

# **Linking Root Studies with Biological Strategies to Control Nematodes on Potatoes**

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# The Soil Environment



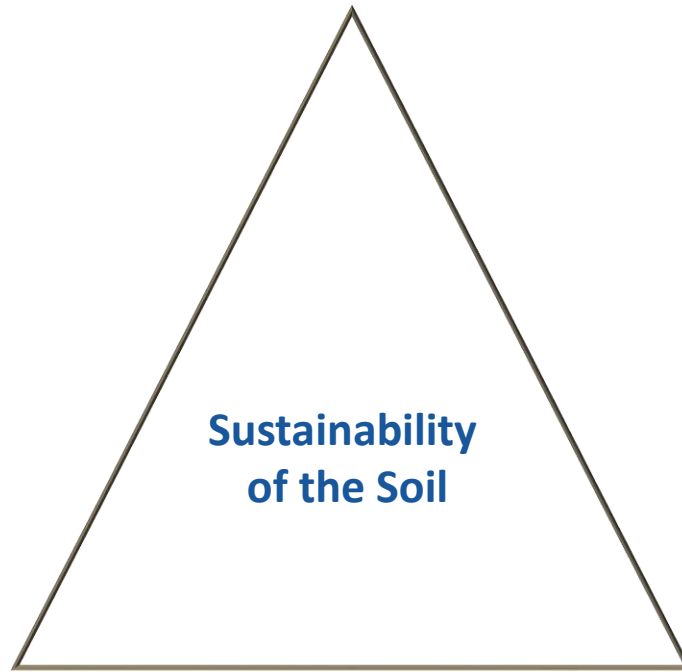
# How the different soil components influence sustainability

**Biological**

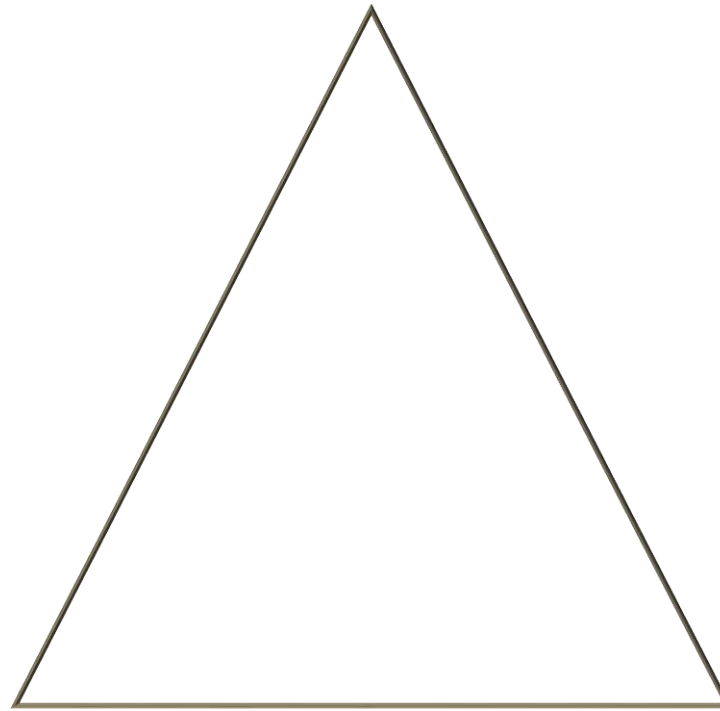
**Sustainability  
of the Soil**

**Chemical**

**Physical**



**Root - Microbe**

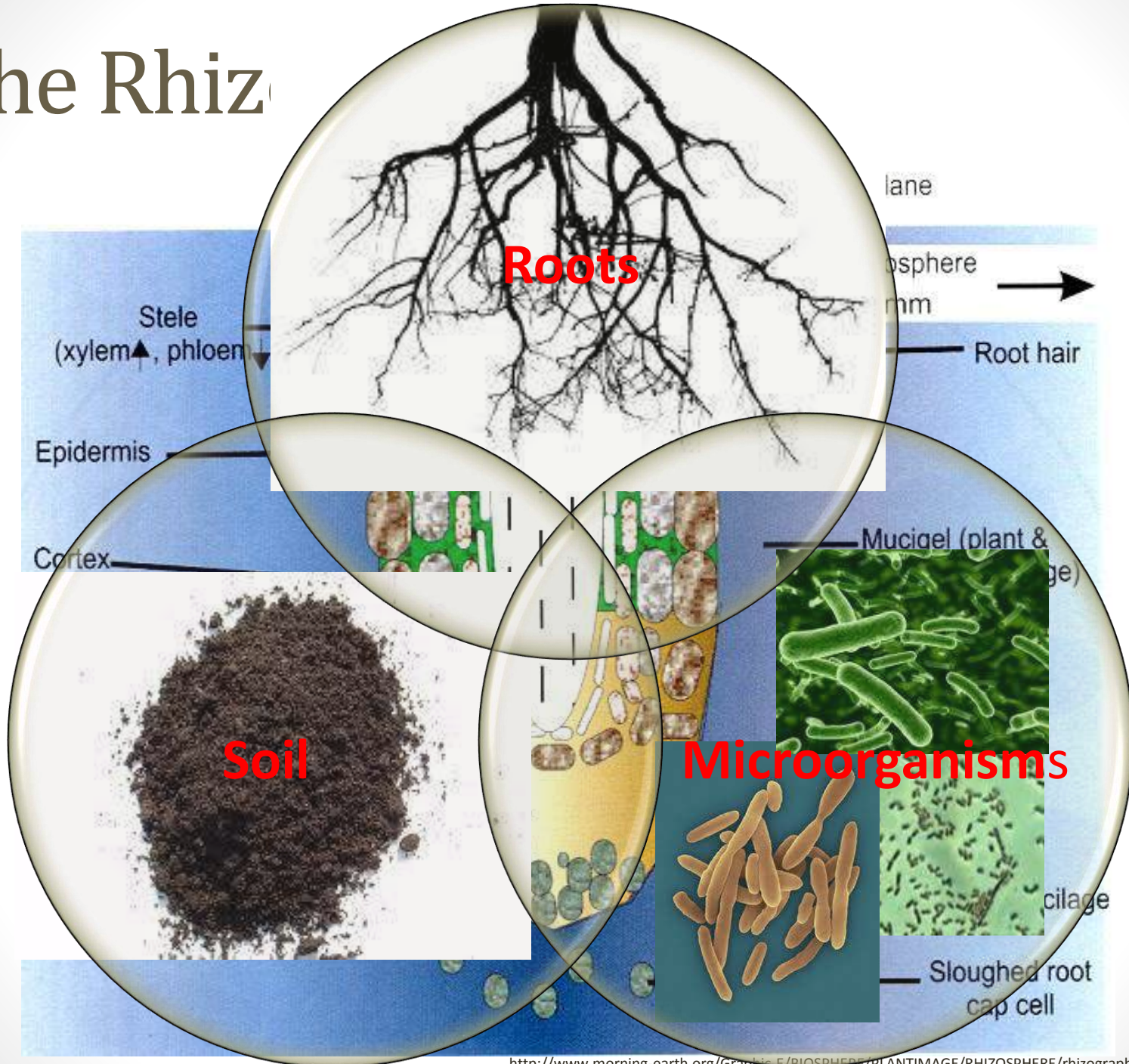


**Specific**

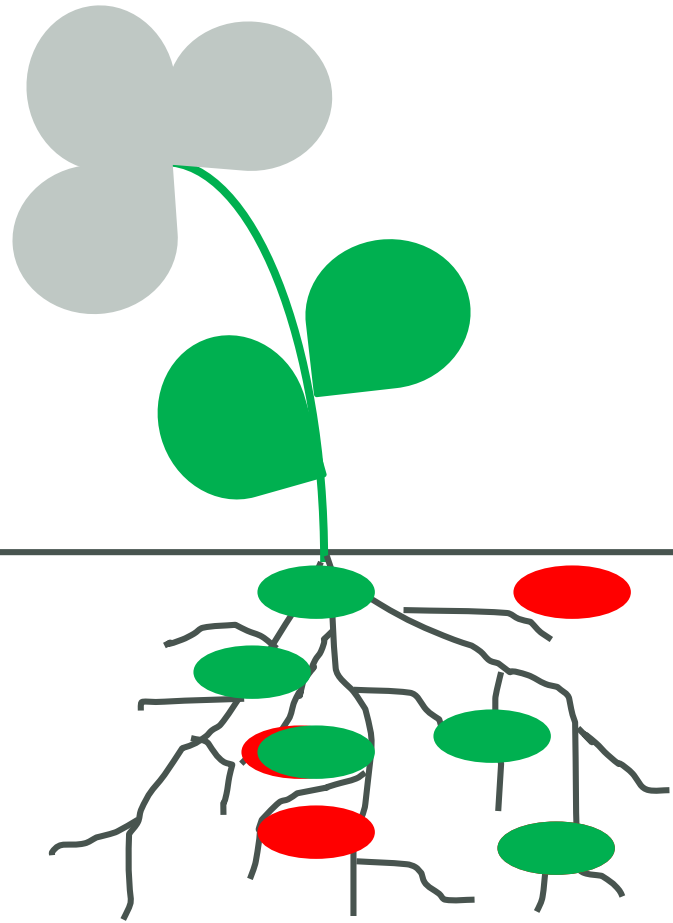
**General**

**Root - Microbiome**

# The Rhizosphere



# Plants associate with an array of microbes

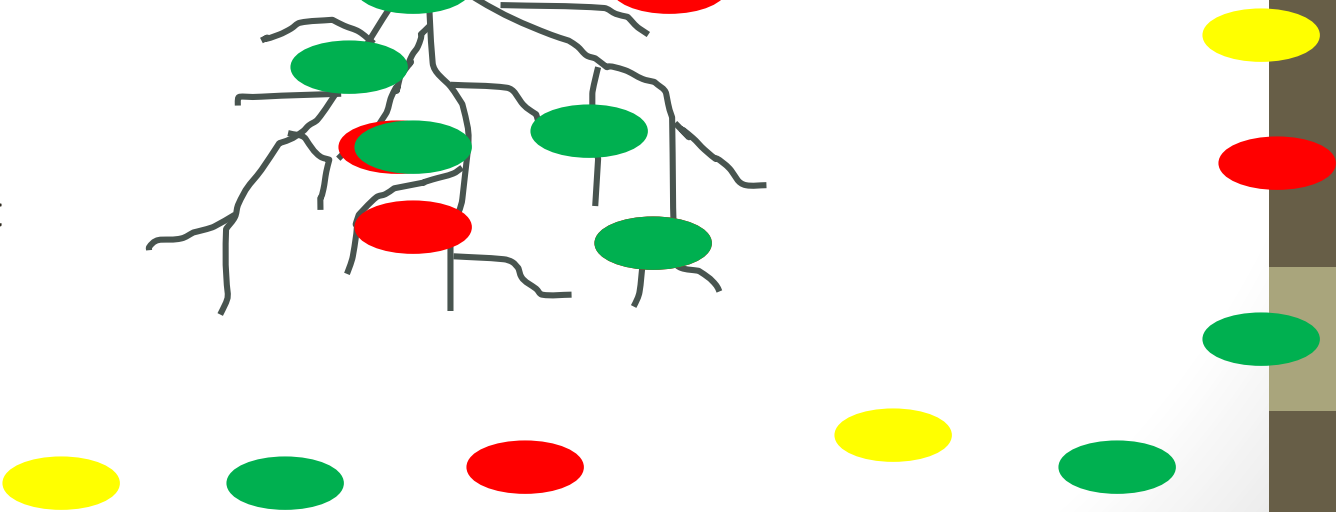


Neutral

Pathogenic
Beneficial

In agricultural systems:

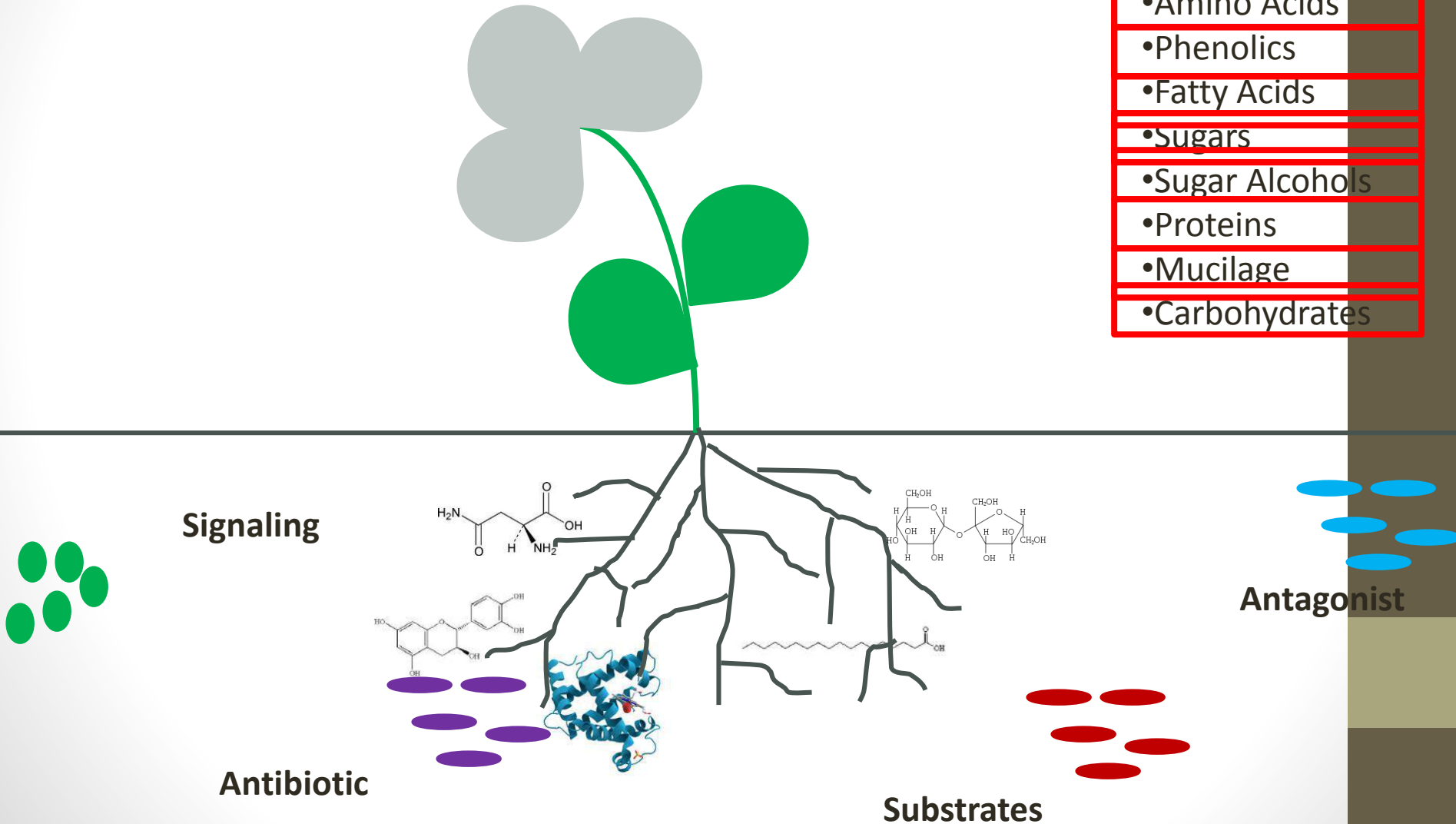
The challenge is to shift from pathogenic to beneficial microbial communities



# Root Exudates

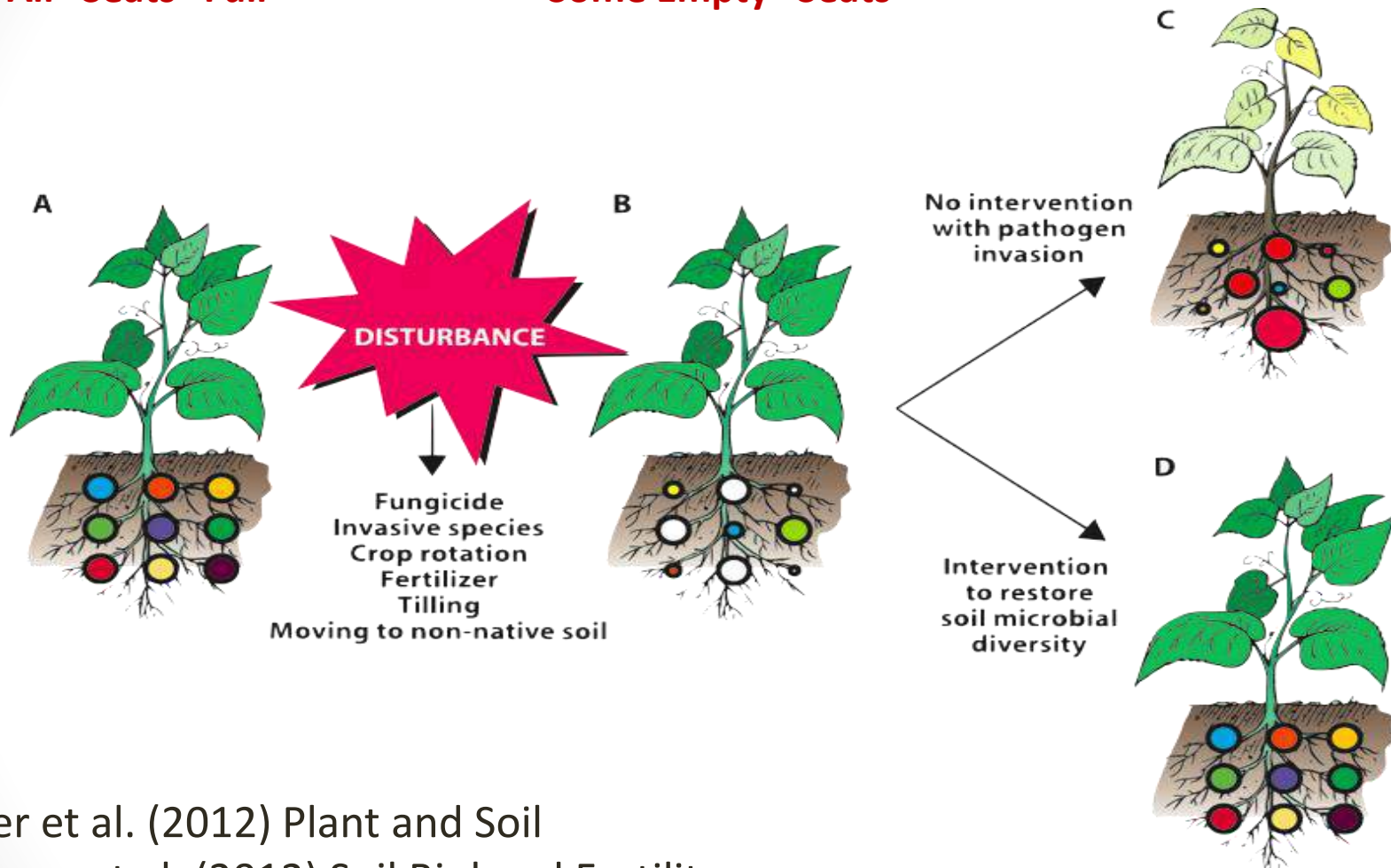
Composed of:

- Amino Acids
- Phenolics
- Fatty Acids
- Sugars
- Sugar Alcohols
- Proteins
- Mucilage
- Carbohydrates



All "Seats" Full

Some Empty "Seats"

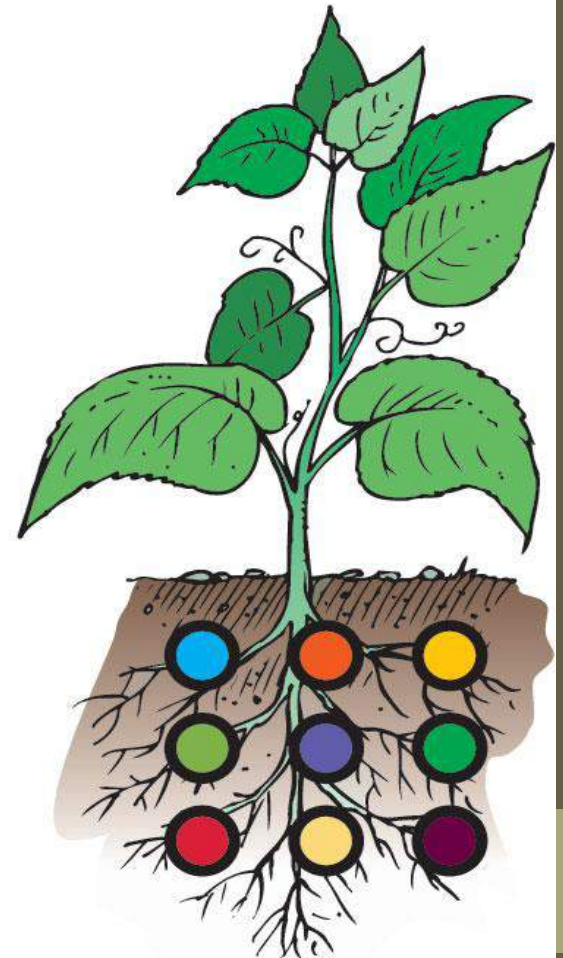


Bakker et al. (2012) Plant and Soil  
Chaparro et al. (2012) Soil Biol and Fertility  
Qiu et al. (2014) Biol Fertl Soils

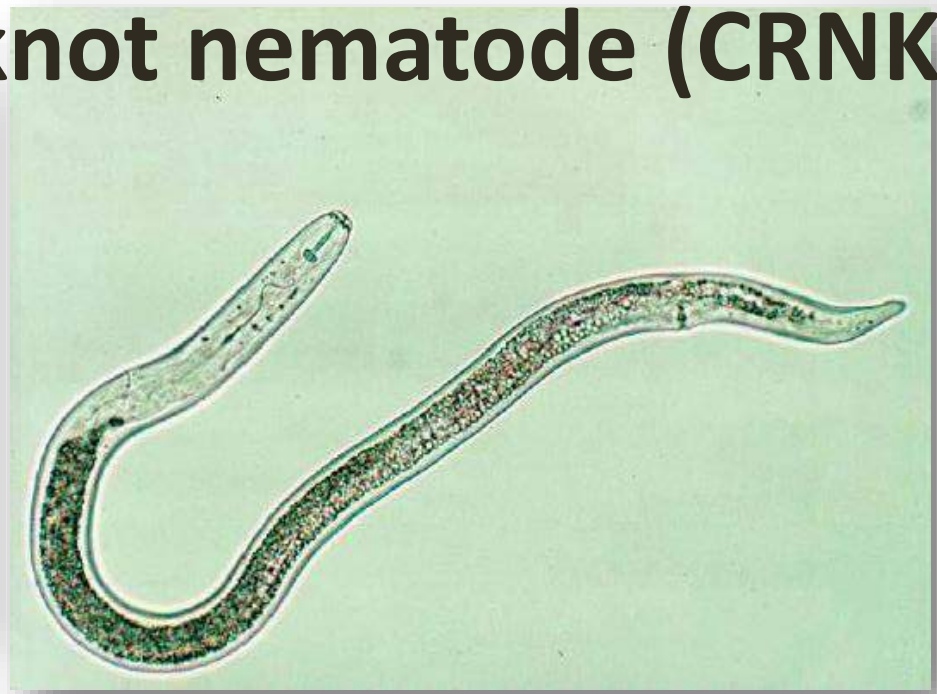
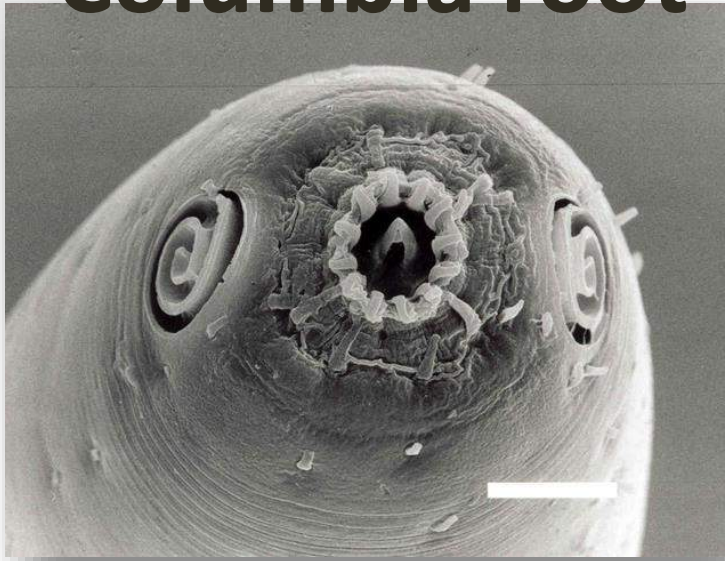


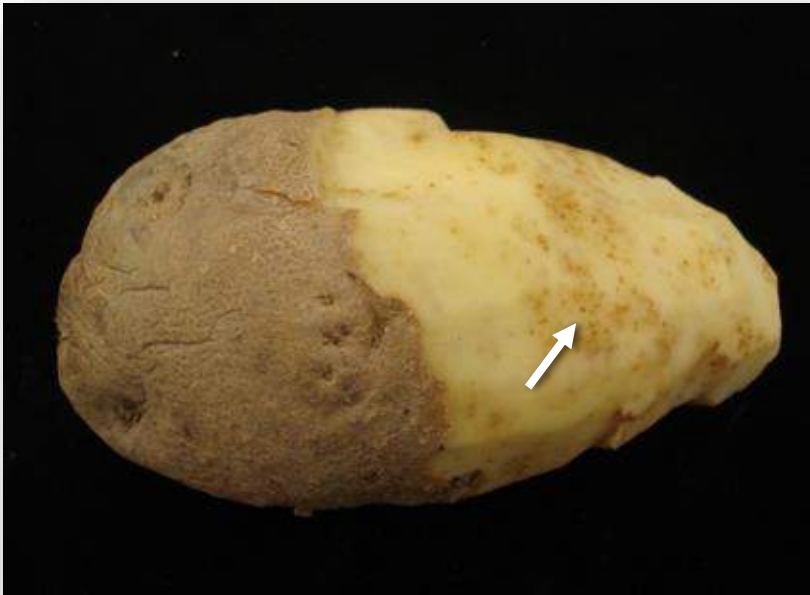
# Soil Health

- “Seats” may be kept full by:
  - less disruption
  - applied composts/biologicals
  - more vigorous community re-fills seats as they empty
- No empty “seats” = no new “comers”.



# Columbia root-knot nematode (CRNK)





# Treatments

1. Zero Control – No CRKN; No biological products

2. Control – With CRKN; No biological products

3. NemaRoot – With CRKN

*Paecilomyces lilacinus* 5% ( $2 \times 10^9$  UFC/g)

Exu-Root 20% (Carboxy Acids) – root exudate inductor

Inert Ingredients 75% (diluent, conservative, binder and thickener)

4. BioFit N – With CRKN

*Azotobacter chroocum* ( $1 \times 10^5$  CFU/g)

*Bacillus subtilis* ( $1 \times 10^8$  UFC/g)

*Bacillus megaterium* ( $1 \times 10^6$  CFU/g)

*Bacillus mycoides* ( $1 \times 10^5$  CFU/g)

*Trichoderma harzianum* ( $1 \times 10^6$  CFU/g)

Exu-Root 20% (Carboxy Acids) – root exudate inductor

Inert Ingredients 60% (diluent, conservative, binder and thickener)

# Greenhouse Studies

## Replications

Silverton (Nematode Susceptible): 15 reps x 4 treatments = 60 plants total

## Application Rate of Biological Inoculants

2g of product per liter of water

## Timing

### First Application

Immersion of rooted potato plantlets in products and irrigate product into pot to saturate substrate

### Additional Applications: At 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 6 weeks

substrate drench with enough solution to allow for full saturation of the substrate

## Growing Conditions

6" pots with 2/3 sterilized sand and 1/3 sterilized vermiculite irrigated as needed with liquid fertilizer. Track substrate temperature with temperature probes and data logger

## Experiment Duration

9 weeks = 1031 CRKN degree days (from substrate temperature data logger)

- First CRKN generation time when roots are present: 600°C degree-days
- Subsequent CRKN generation time: 500 - 600°C degree-days

# Experiment Overview Cont.

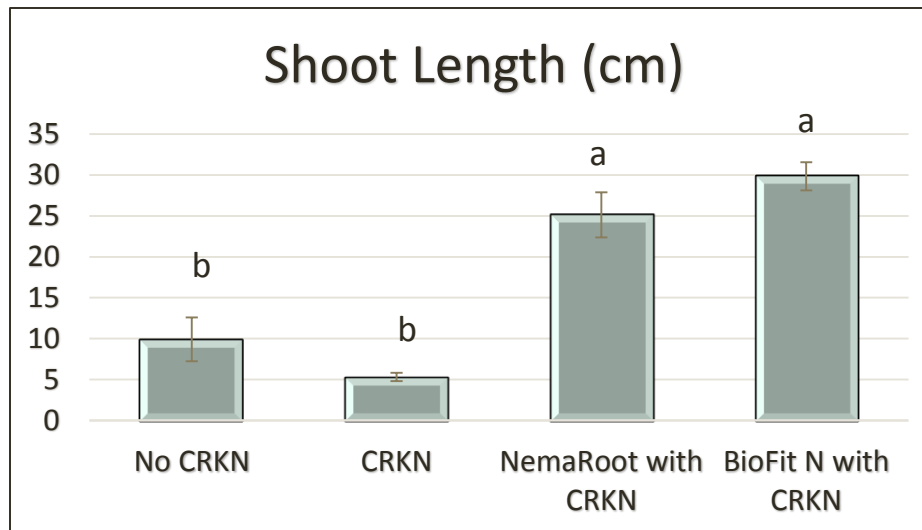
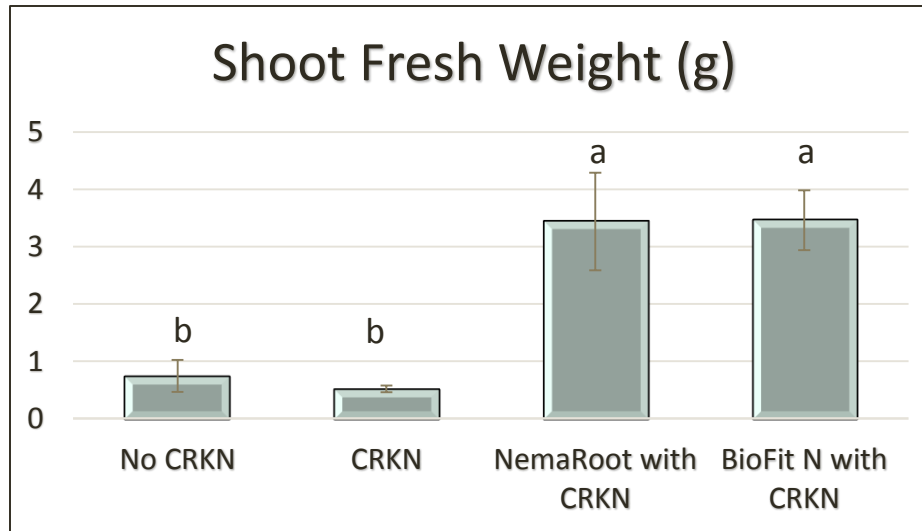
## CRKN Egg Inoculum Rate

- 1,000 CRKN eggs in an aqueous solution per pot.
- Thoroughly mix CRKN eggs with substrate for each pot pre-planting to ensure even dispersal of inoculum throughout the substrate

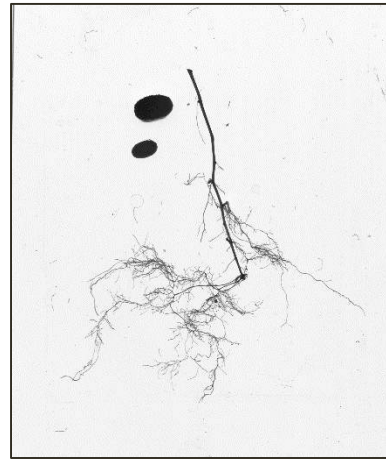
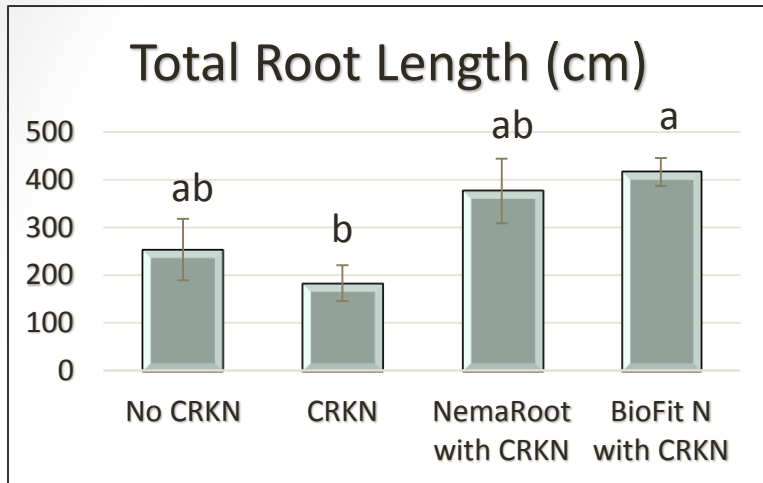
## Record

1. Fresh weight of shoots and roots
2. Measure shoot and root length
3. Scan roots with WinRhizo software
  - a. Total root length
  - b. Root surface area
4. Extract CRKN eggs from whole root and count eggs.
5. Extract CRKN J2 from 250cc subsample of substrate for quantification

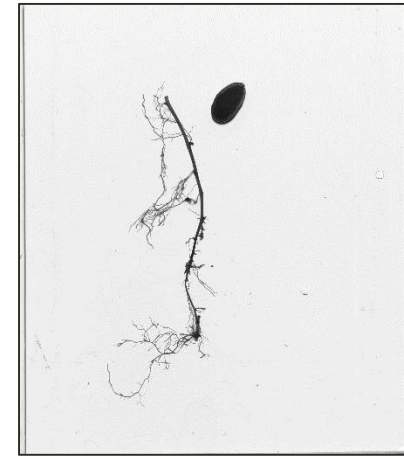
# Results



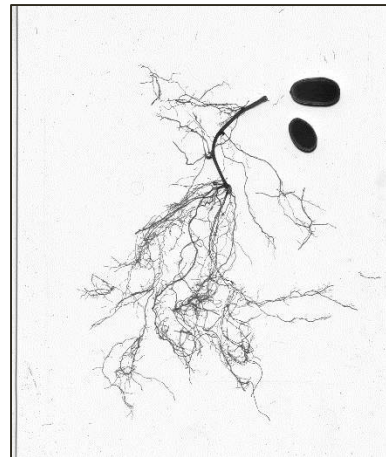
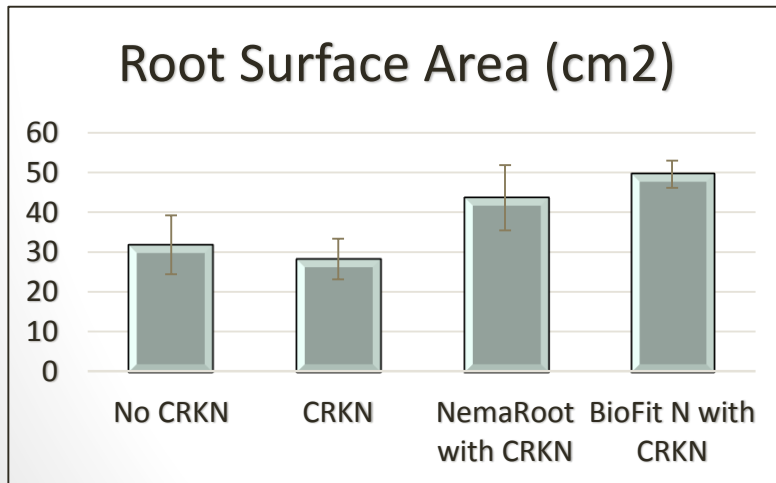
# Results



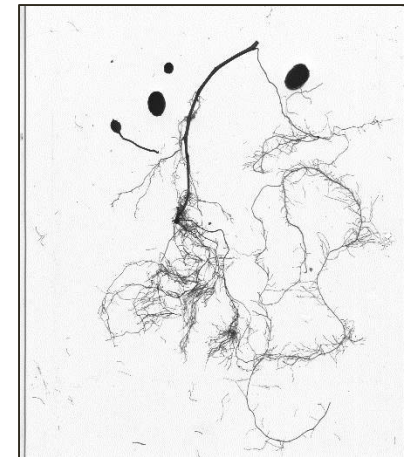
No CRKN



CRKN



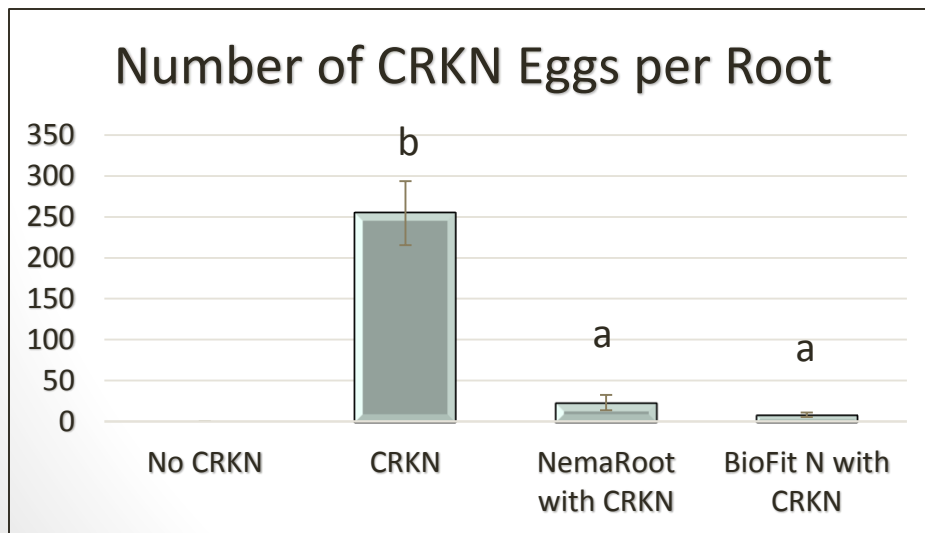
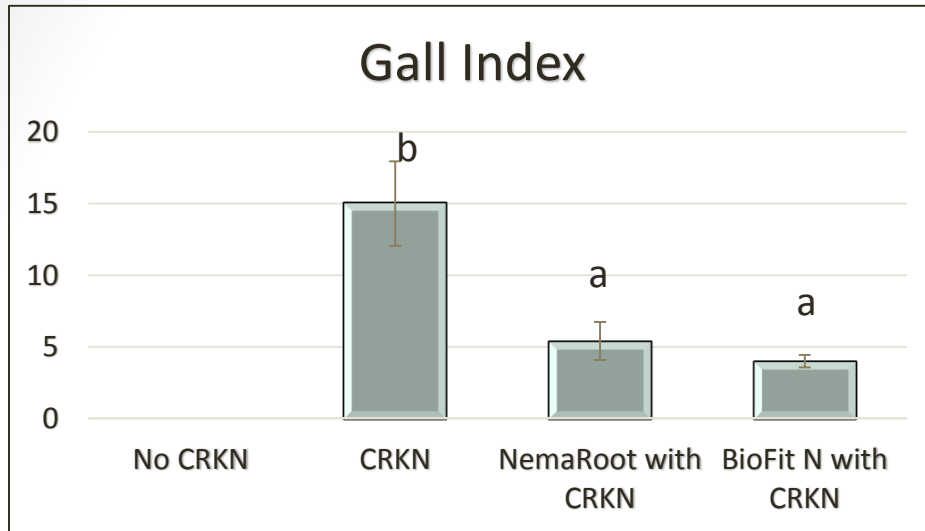
NemaRoot with  
CRKN



BioFit N with CRKN



# Results



# Acknowledgements & many thanks to:

## **San Luis Valley Potatoes Growers Association**

- For their funding of the research

## **Dr. Antoon Ploeg (Nematologist, UC Riverside)**

- For nematology training and assistance on the research

## **Innovak Global**

- For Supplying NemaRoot and BioFit N for testing

# References

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