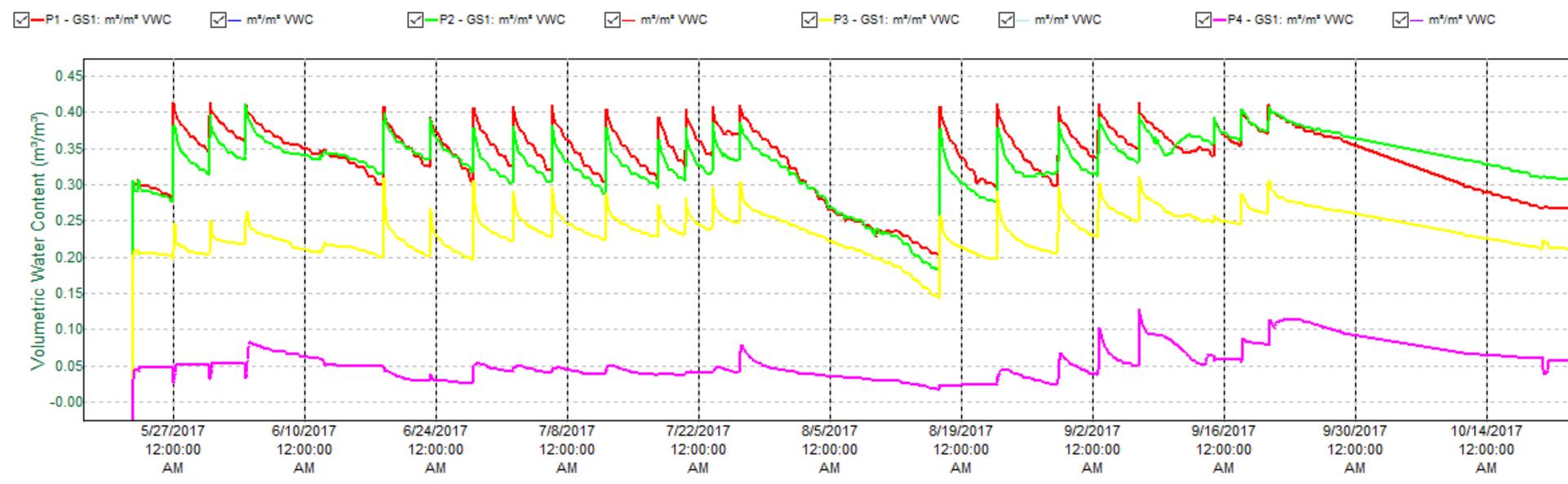
# Soil Moisture Sensors

- Volumetric Water Content
  - 1, 1.5, 2, and 3 ft. deep
  - LESA and standard
  - Center of span
- Installed Early Summer 2017

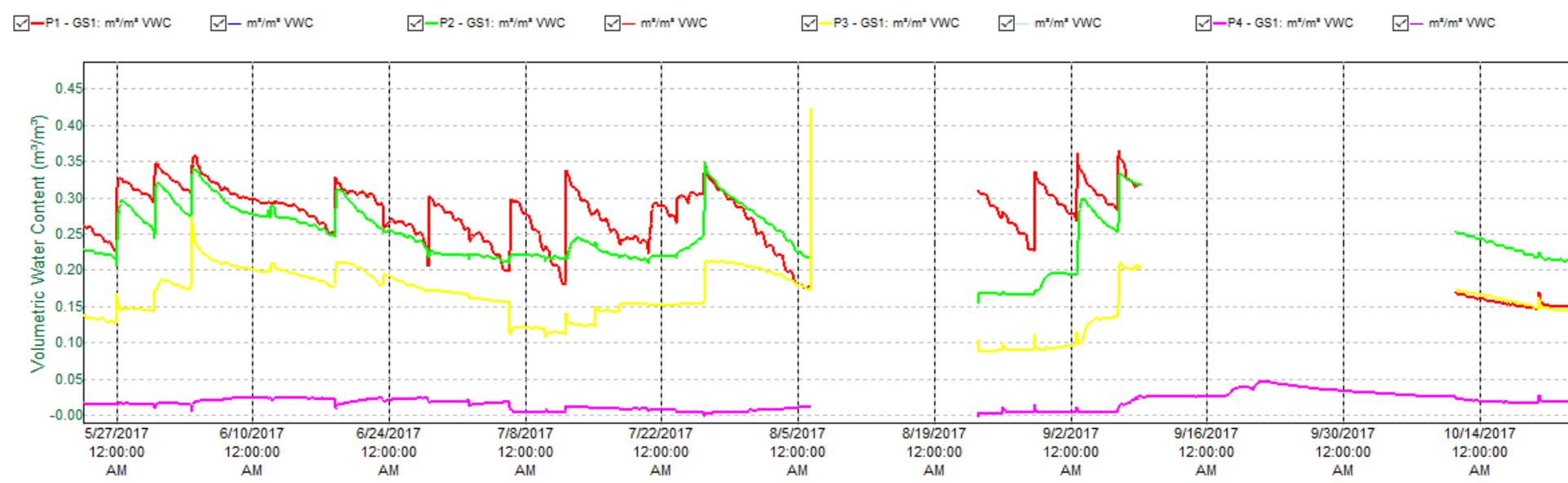


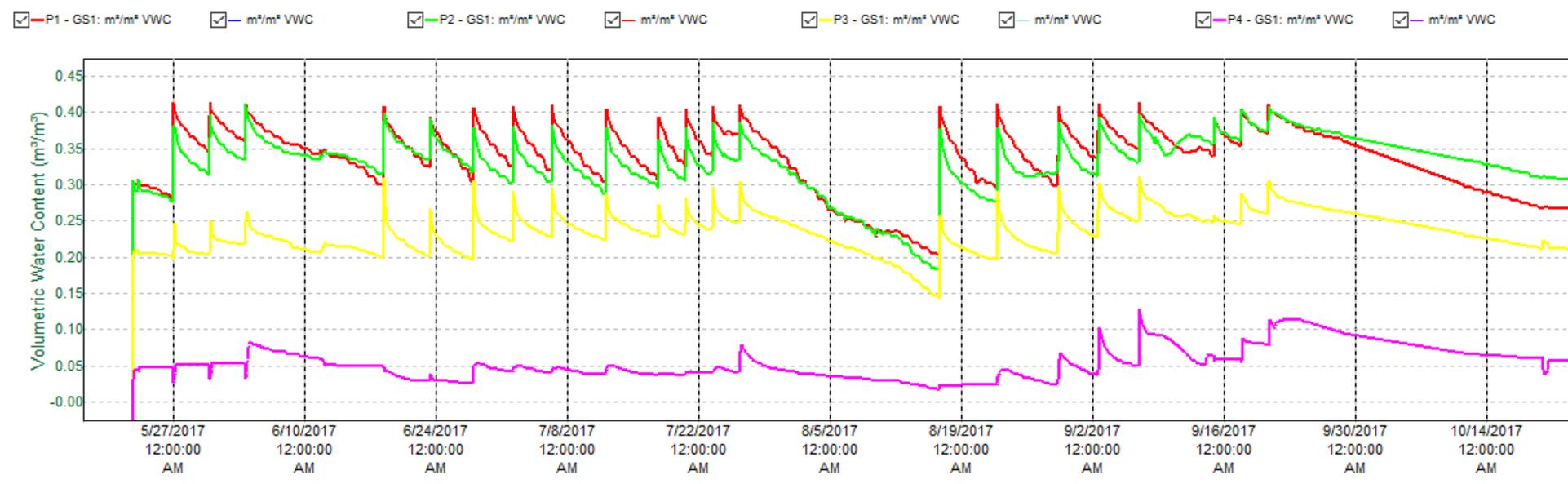
# Soil Moisture Sensors

- Trouble!!
- Doyle
  - 2017 - Hit by machinery
  - 2019 - Malfunction
- Loyalton
  - 2017 - Placement error
  - 2018 - Battery
  - 2019 - Cows...

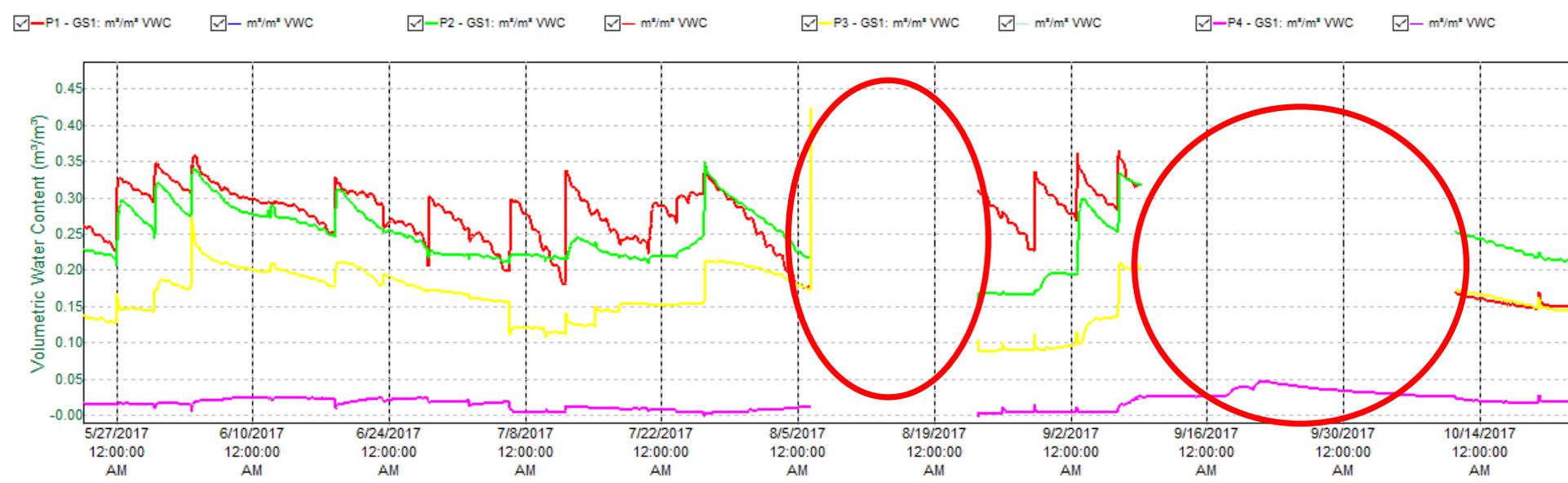


## Standard



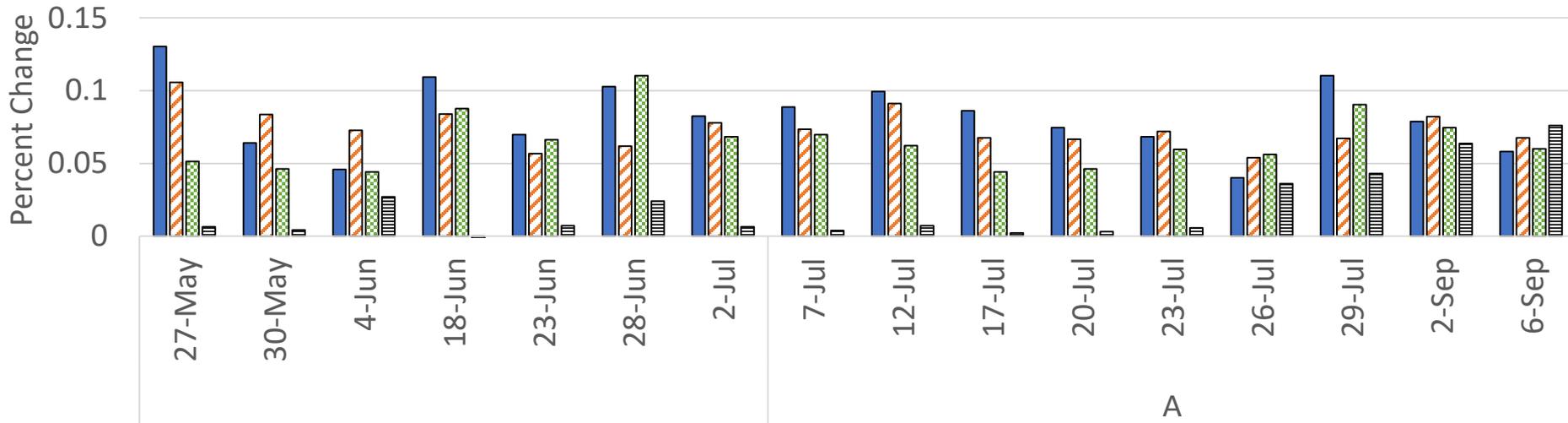


## Standard



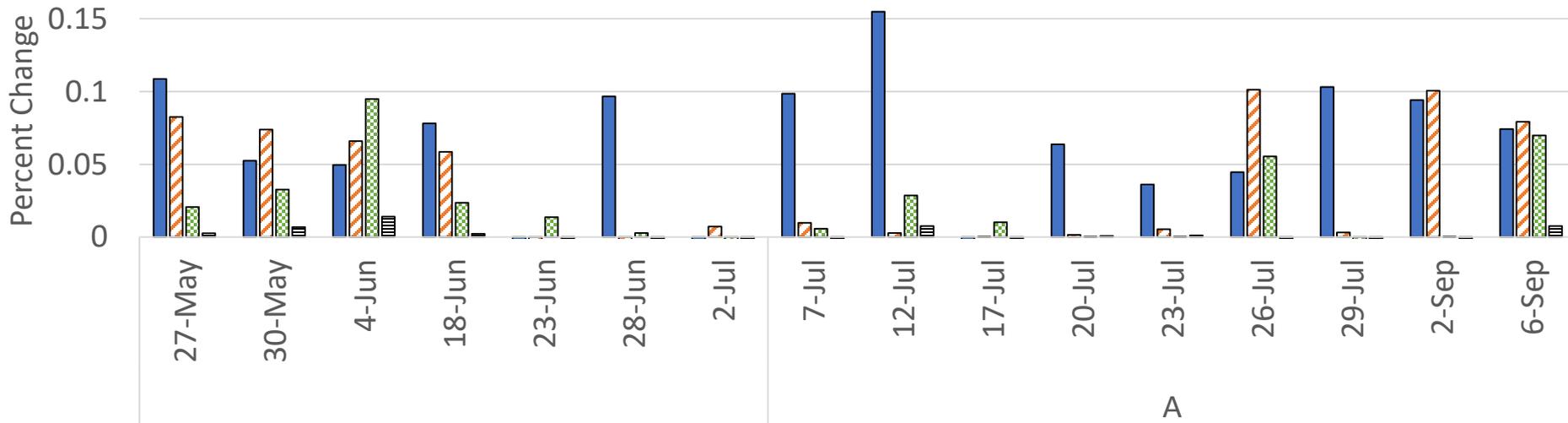
### LESA: Volumetric Water Content Change

1 ft. 1.5 ft. 2 ft. 3 ft.



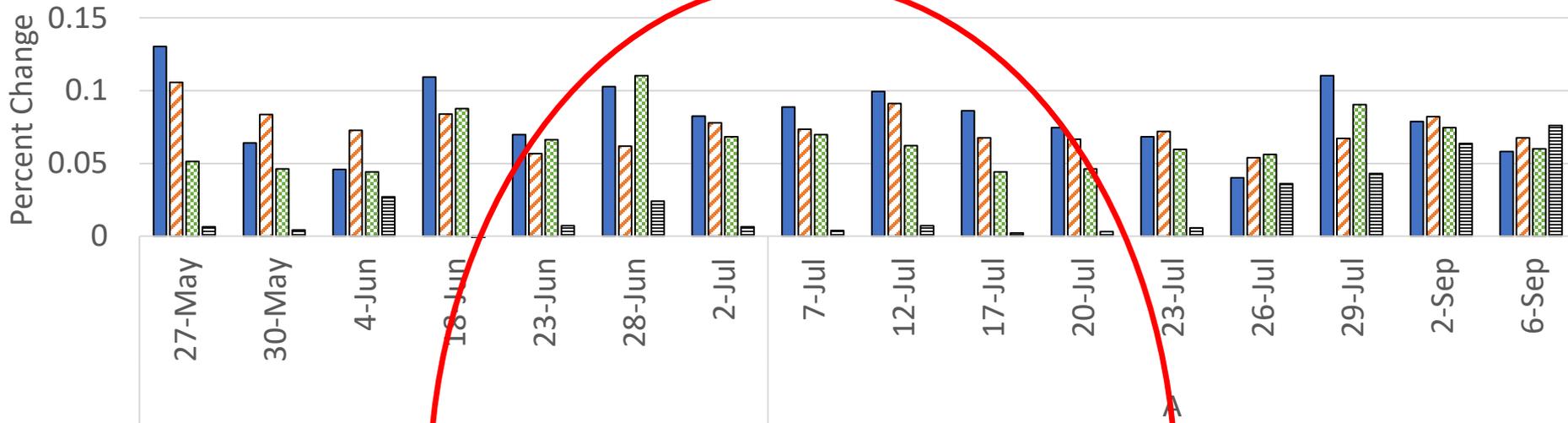
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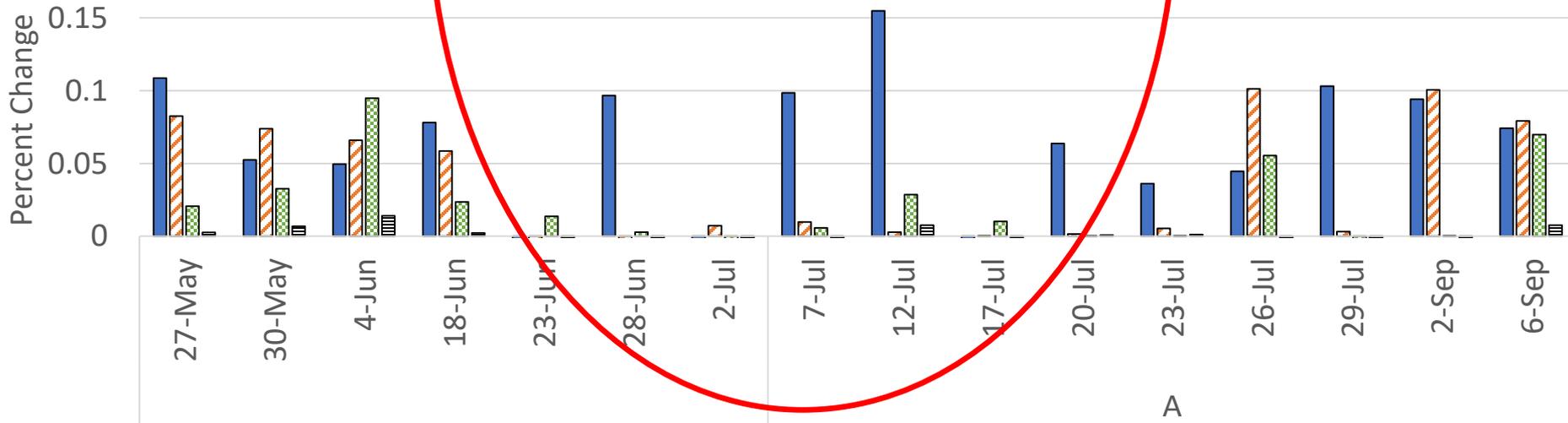
# LESA: Volumetric Water Content Change

1 ft. 1.5 ft. 2 ft. 3 ft.



# Standard: Volumetric Water Content Change

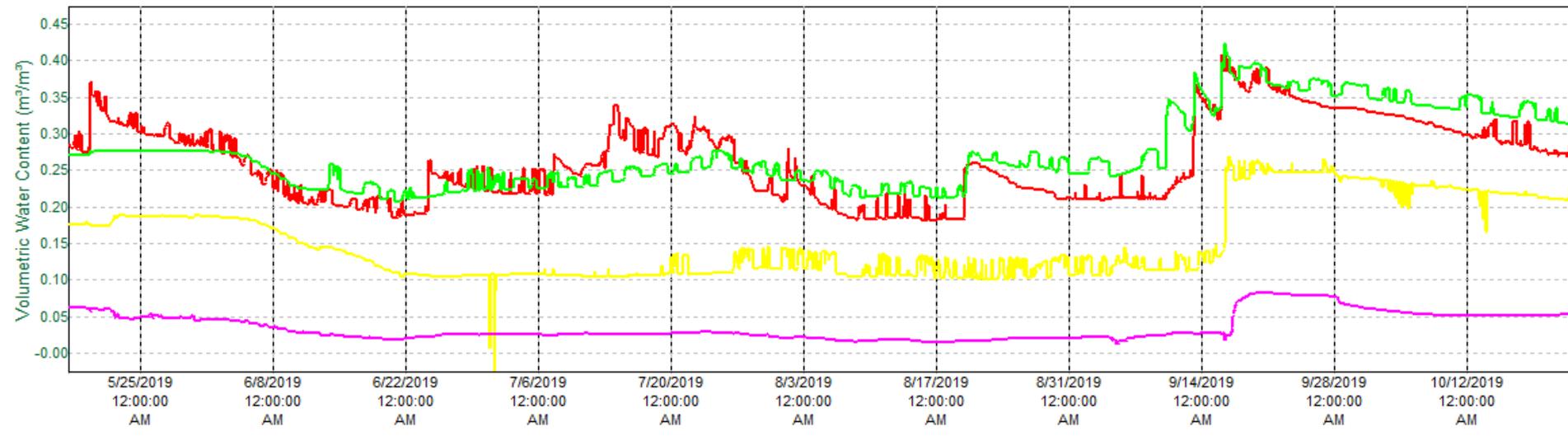
1 ft. 1.5 ft. 2 ft. 3 ft.



# 2018-Winter Cages

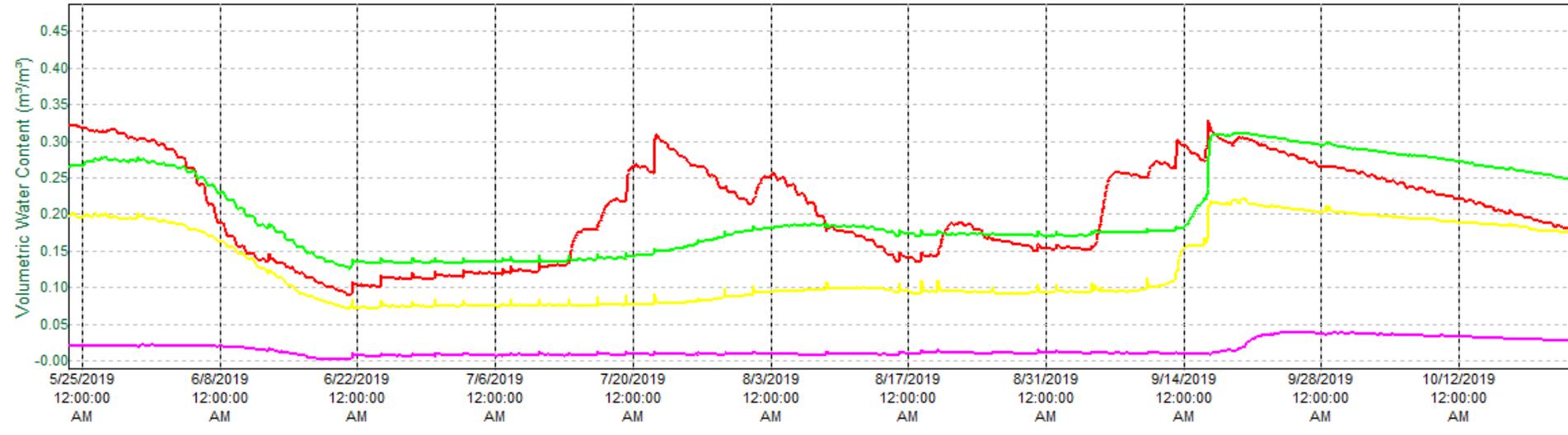


P1 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P2 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P3 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P4 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC



## Standard

P1 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P2 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P3 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     P4 - GS1: m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC     m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> VWC



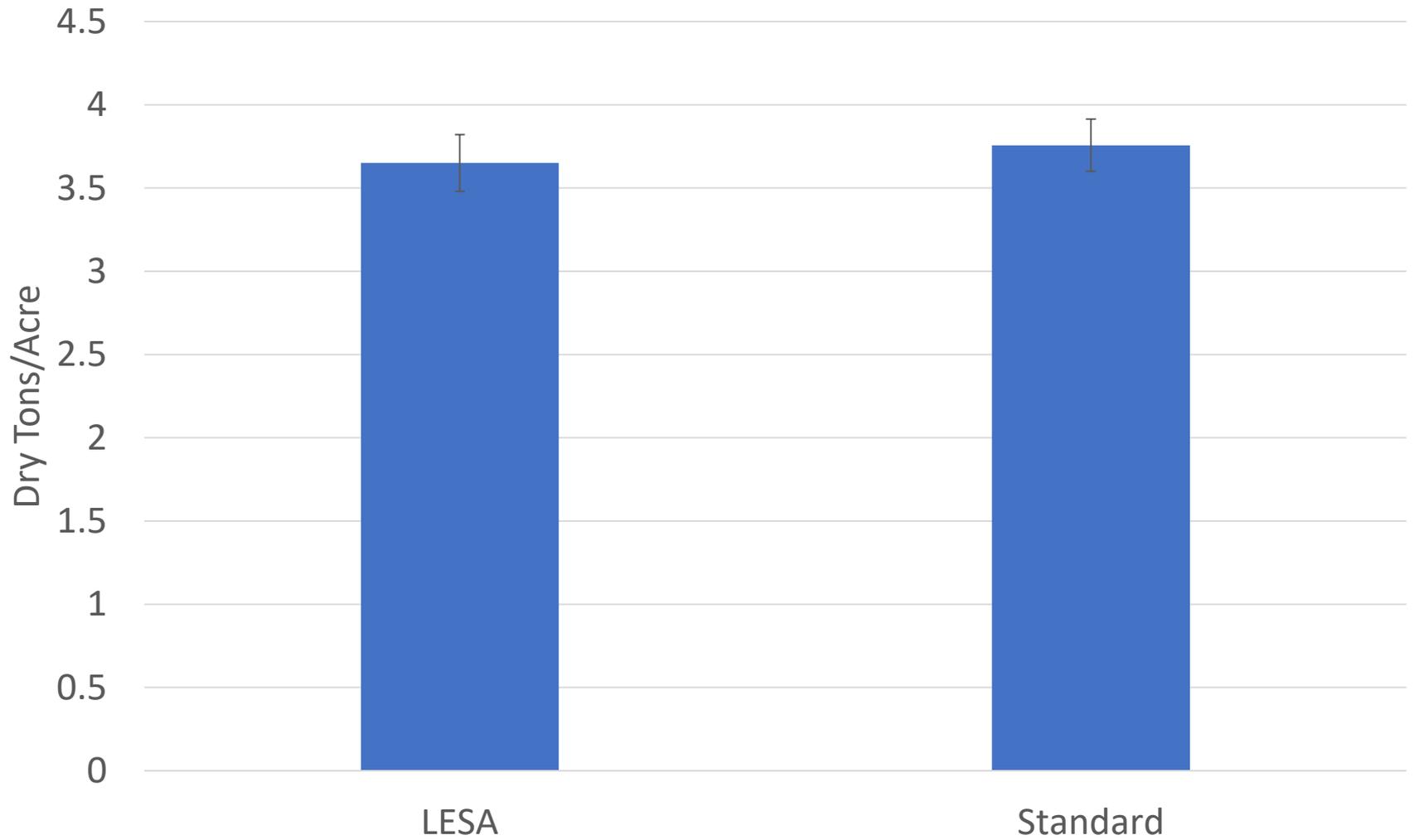


# Yields - Doyle 2019

- Six sites in field
  - Three 0.5 meter quadrats - Orchard grass/alfalfa
  - Three 0.5 meter quadrats - Fescue
- Three cuttings

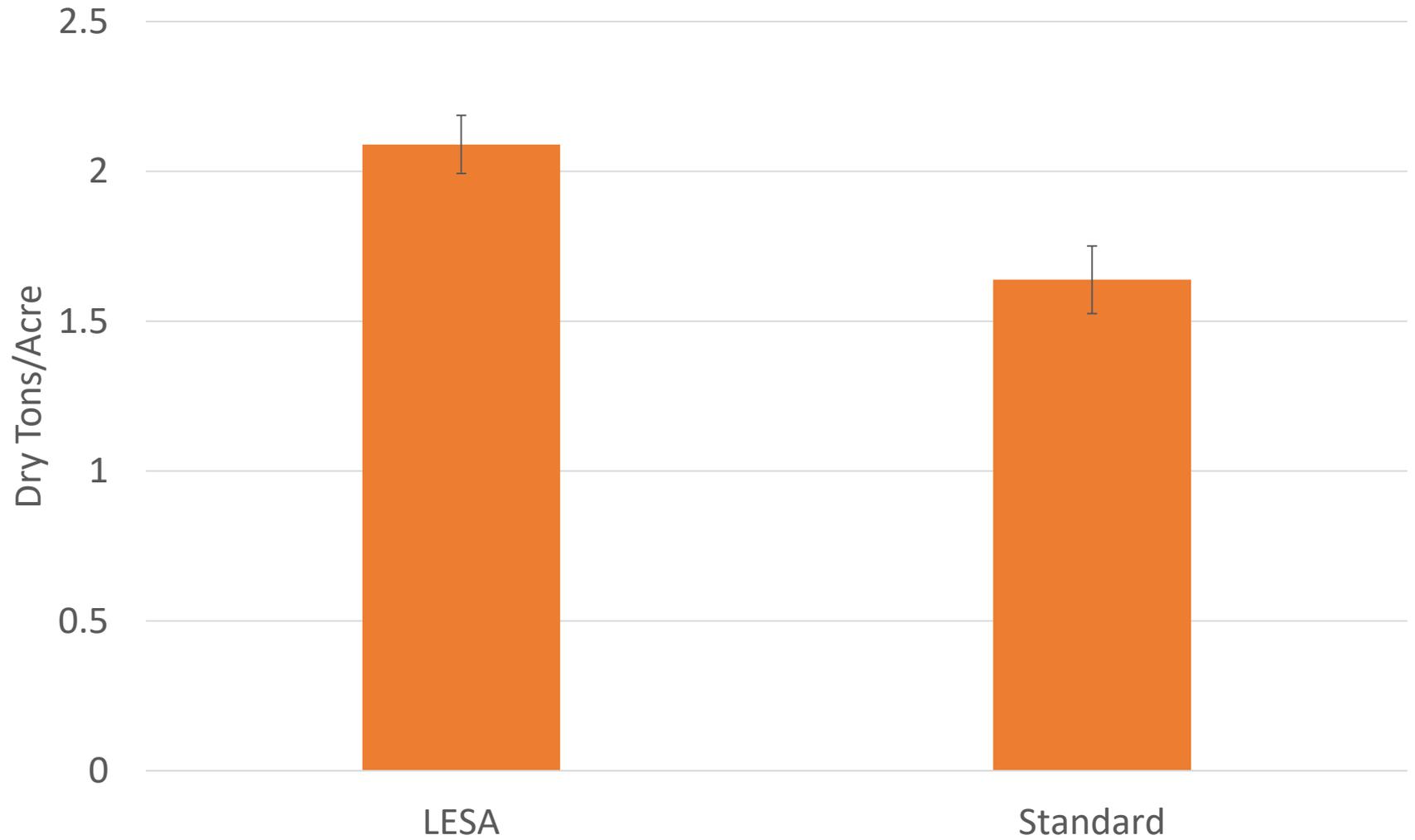
# Doyle: Yield Dry Tons/Acre

■ Cut One



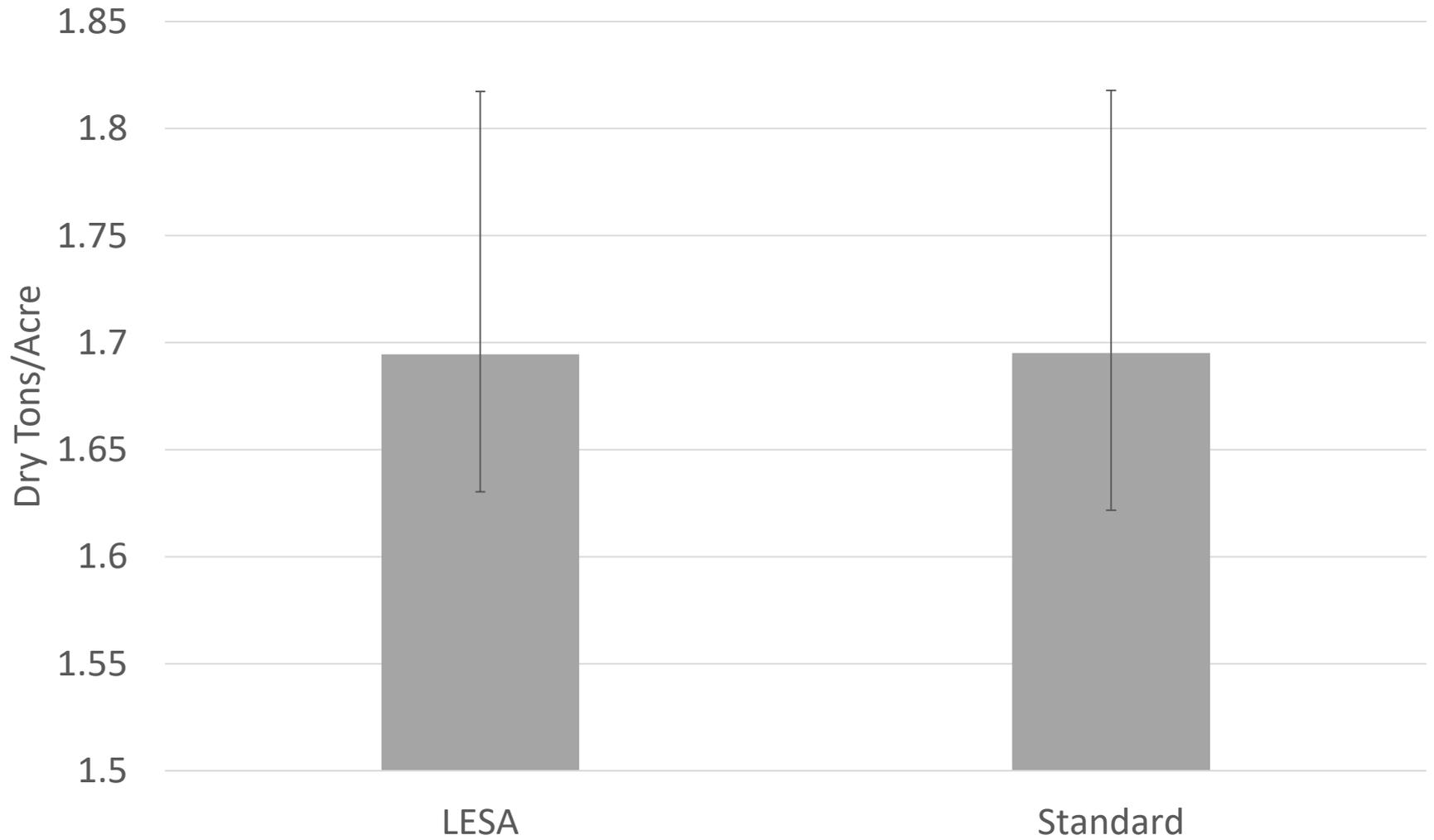
# Doyle: Yield Dry Tons/Acre

■ Cut Two

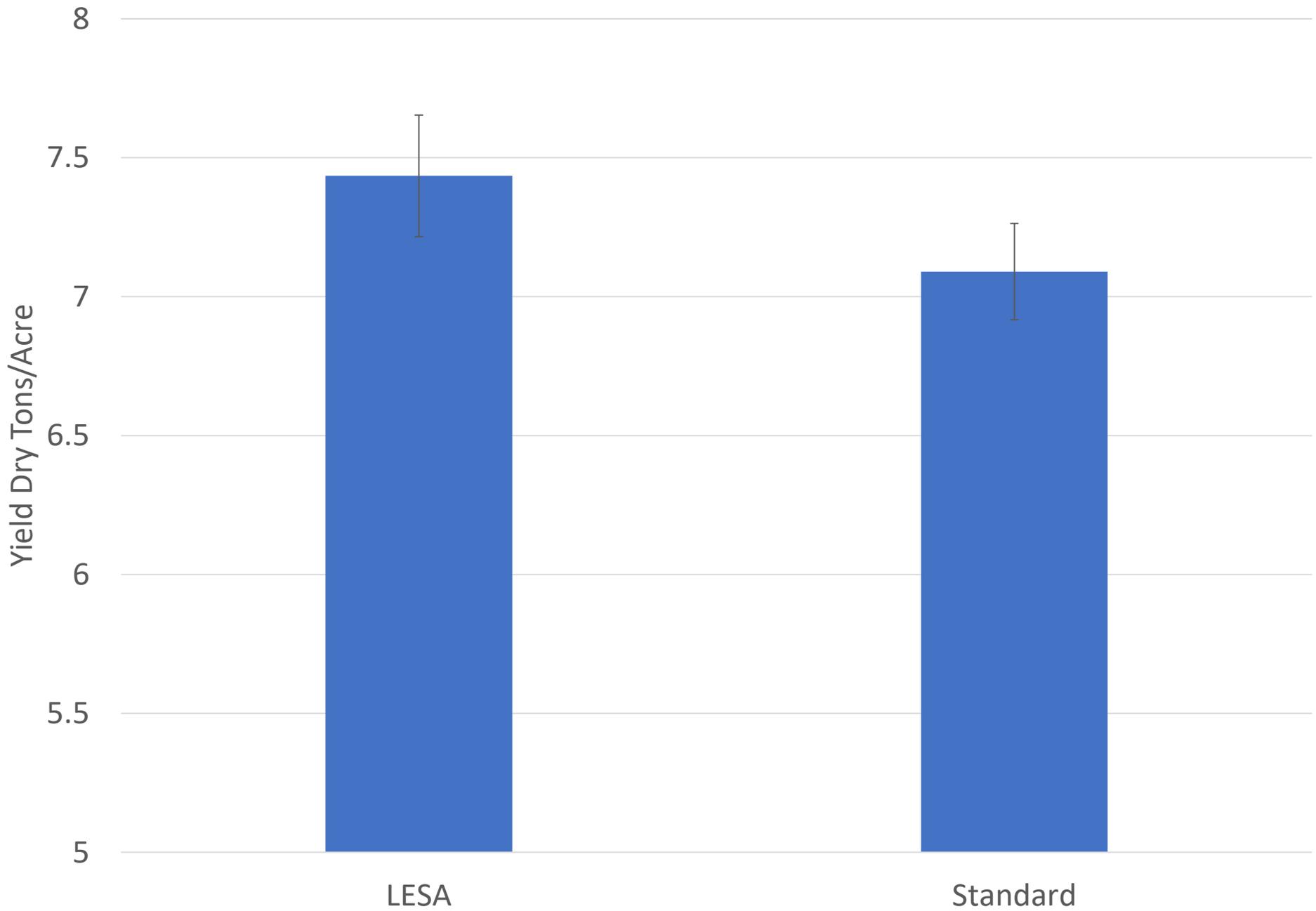


# Doyle: Yield Dry Tons/Acre

■ Cut Three



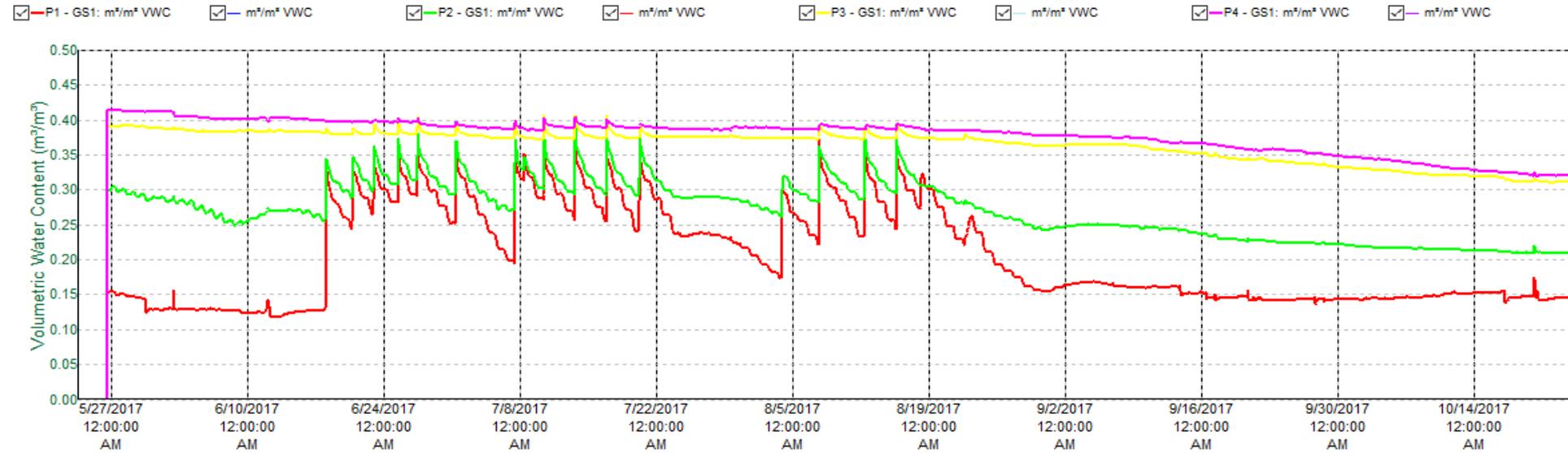
# Doyle: Yield Dry Tons/Acre All Three



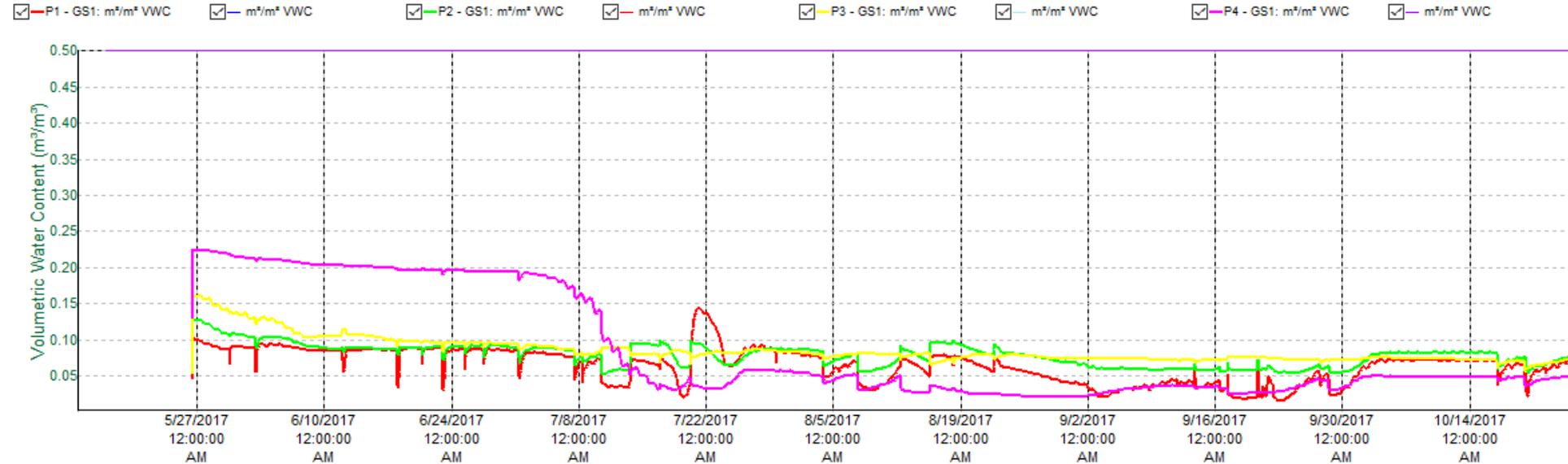


# 2017 Loyalton

LESA



## Standard



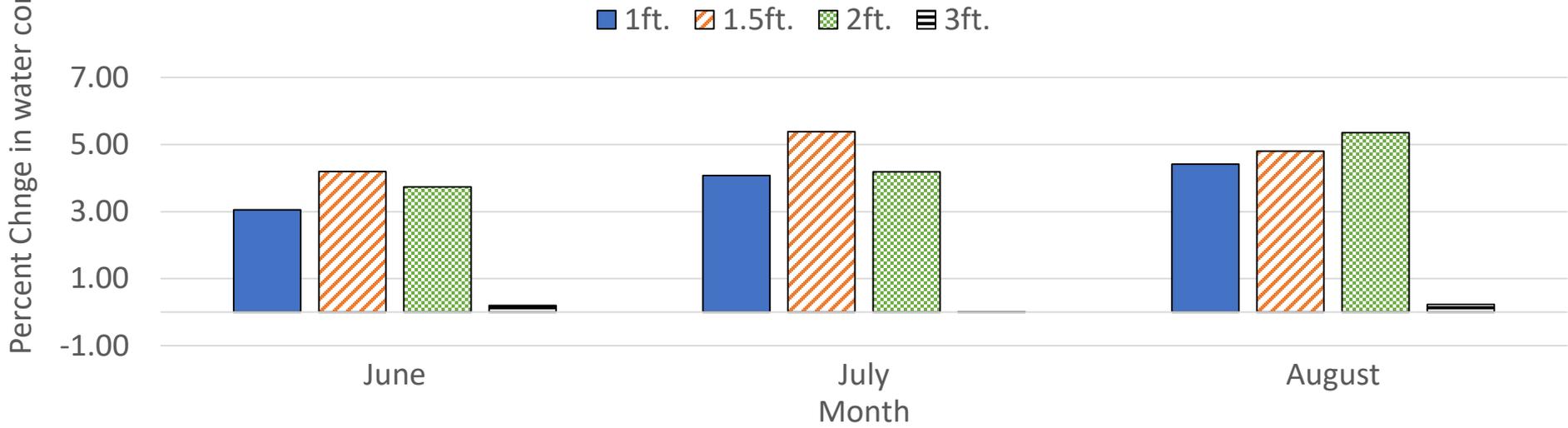






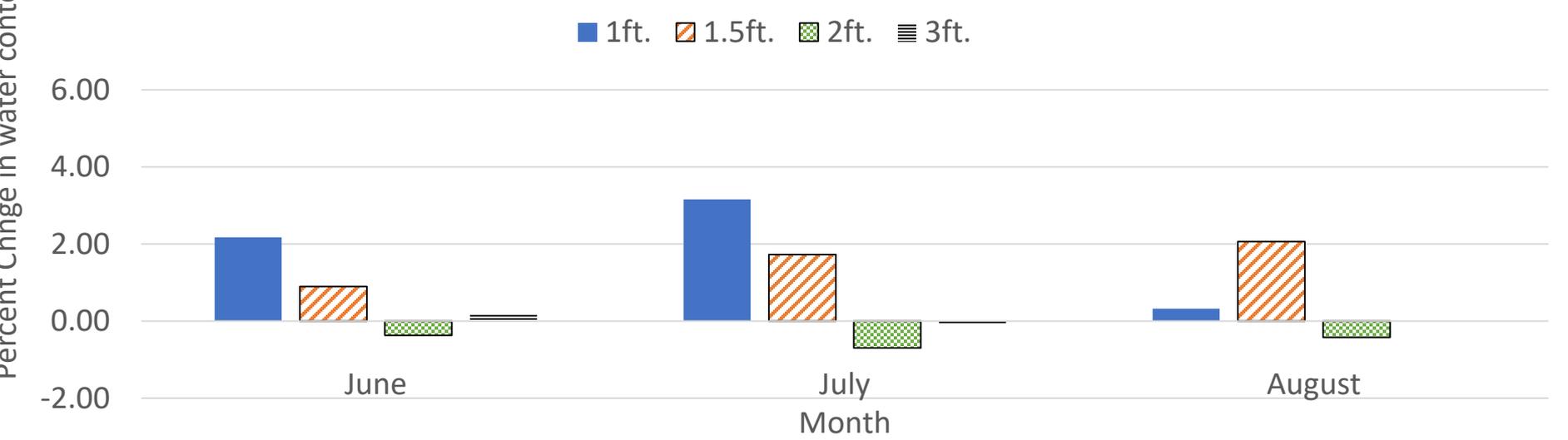
### LESA Sprinklers 2018 Loyalton:

Percent Change in Volumetric Water Content by Sensor Depth



### Standard Sprinklers 2018 Loyalton:

Percent Change in Volumetric Water Content by Sensor Depth



# 2019 Loyalton - Cows.....

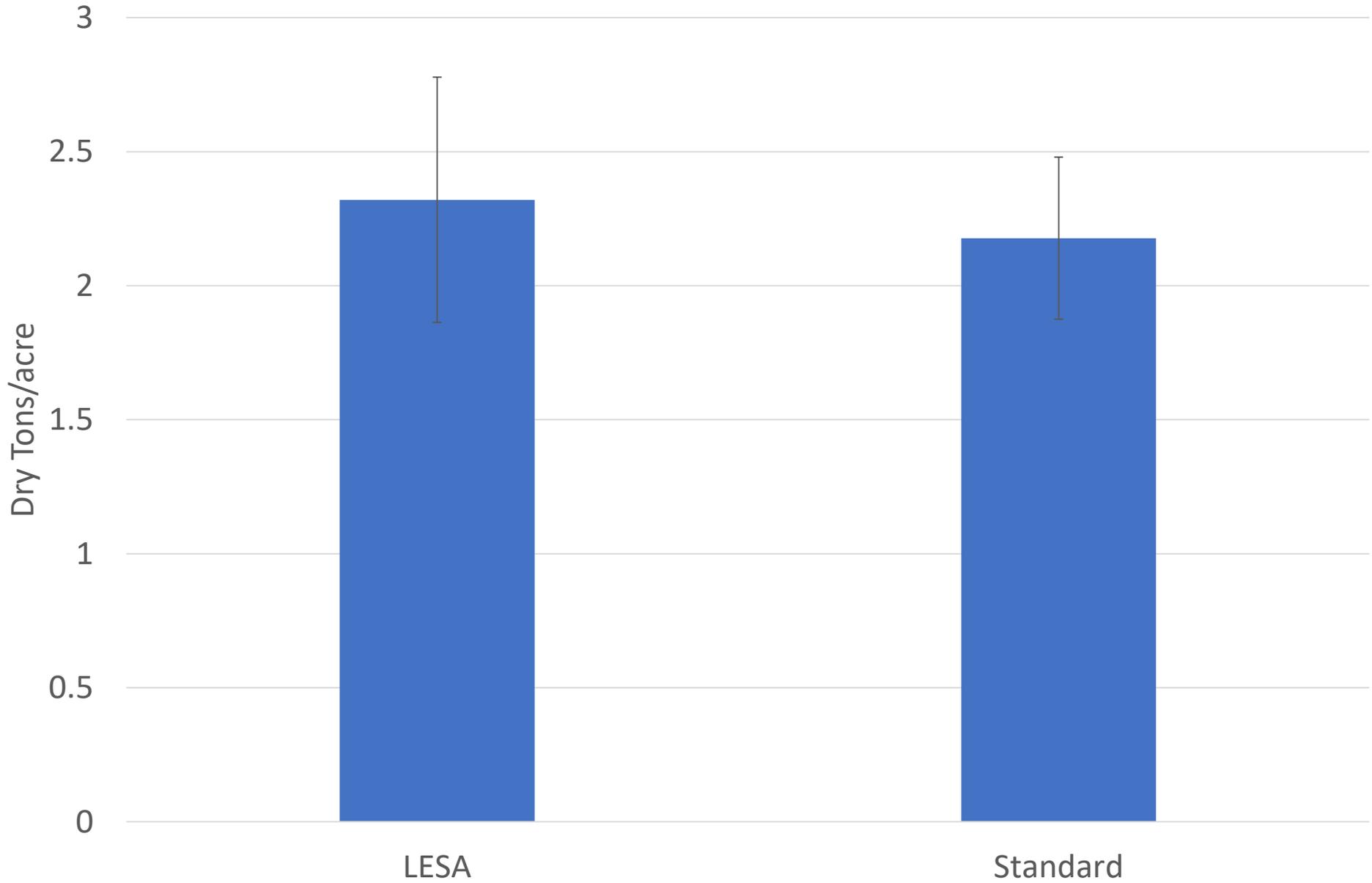
- Installed new moisture sensors
  - Results were inconclusive

# Biomass/Yield- 2019

- Loyalton
  - Five locations per irrigation type
  - Five 0.5 meter quadrats/location

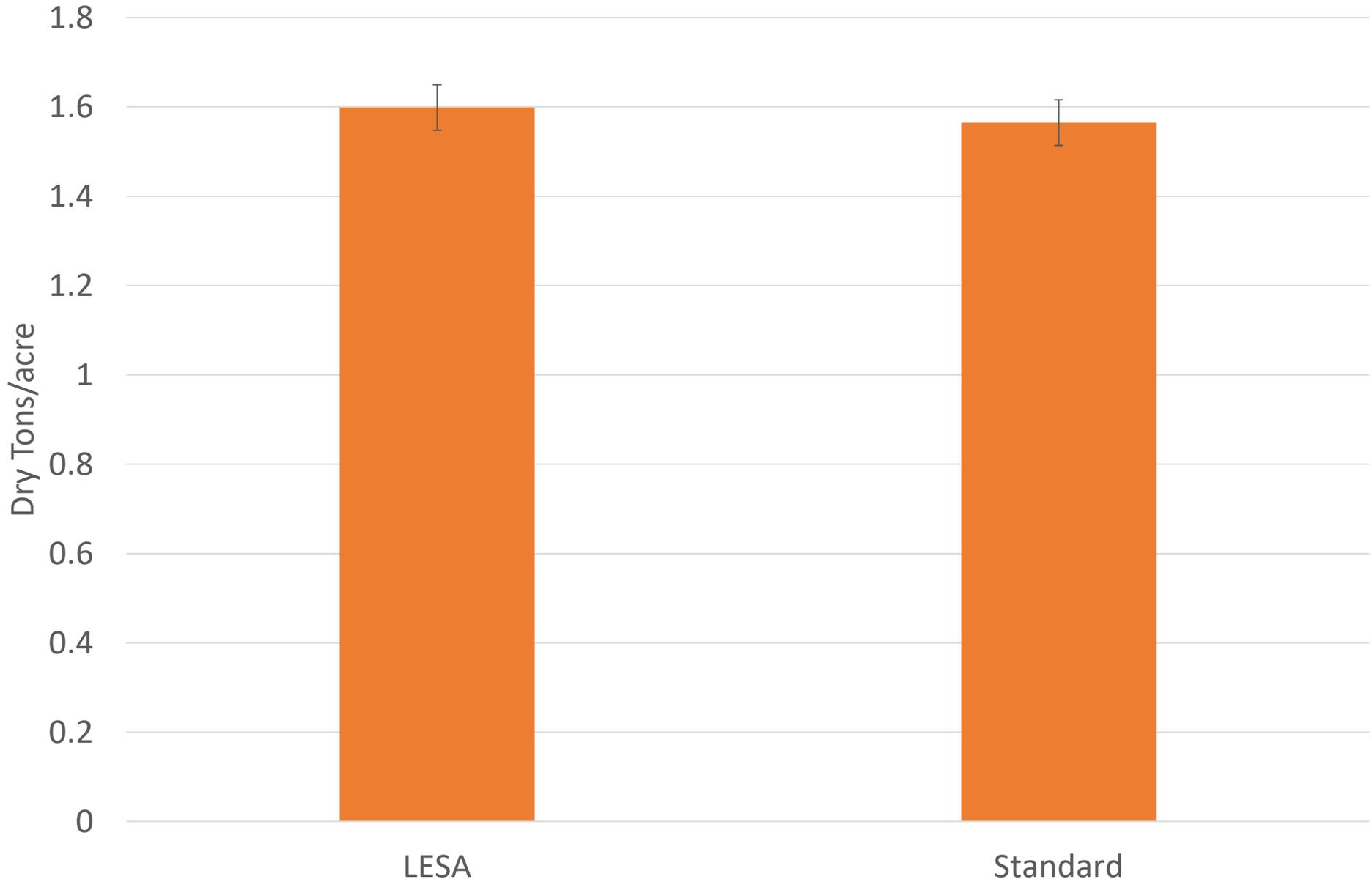
# Loyalton 2019 : Dry Tons Per Acre

■ Cut One



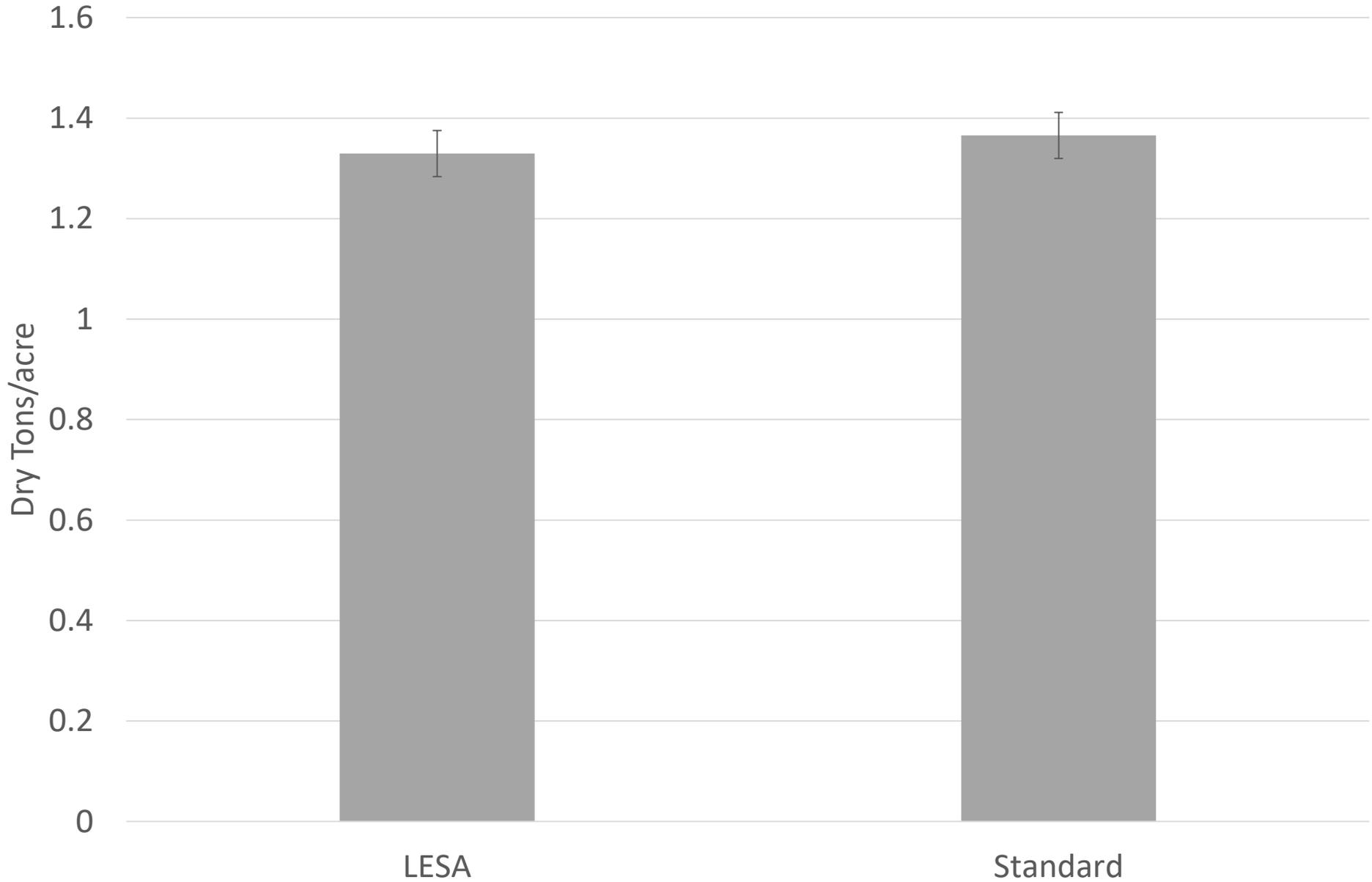
# Loyalton 2019: Dry Tons Per Acre

■ Cut Two



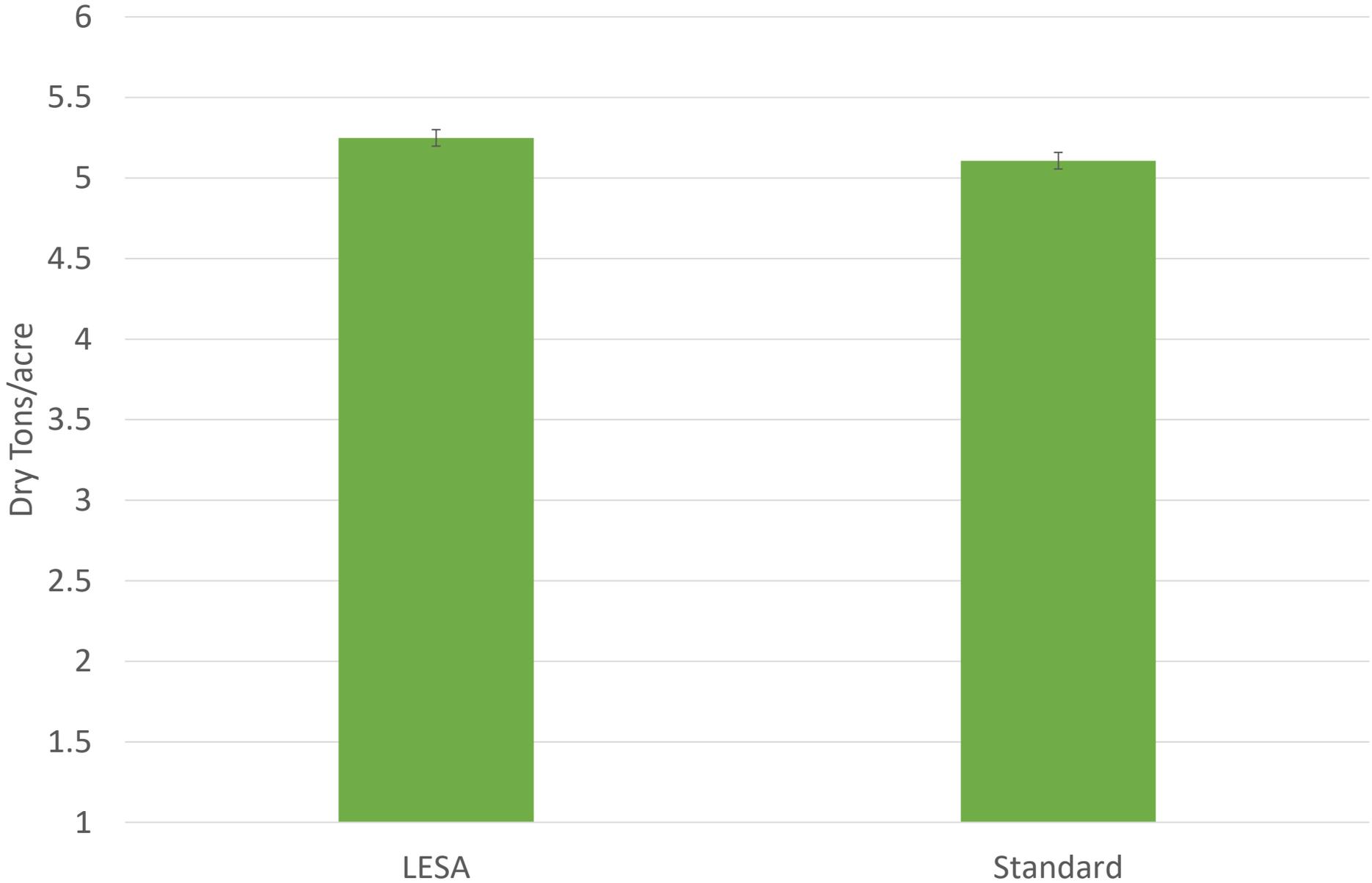
# Loyalton 2019 : Dry Tons Per Acre

■ Cut Three



# Loyalton 2019: Whole Season Dry Tons Per Acre

■ Whole Season





# Conclusions

- Inconclusive results: case studies
  - Moisture Sensors
    - Needed more sensors....
  - Yields?
- Previous Research
  - Lower pressure
  - Higher efficiency
- Peters et. al. 2016
  - 4-year payback on pressure reduction alone

Weeds

# Chicory



2002 © Peter M. Dziuk

Photo Courtesy of: Peter M Dziuk

# Chicory

- Can be desirable
- Can displace forage
- Often considered a weed
- Not Native



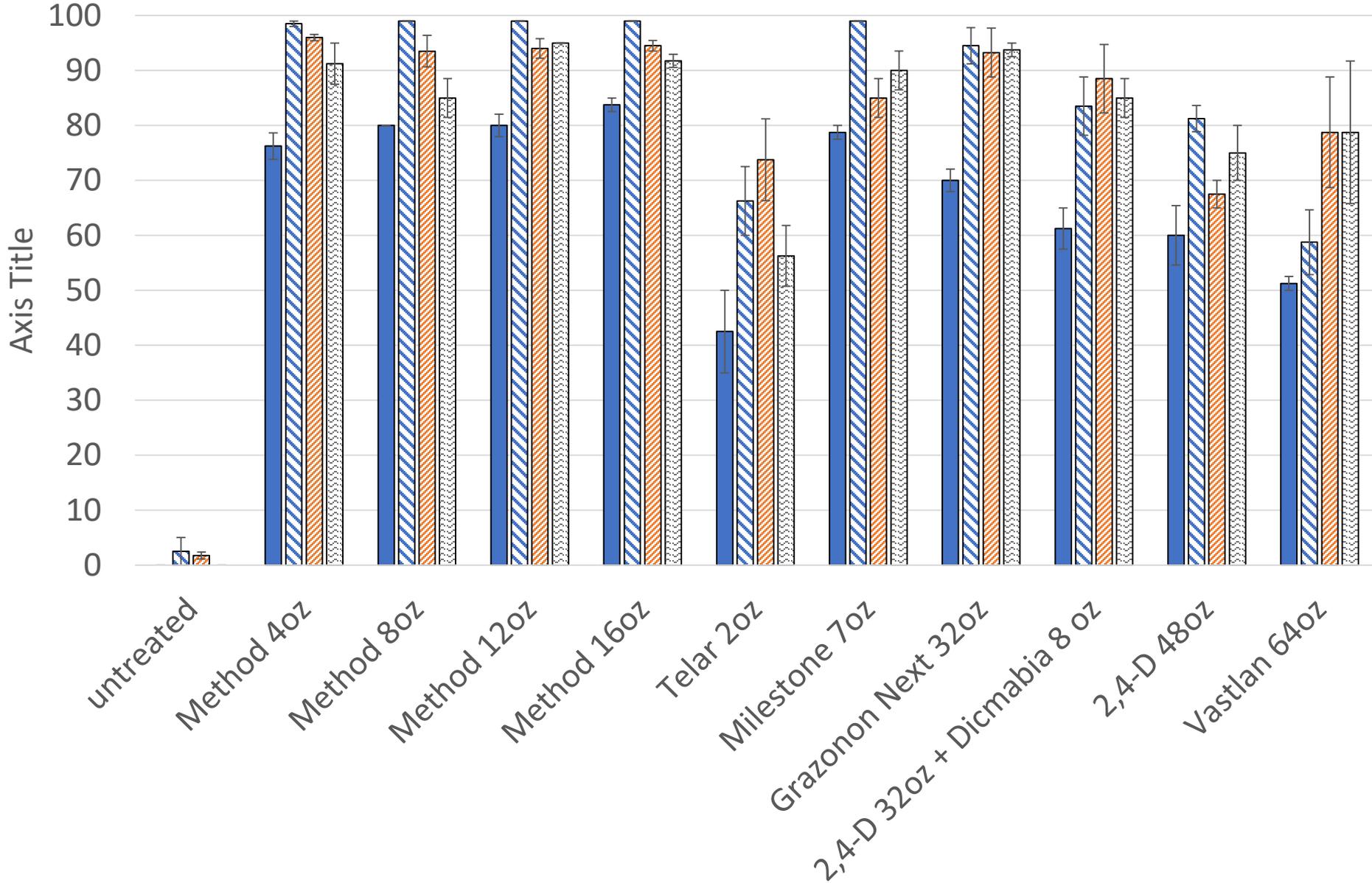
# 2019 Trial

- Honey Lake Valley
  - Pasture, lots Chicory
- CO2 Backpack Sprayer
- 20/gal acre
- 4 replications 10\*20 ft. plots
- Sprayed 5-29-19



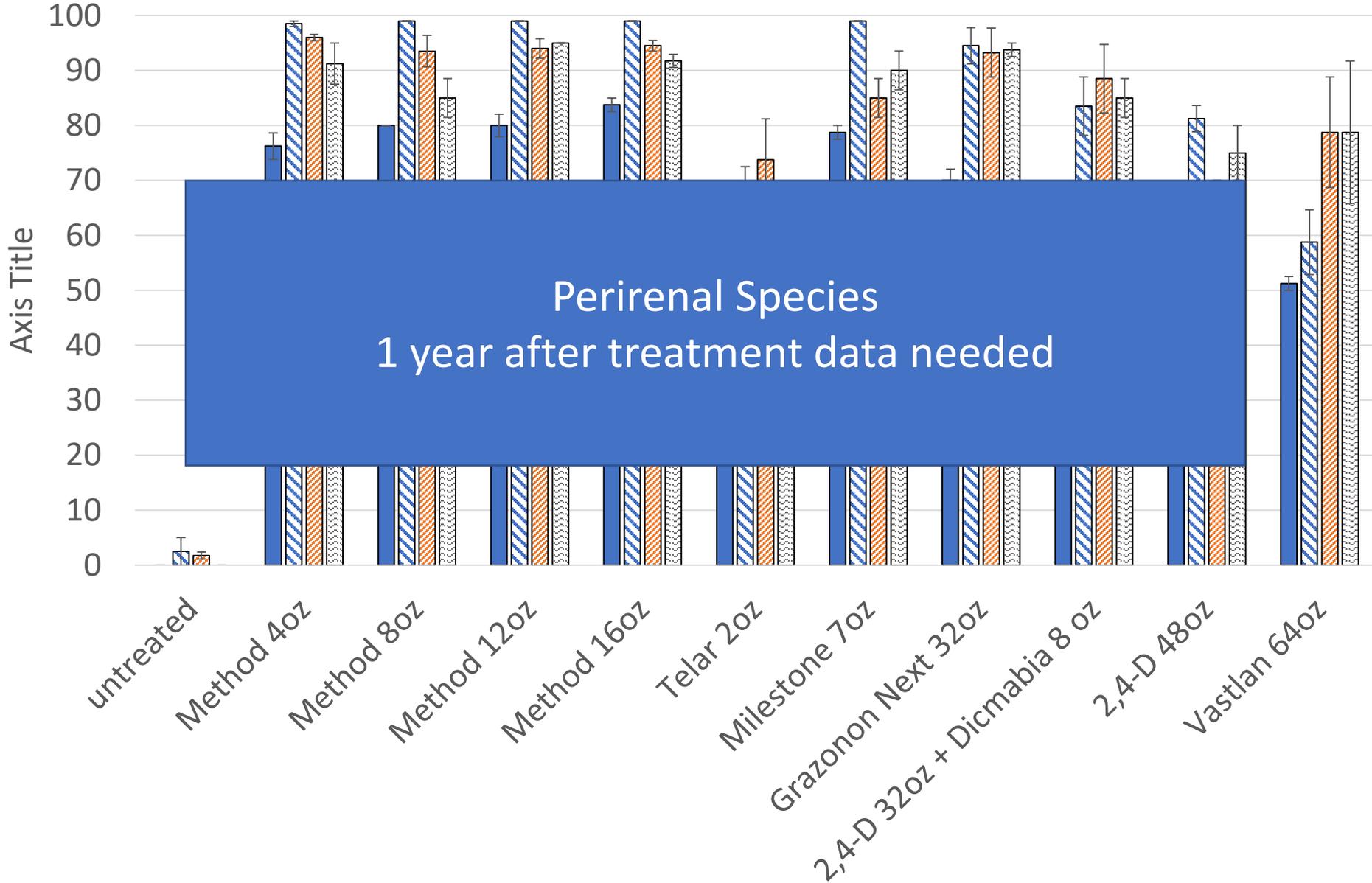
# Chickory Control

■ 2wks ■ 4wks ■ 10wks ■ 14wks



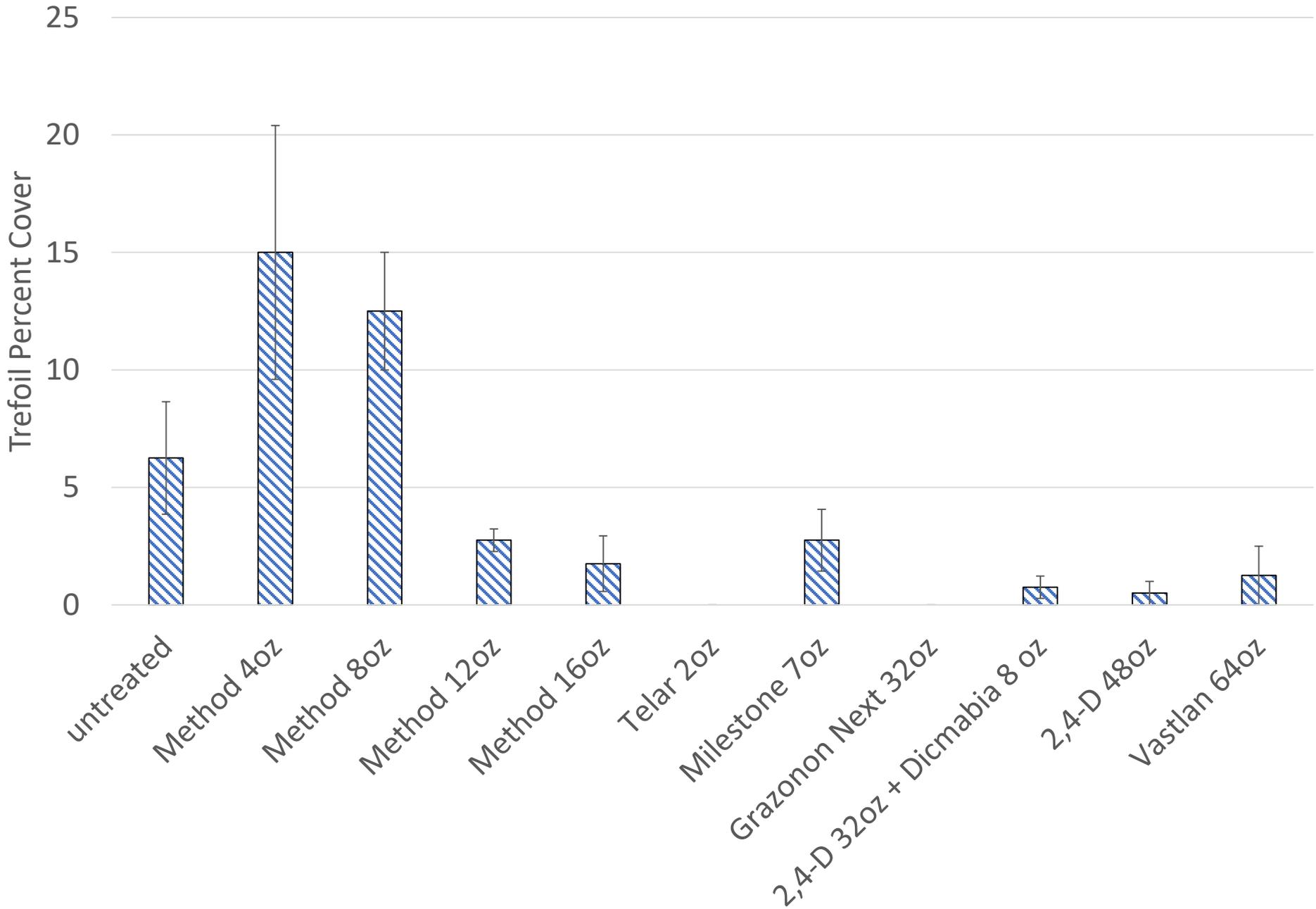
# Chickory Control

2wks 4wks 10wks 14wks





# Birdsfoot Trefoil Cover



2,4-D 32oz + Dicamba 8oz



# Method 8 oz



# Method 4 oz



Untreated



# Method

- No Grazing Label!
  - Maybe someday
  - Company pursuing
- Kills Trees...
- Interesting Selectivity

# Non/Less Volatile Synthetic Auxins

- Unison- 2,4-D
- Vastlan- Triclopyr

# On the Horizon (Not yet CA)

- Freelexx -2,4-D
- Esplanade- Indaziflam
  - Preemergent product (long residual)
  - Grazing label being sought
  - Expected by Bayer in 2020
- Arelex Active
  - New Mode of Action
  - Arylpicolinates Group 0
  - First New Range/pasture mode of action in 10 years
  - Looking for research sites in 2020



# Russian Knapweed Gall Wasp

## *Aulacidea acroptilonica*

- Mike Pitcairn and Viola Popescu CDFA
- Three release sites 2017
  - Karlo Rd.
  - Hwy. 395
  - Lambert Lane
- Two release sites 2019
  - Lambert Lane
  - Ash Creek Wildlife Area





# Courtesy of Pitcairn 2019

**Table 2.** Plant and gall abundance at two Russian knapweed locations where the gall wasp, *Aulacidea acroptilonica* was released.

Lassen County Karlo Road	# quadrats (# of plants sampled)	Mean plants per sq meter	Mean plant height	Mean flw hds per sq meter	Mean galls per sq meter	Mean seeds per sq meter	Mean galls per plant
2017	14 (52)	92.9	40.4	953.6	25.0	4728.6	0.27
2018	24 (51)	106.2	65.0	316.7	660.4	1325.0	6.22
Siskiyou County Indian Point Rd	# quadrats (# of plants sampled)	Mean plants per sq meter	Mean plant height	Mean flw hds per sq meter	Mean galls per sq meter	Mean seeds per sq meter	Mean galls per plant
2017	31 (50)	80.6	38.0	1245.2	27.4	5758.1	0.34
2018	24 (50)	104.2	50.2	0.0	491.7	0.0	4.72

<sup>1</sup>Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

<sup>2</sup>Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, Susanville, CA

<sup>3</sup>Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Yreka, California

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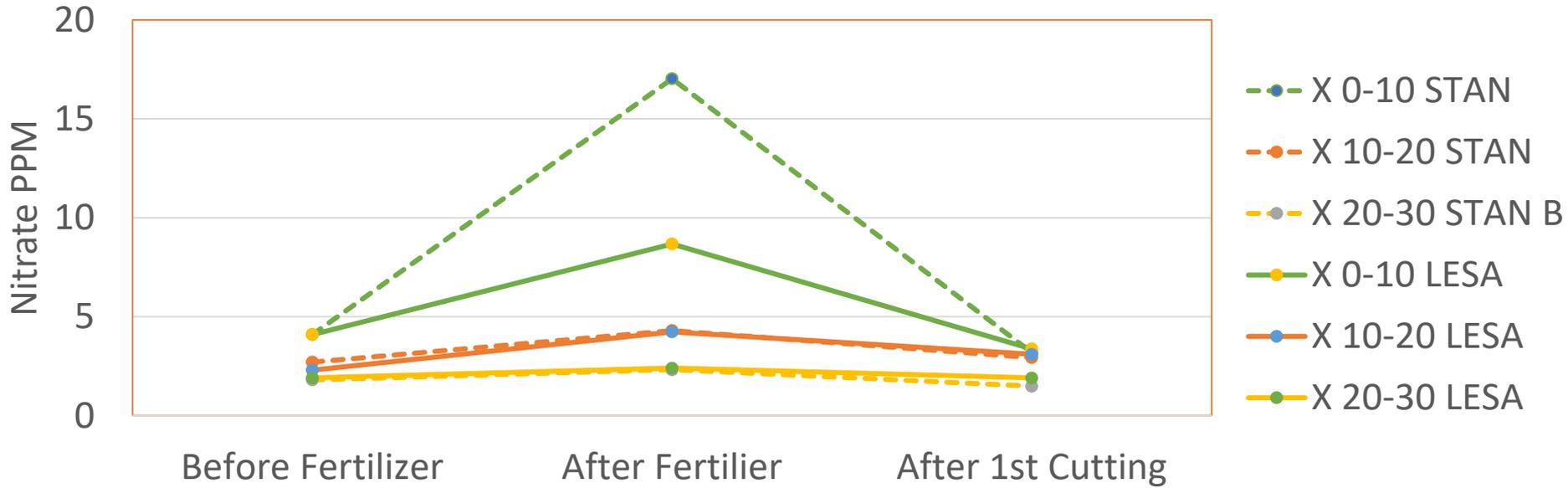
<sup>2</sup>Weed Ecology and Cropping Systems Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension, Susanville, CA

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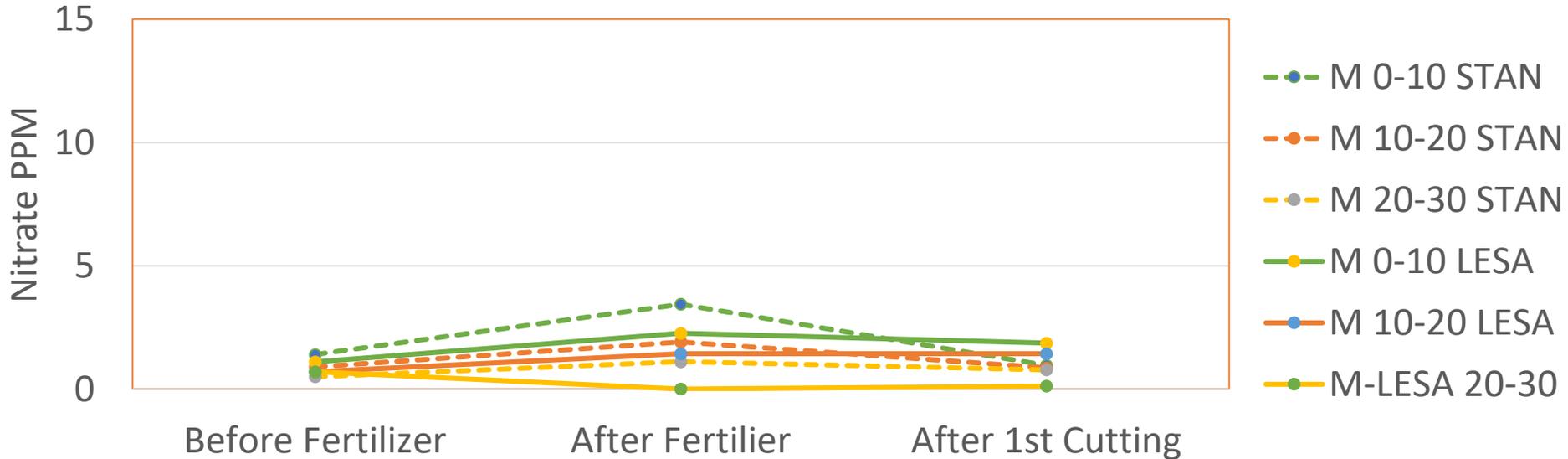
# Questions/Comments

- Tom Getts
- [tjgetts@ucanr.edu](mailto:tjgetts@ucanr.edu)
- 530-251-2560

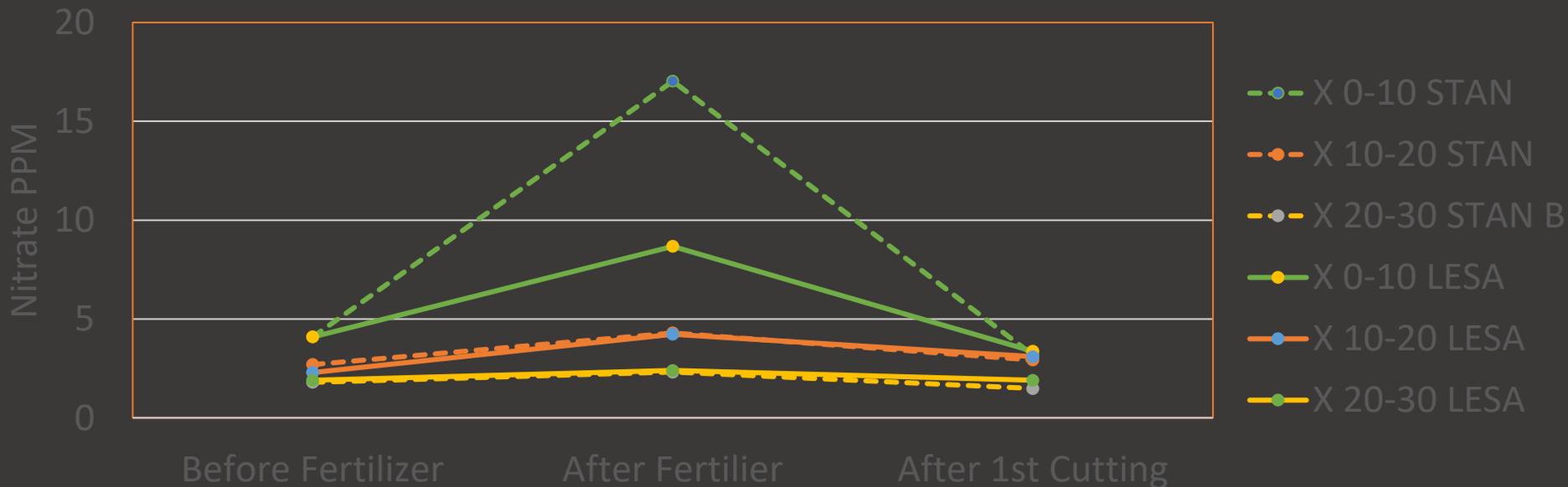
### Nitrate PPM Location One



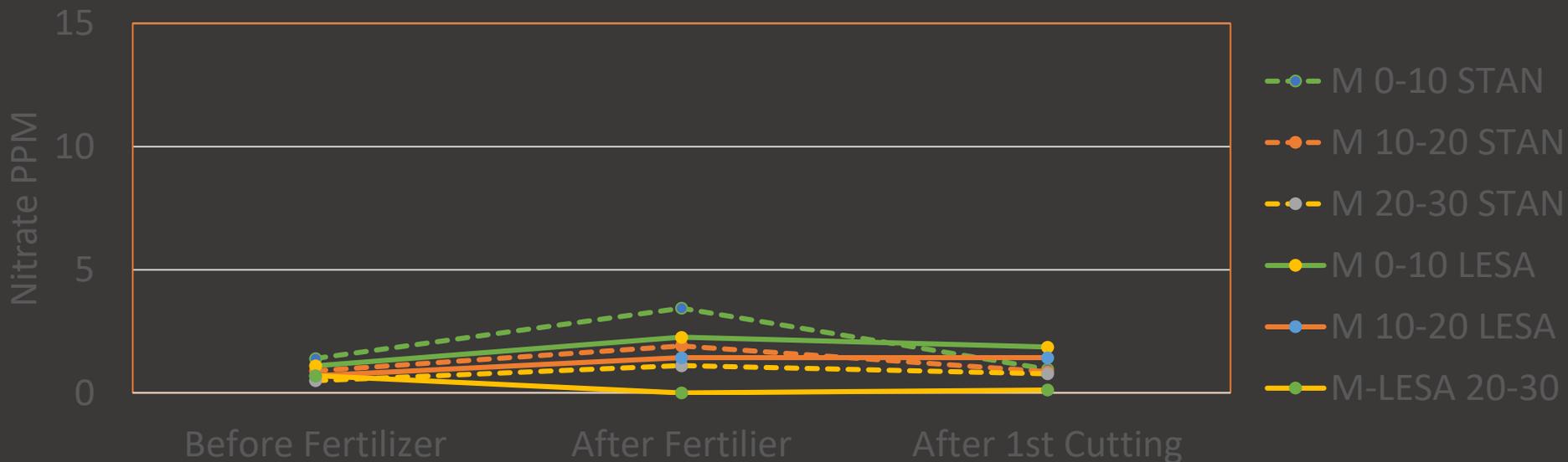
### Nitrate PPM Location Two



### Nitrate PPM Location One



### Nitrate PPM Location Two



# Spring Weed Control Trial Alfalfa

- \*\*\*Not all treatments labeled uses
- Applied March 16, 2019
- Four replications
- Honey Lake Valley
- Alfalfa just breaking dormancy
- Weeds 1-3 inch rosettes



# Cheatgrass Control

■ 1 Week

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

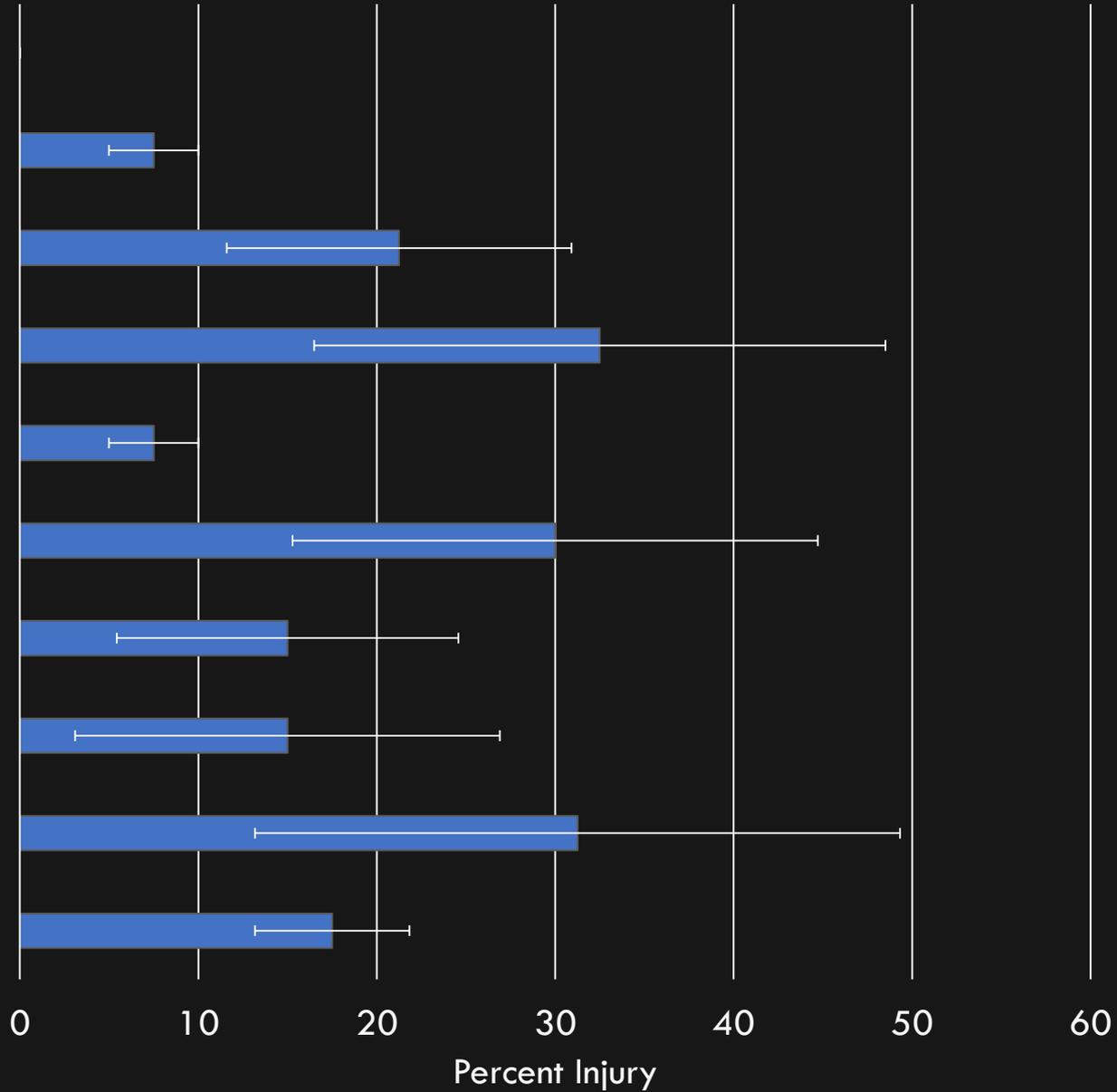
Velpar + Gramoxone 1qt + 1qt

Velpar + Shark 1qt + 2oz

Dimetric + Sharpen 2/3lb + 2oz

Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



# Cheatgrass Control

■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

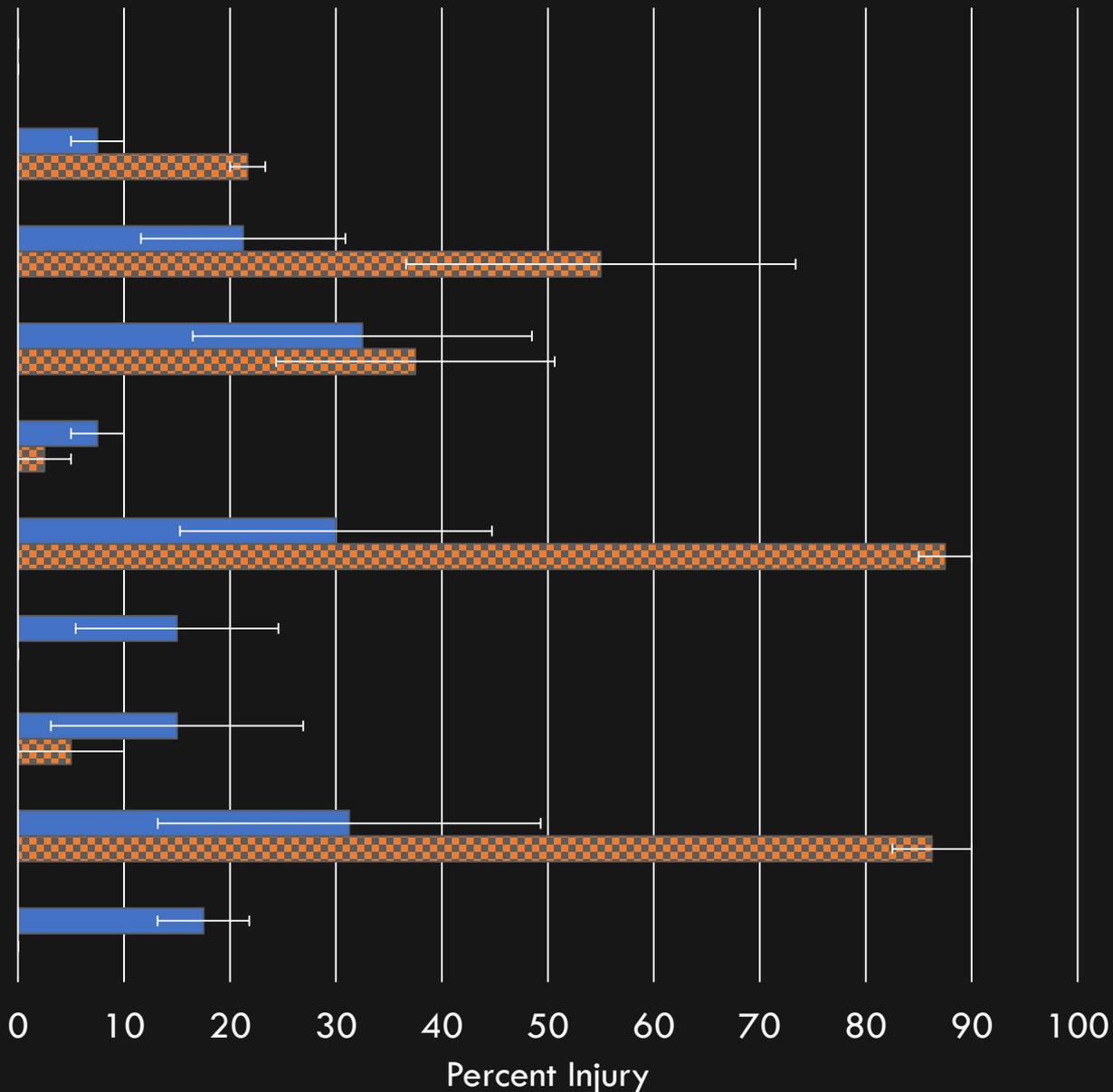
Velpar + Gramoxone 1qt + 1qt

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Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



# Cheatgrass Control

■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks ■ 4 Weeks

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

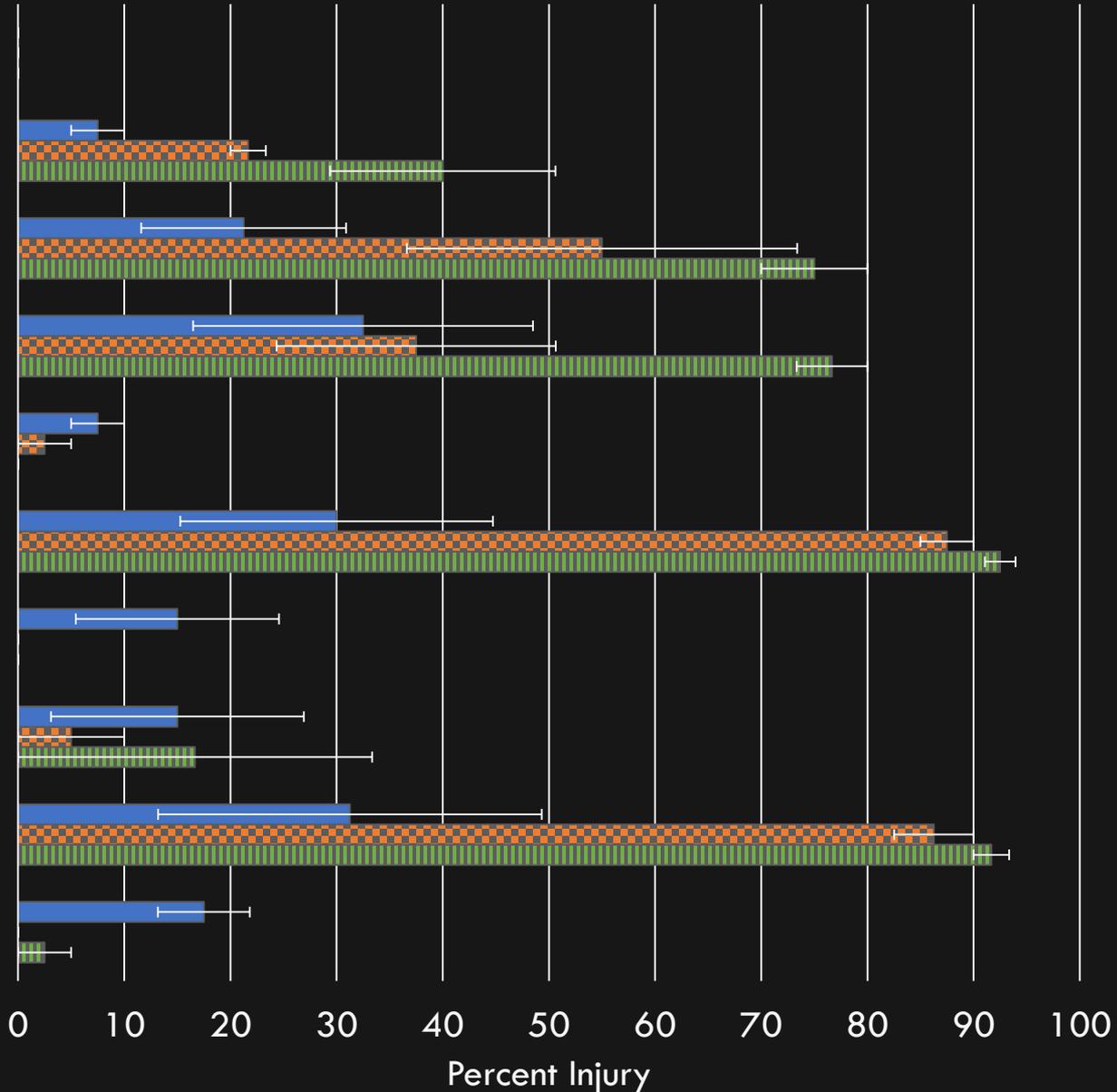
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Velpar + Shark 1qt + 2oz

Dimetric + Sharpen 2/3lb + 2oz

Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



# Shepardspurse Control

■ 1 Week

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

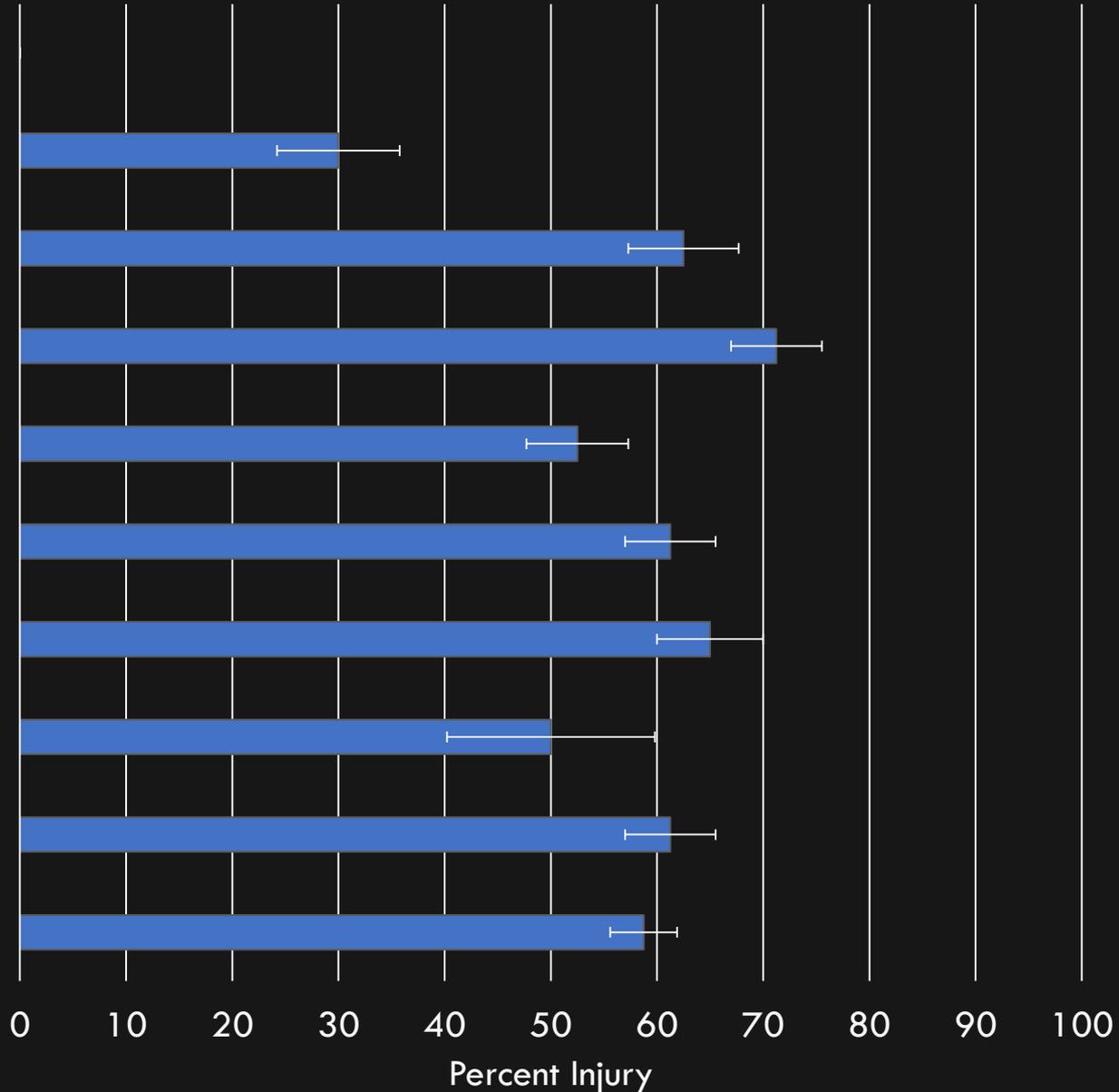
Velpar + Gramoxone 1qt + 1qt

Velpar + Shark 1qt + 2oz

Dimetric + Sharpen 2/3lb + 2oz

Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



# Shepardspurse Control

■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

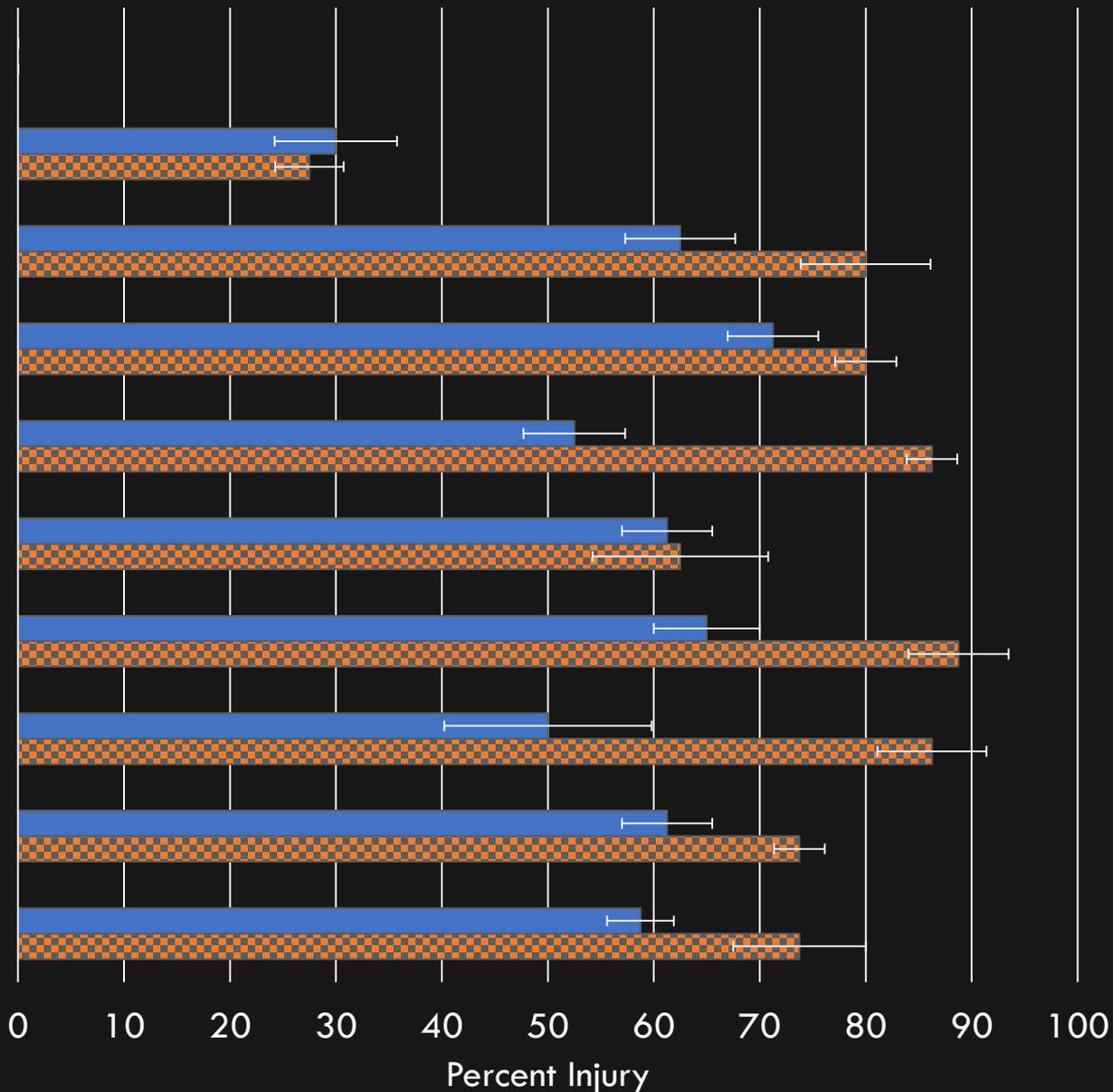
Velpar + Gramoxone 1qt + 1qt

Velpar + Shark 1qt + 2oz

Dimetric + Sharpen 2/3lb + 2oz

Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



# Shepardspurse Control

■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks ■ 4 Weeks

Untreated Check none

Raptor 5oz

Sharpen + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Shark + Select Max 2oz + 1.5pt

Velpar + Sharpen 1qt + 2oz

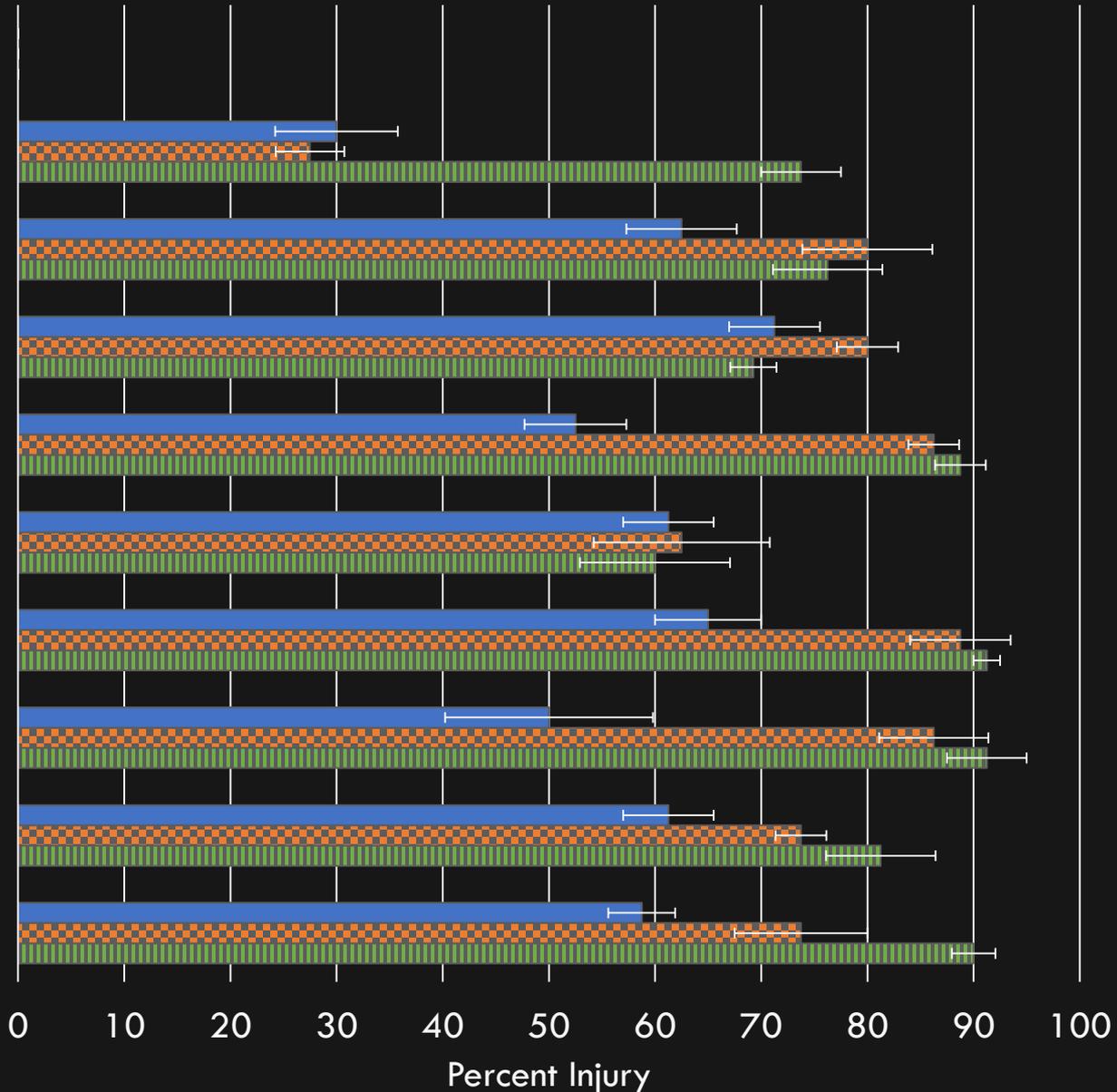
Velpar + Gramoxone 1qt + 1qt

Velpar + Shark 1qt + 2oz

Dimetric + Sharpen 2/3lb + 2oz

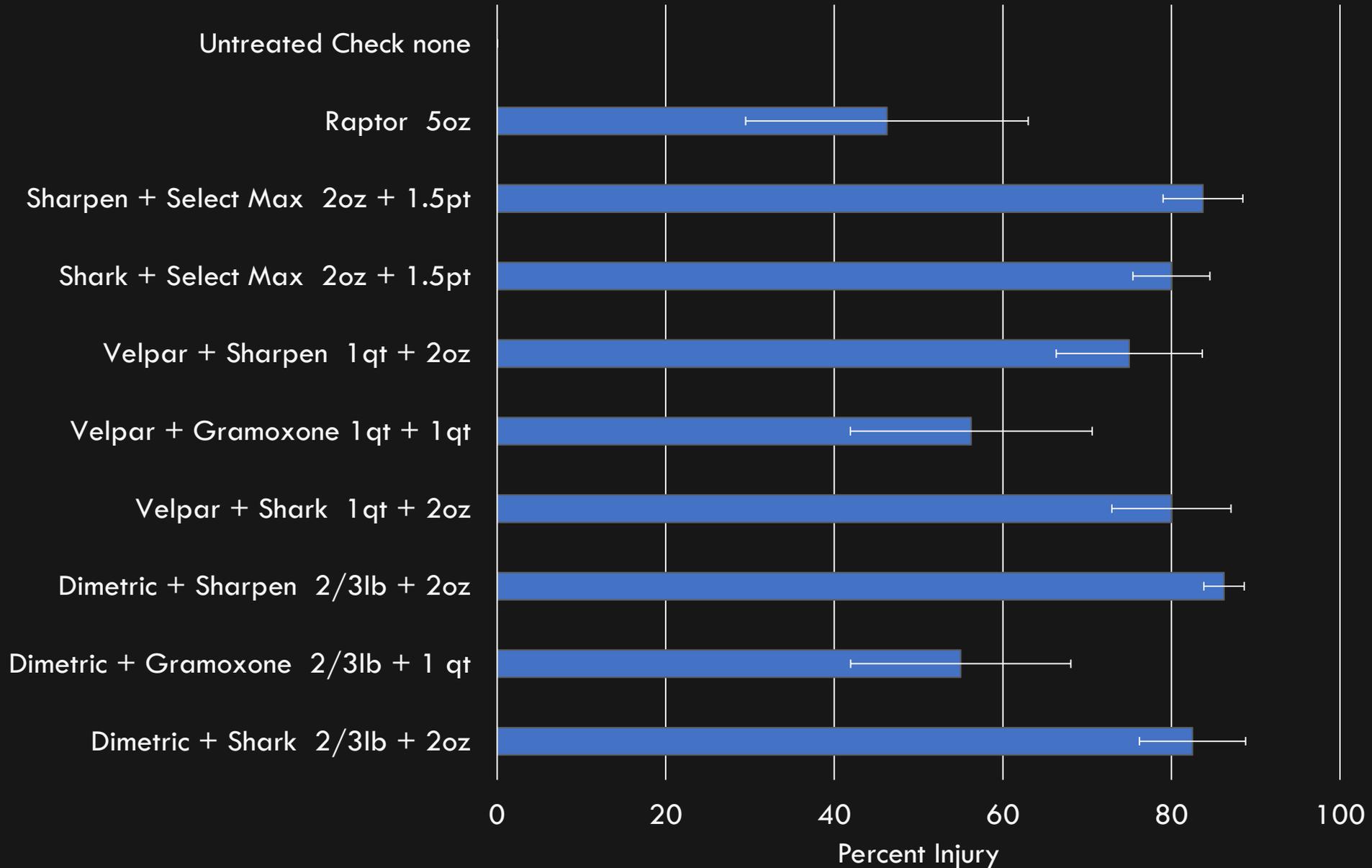
Dimetric + Gramoxone 2/3lb + 1 qt

Dimetric + Shark 2/3lb + 2oz



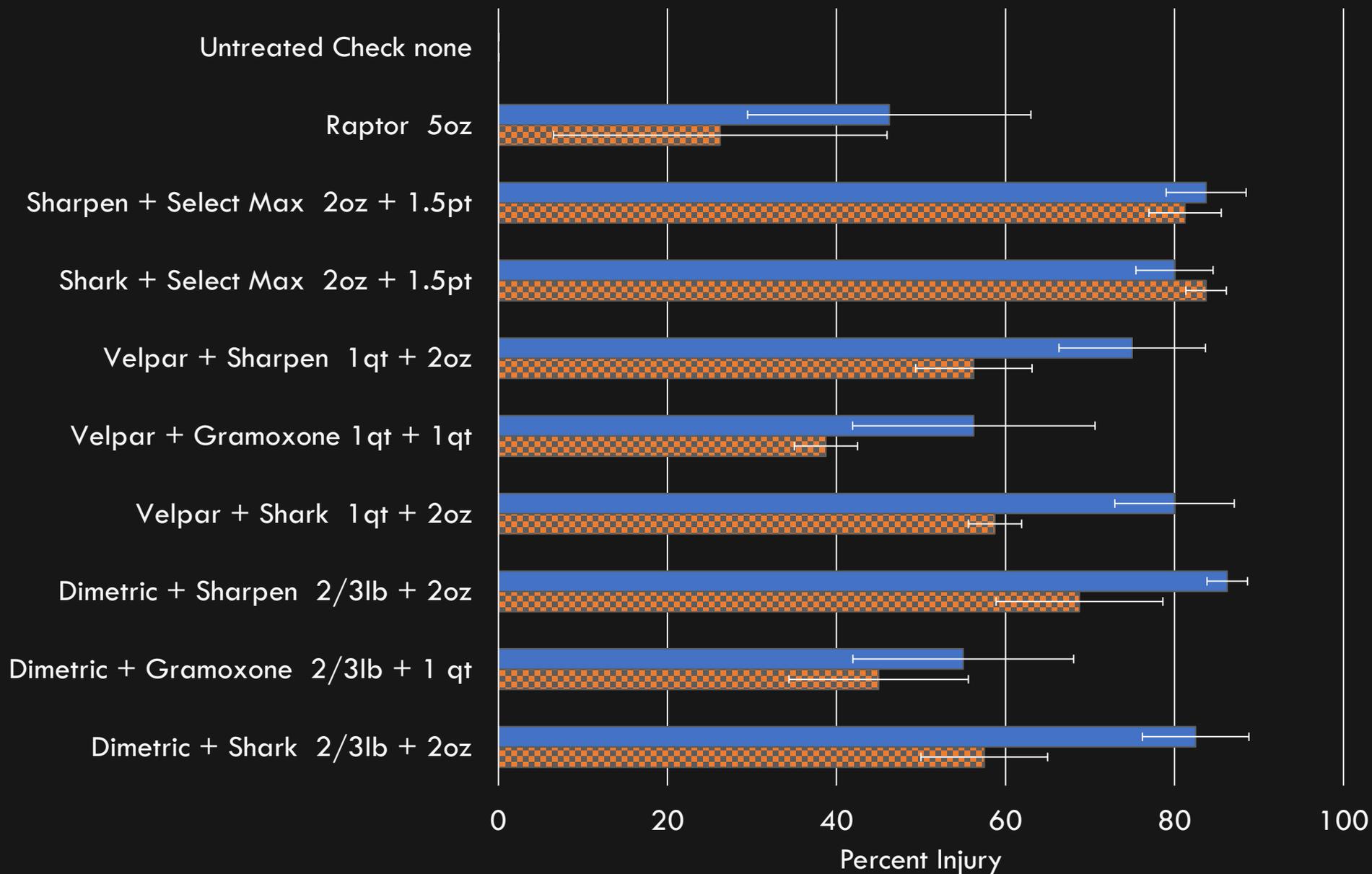
# Alfalfa Injury

■ 1 Week



# Alfalfa Injury

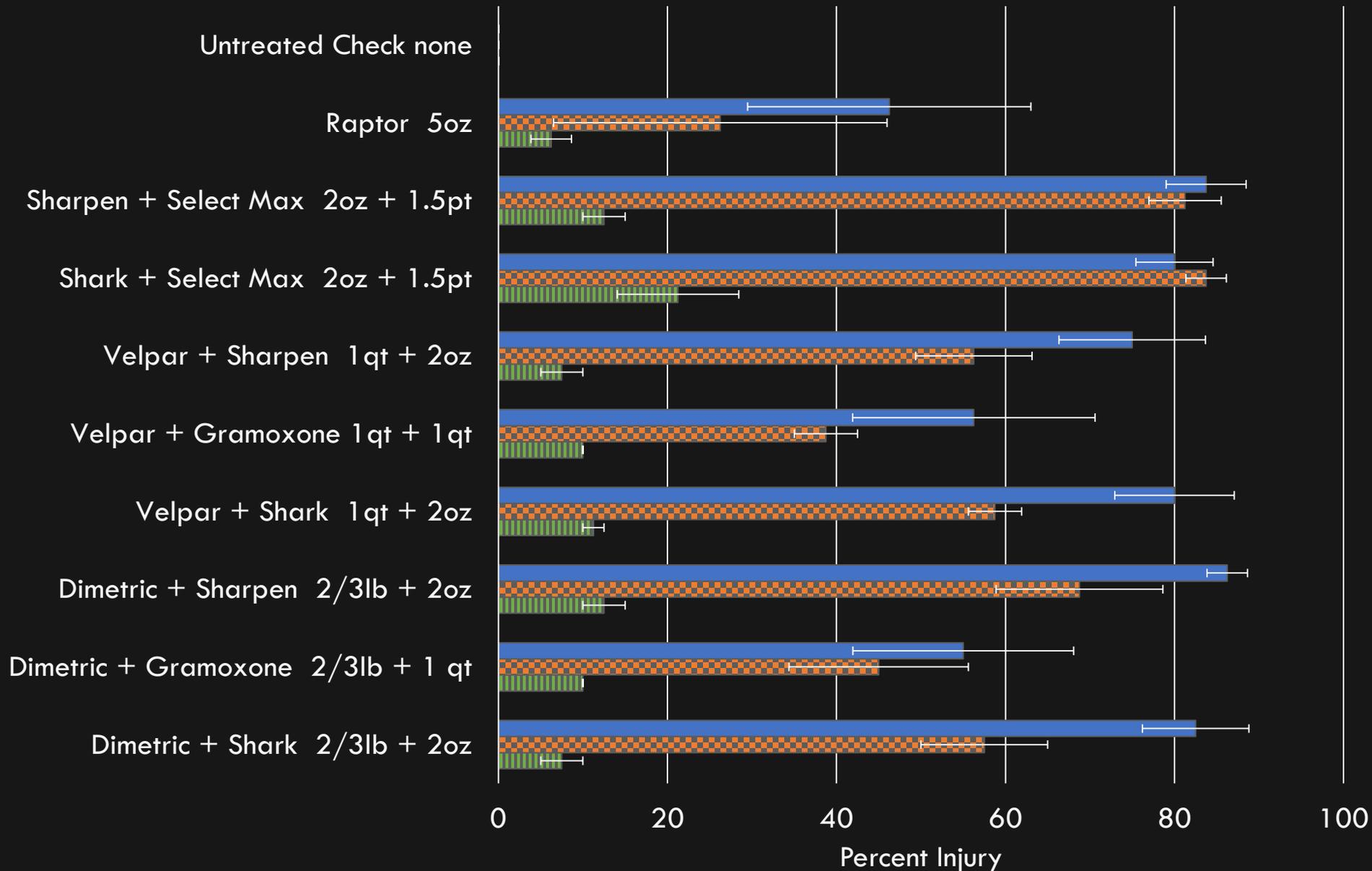
■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks





# Alfalfa Injury

■ 1 Week ■ 2 Weeks ■ 4 Weeks



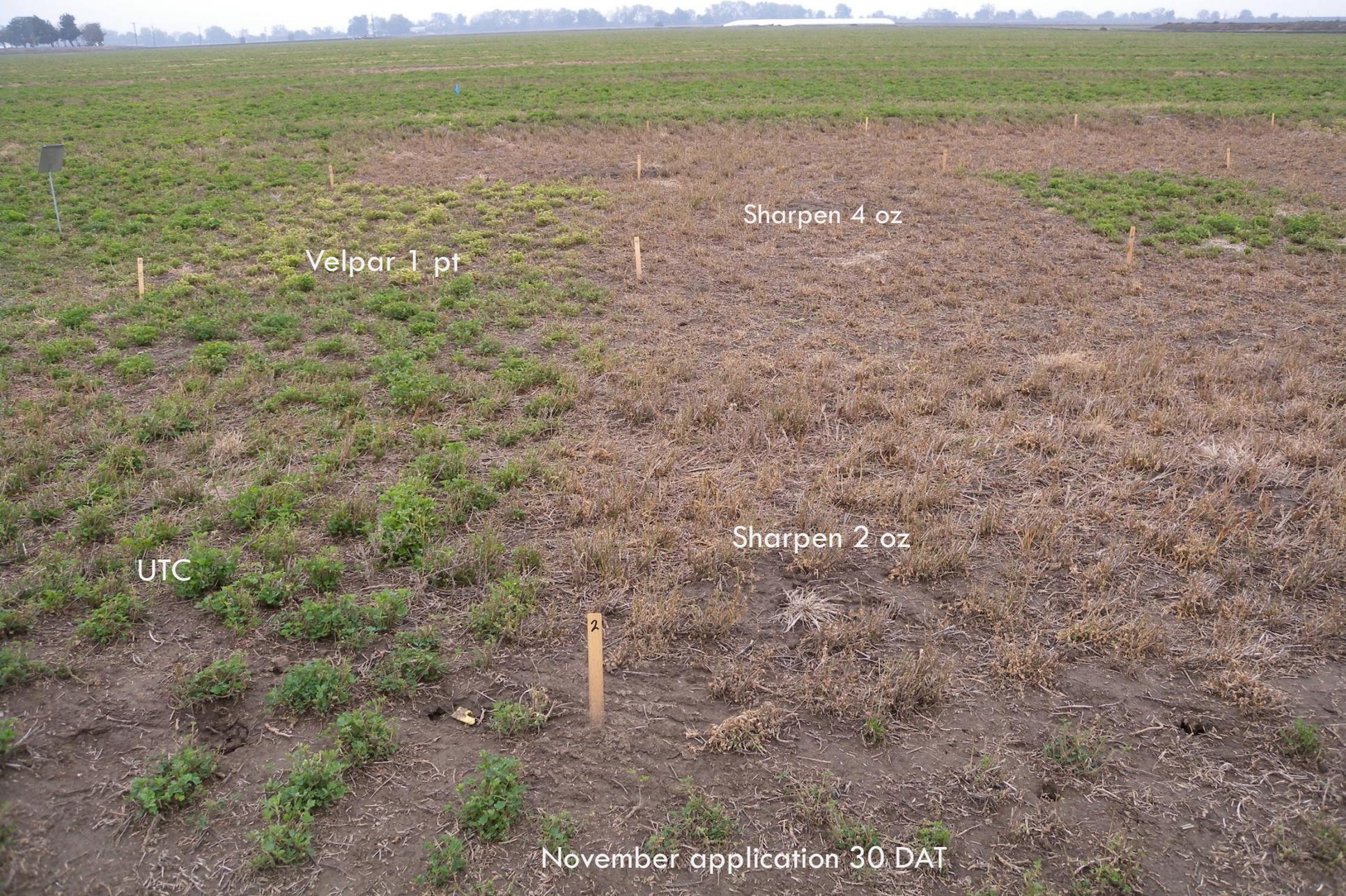
# Week 1



# Week 11



Slide Courtesy of Mick Canevari



Velpar 1 pt

Sharpen 4 oz

UTC

Sharpen 2 oz

2

November application 30 DAT

# In-Season Herbicide Treatments

- \*\*\*Not all treatments labeled uses
- In between cutting treatments
- Experimental herbicide
  - Crop Injury?
  - “Rescue Treatment”
  - Evaluate labeled options and unlabeled options
- Tullake
- Applied 6-21-19
- Four replications
- Crop injury trial

# Between Cutting Weed Control Trial: Alfalfa Phyto

	Week One	Week Two	Week Three
Treatment			
Untreated check			
CNV2243 16 oz			
Metribuzin 2/3 lb			
Gramoxone 1 pt.			
Shark 2 oz			
Raptor 6 oz			
Pursuit 6 oz			
Gramoxone + Prowl + Select 1 pt. + 2 qt. + 22oz			
Shark + Prowl + Select 2 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz			
Raptor + Prowl + Select 6 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz			

# Between Cutting Weed Control Trial: Alfalfa Phyto

	Week One		Week Two	Week Three
Treatment	Mean	Letter Report		
Untreated check	0	E		
CNV2243 16 oz	15	C D		
Metribuzin 2/3 lb	20	C D		
Gramoxone 1 pt.	40	B		
Shark 2 oz	87.5	A		
Raptor 6 oz	18.75	C D		
Pursuit 6 oz	12.5	D		
Gramoxone + Prowl + Select 1 pt. + 2 qt. + 22oz	37.5	B		
Shark + Prowl + Select 2 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	92.5	A		
Raptor + Prowl + Select 6 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	17.5	C D		











# Between Cutting Weed Control Trial: Alfalfa Phyto

	Week One		Week Two		Week Three
Treatment	Mean	Letter Report	Mean	Letter Report	
Untreated check	0	E	1.25	C	
CNV2243 16 oz	15	C D	11.25	B C	
Metribuzin 2/3 lb	20	C D	11.25	B C	
Gramoxone 1 pt.	40	B	12.5	B C	
Shark 2 oz	87.5	A	61.25	A	
Raptor 6 oz	18.75	C D	6.25	B C	
Pursuit 6 oz	12.5	D	10	B C	
Gramoxone + Prowl + Select 1 pt. + 2 qt. + 22oz	37.5	B	16.25	B	
Shark + Prowl + Select 2 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	92.5	A	65	A	
Raptor + Prowl + Select 6 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	17.5	C D	16.25	B	



## Between Cutting Trial: Second Cut Yield

	Average Tons/Acre	Letter Report
Untreated check	1.73	A
CNV2243 16 oz	1.61	A B C
Metribuzin 2/3 lb	1.60	A B C
Gramoxone 1 pt.	1.61	A B
Shark 2 oz	1.34	B C
Raptor 6 oz	1.69	A
Pursuit 6 oz	1.81	A
Gramoxone + Prowl + Select 1 pt. + 2 qt. + 22oz	1.68	A
Shark + Prowl + Select 2 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	1.29	C
Raptor + Prowl + Select 6 oz + 2 qt. + 22oz	1.59	A B C

# Sources

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Questions?



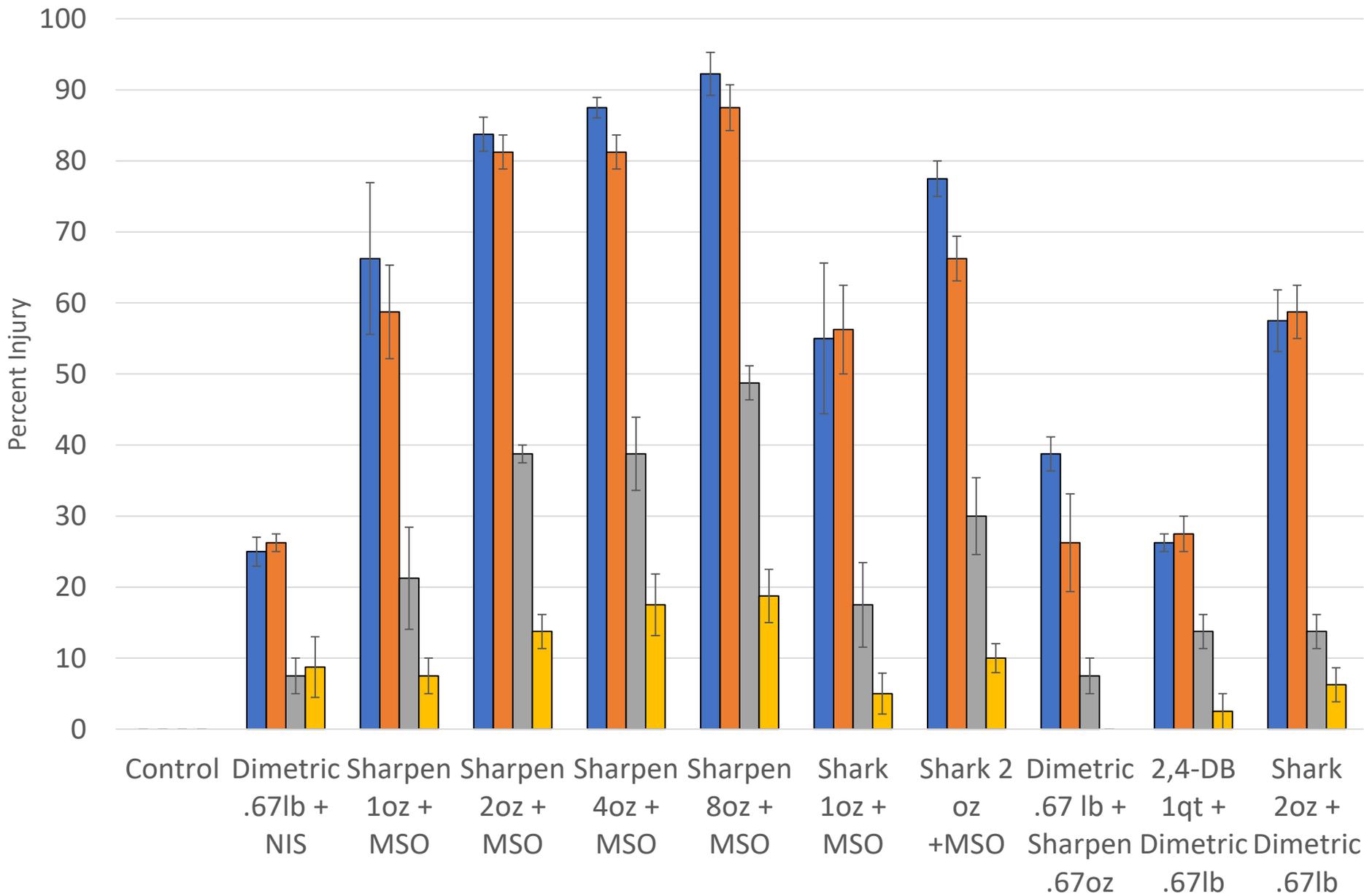


# Spring Weed Control Trial

- \*\*\*Not all treatments labeled uses
- Applied March 1, 2017
- Four replications
- Honey Lake Valley
- Alfalfa and Orchard grass just breaking dormancy
- Weeds 1-3 inch rosettes

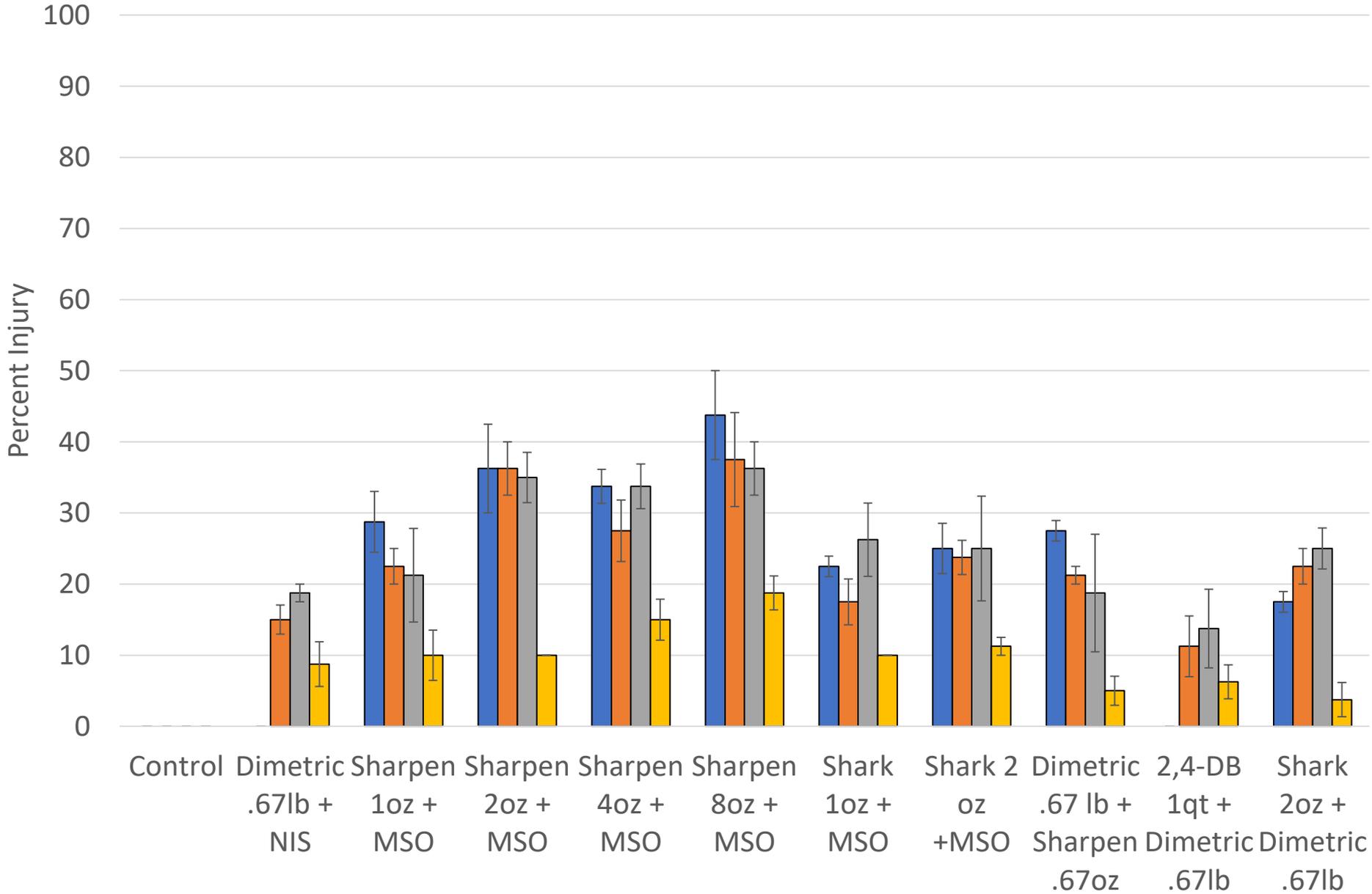
# Alfalfa Injury 2017 Standish

■ One Week
 ■ Two Weeks
 ■ Four Weeks
 ■ Eight Weeks



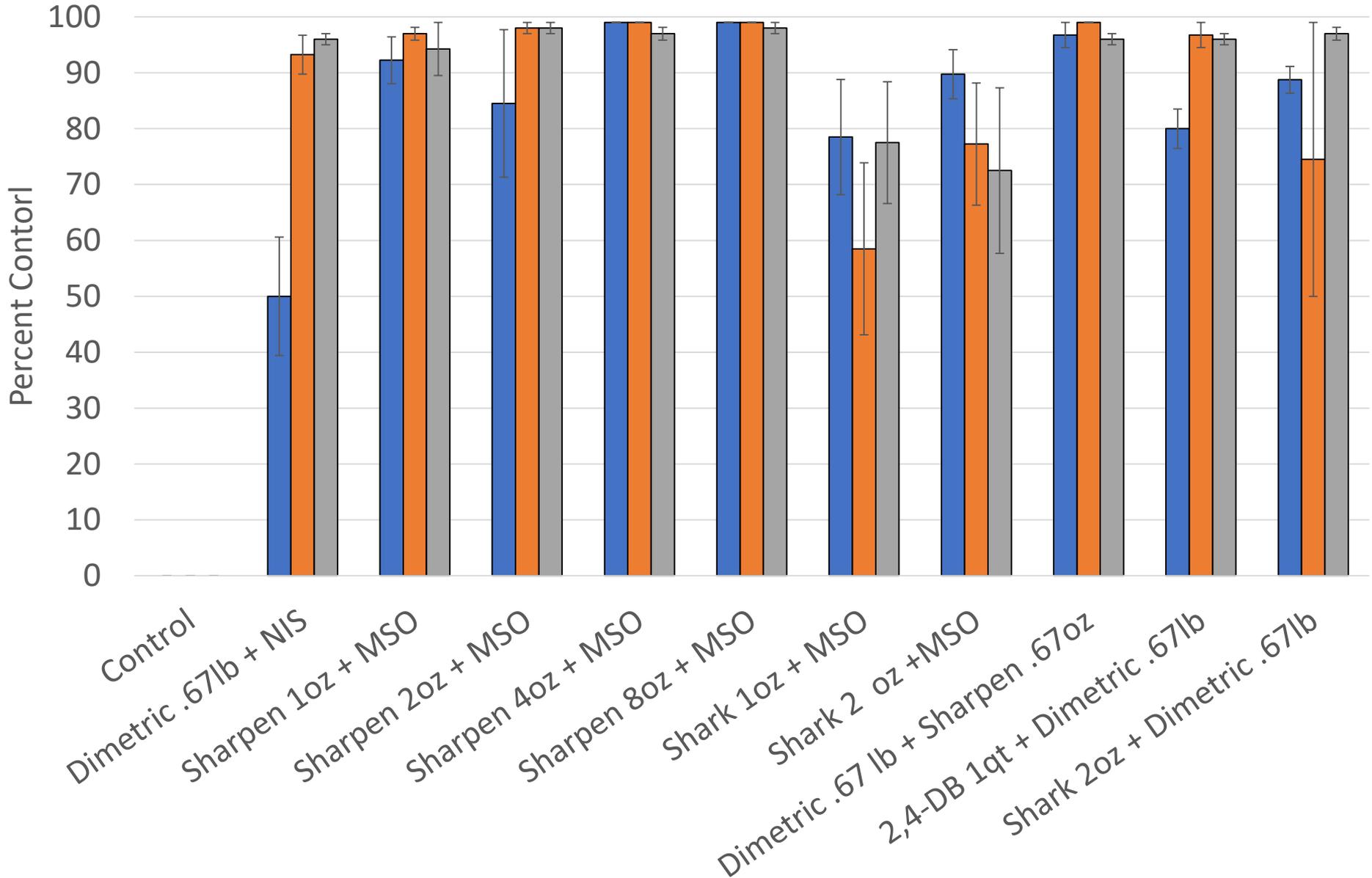
# Orchardgrass Injury Standish 2017

■ One Week   
 ■ Two Weeks   
 ■ Four Weeks   
 ■ Eight Weeks



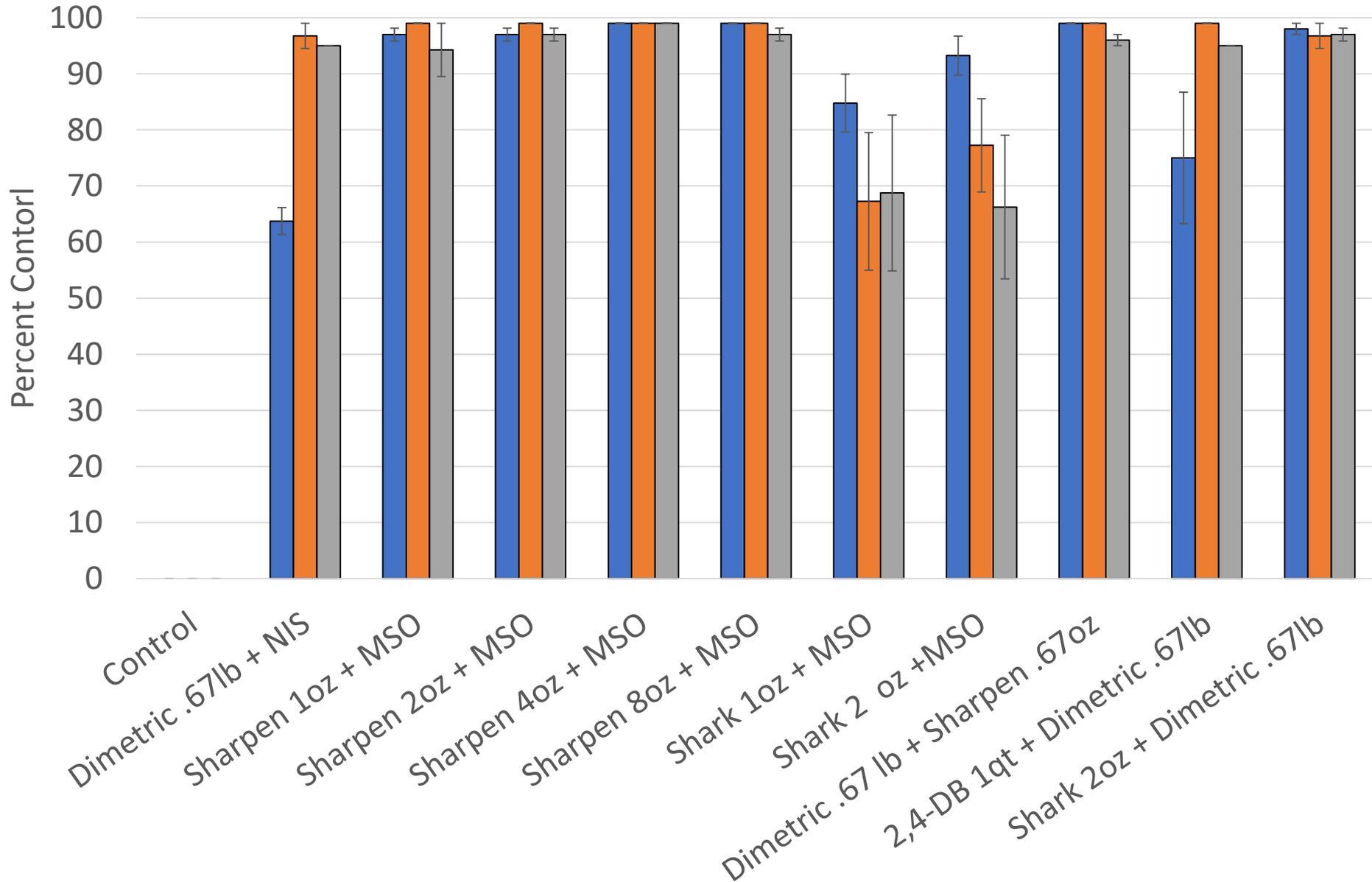
# Jim Hill Mustard Control Standish 2017

■ One Week   ■ Two Weeks   ■ Four Weeks



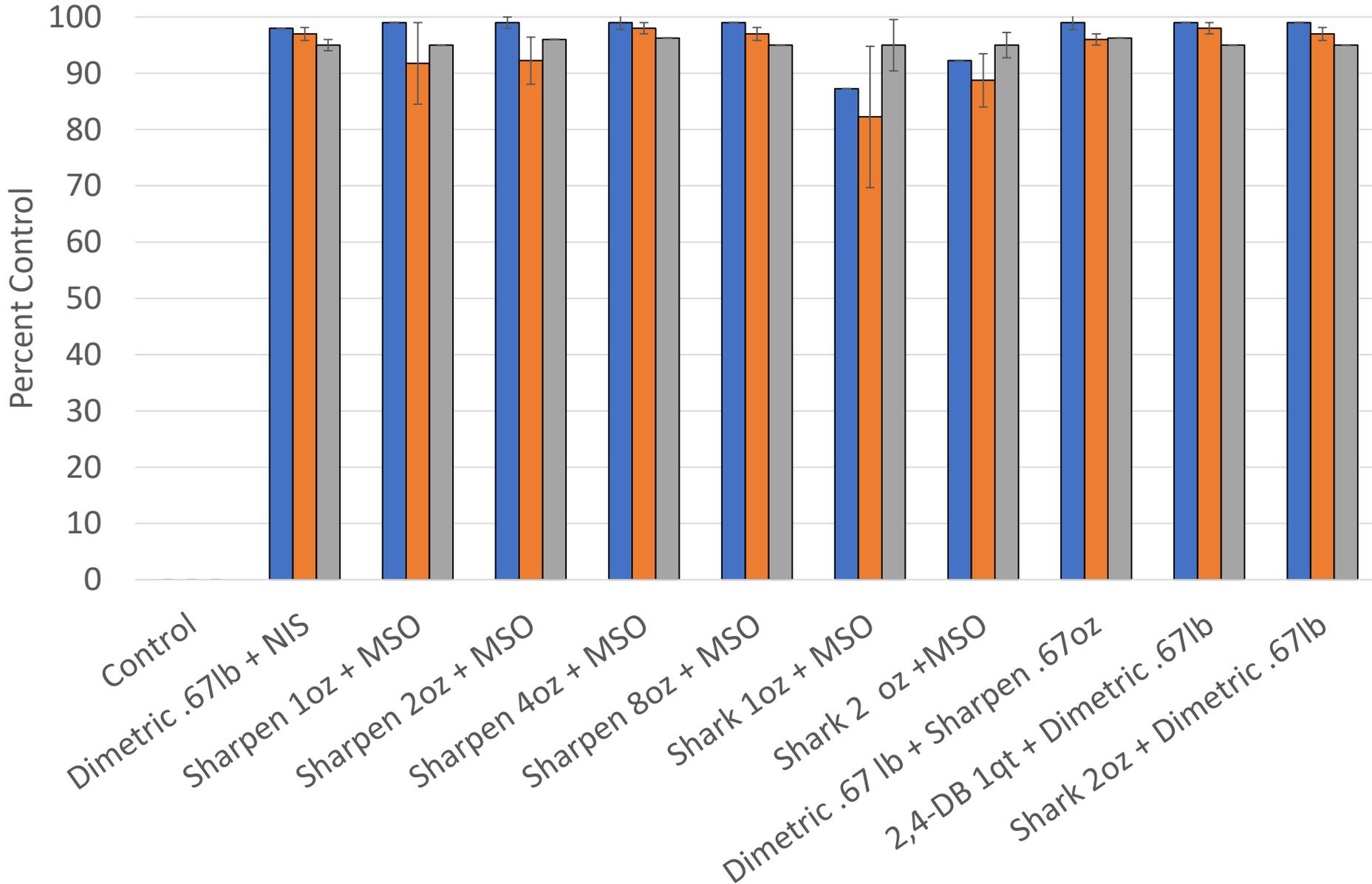
# Annual Polemonium Control Standish 2017

■ One Week    ■ Two Weeks    ■ Four Weeks



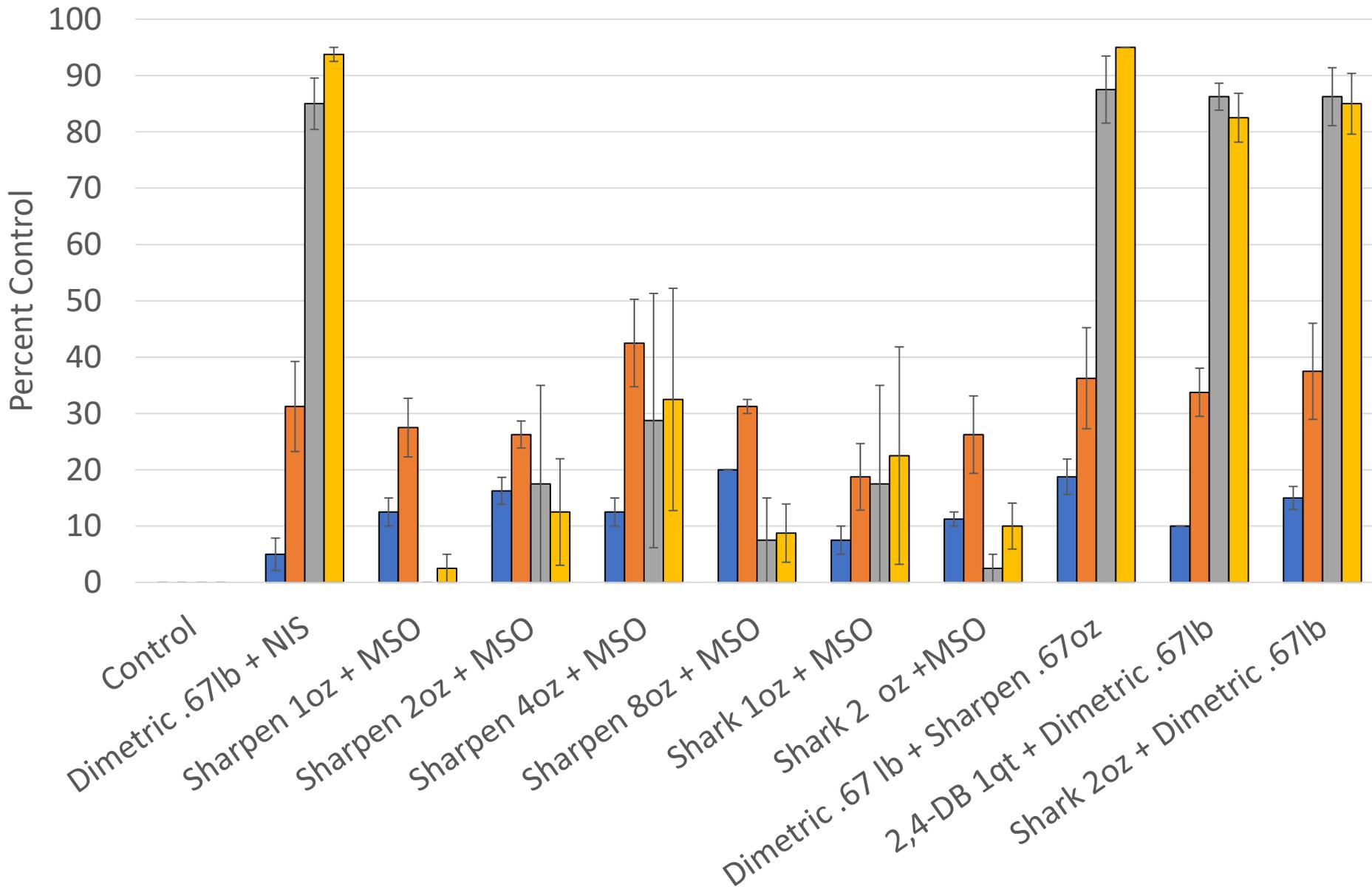
# Prickly Lettuce Control 2017 Standish

■ Two Weeks    ■ Four Weeks    ■ Eight Weeks



# Cheatgrass Control Standish 2017

■ One Week   
 ■ Two Weeks   
 ■ Four Weeks   
 ■ Eight Weeks































# Bibliography

- <http://irrigation.wsu.edu/Content/Fact-Sheets/MDI.pdf>

