



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

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Agroalimentaire Canada



Department of  
Agriculture



# Periodic displacement of *Phytophthora infestans* strains in Canada necessitates re-evaluation of late blight control strategies

R.D. Peters and L.M. Kawchuk

31<sup>st</sup> Annual Tomato Disease Workshop

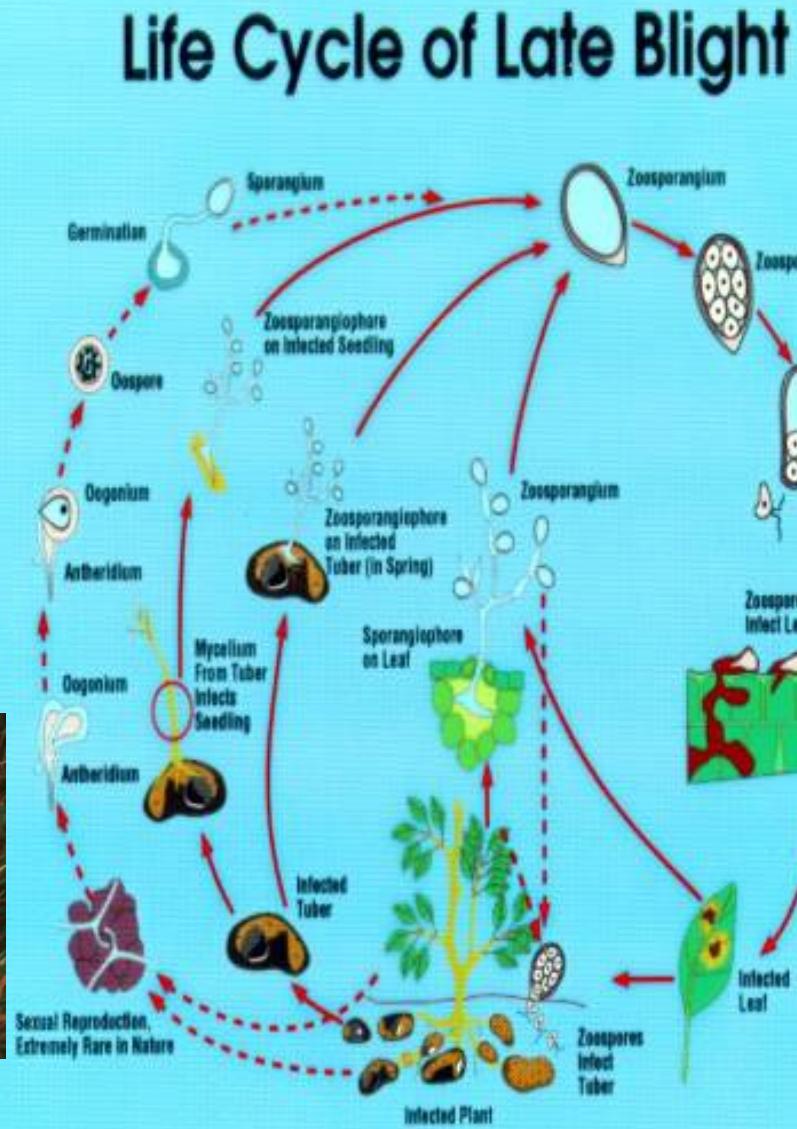
November 1-2, 2016

Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

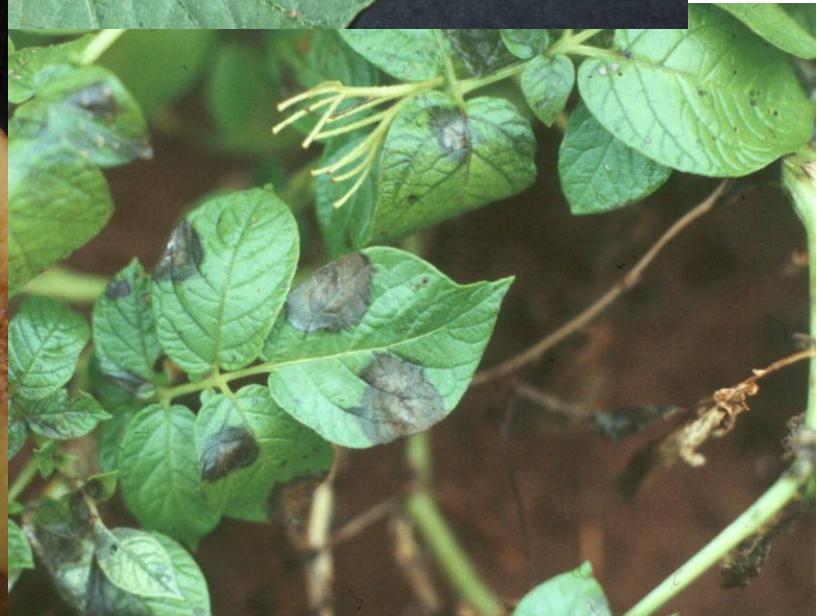
Canada

# Late Blight = *Phytophthora infestans*

- oomycete (related to algae)



# Symptoms of Late Blight on Potato



# Symptoms of Late Blight on Tomato



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) Canadian Surveys

(Larry Kawchuk, AB; Fouad Daayf, MB;

Khalil Al-Mughrabi, NB; Rick Peters and Anne MacPhail\*, PE)

\*work in PEI also supported by PEIDA, Brian Beaton, Carol Banks, Marleen Clark

- samples of infected potato and tomato tissue collected and sent to closest researcher
- isolation of pathogen into pure culture
- isolates sent to:

Charlottetown

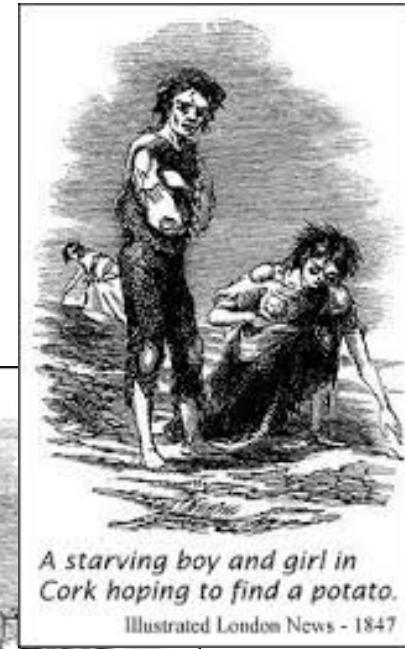
- mating type, metalaxyl sensitivity
- allozyme genotype

Lethbridge

- DNA fingerprinting  
(RFLP with probe RG57)

# Late Blight – Historical Significance

- Irish Potato Famine
- Anton De Bary



*The ruined Village of Tullig in County Clare.*

Illustrated London News - 1850

# DISTRIBUTION OF GENOTYPES OF *P. INFESTANS* IN CANADA



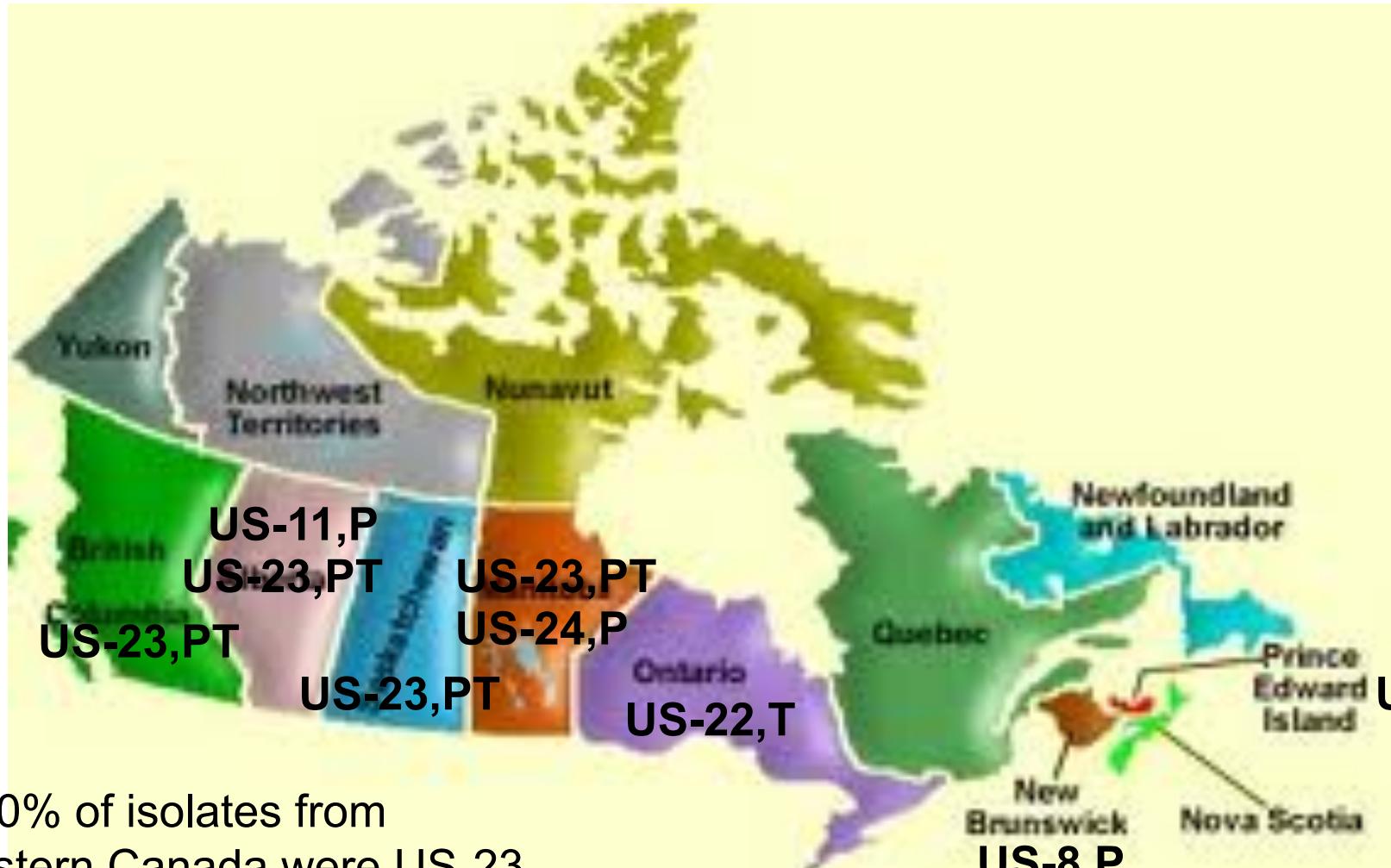
# DISTRIBUTION OF GENOTYPES OF *P. INFESTANS* IN CANADA

1996

US-1  
US-8

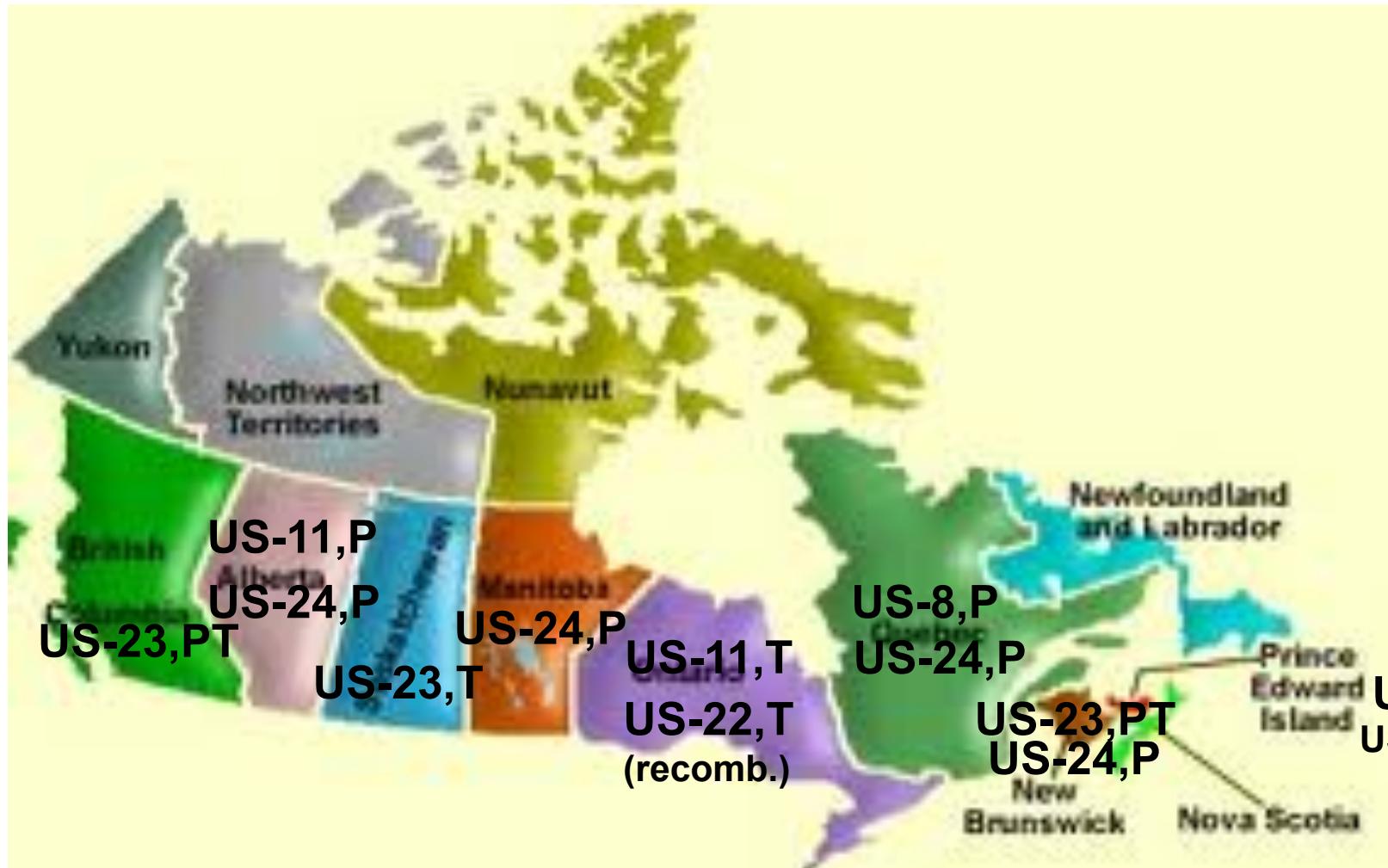


# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) 2010 Canadian Survey

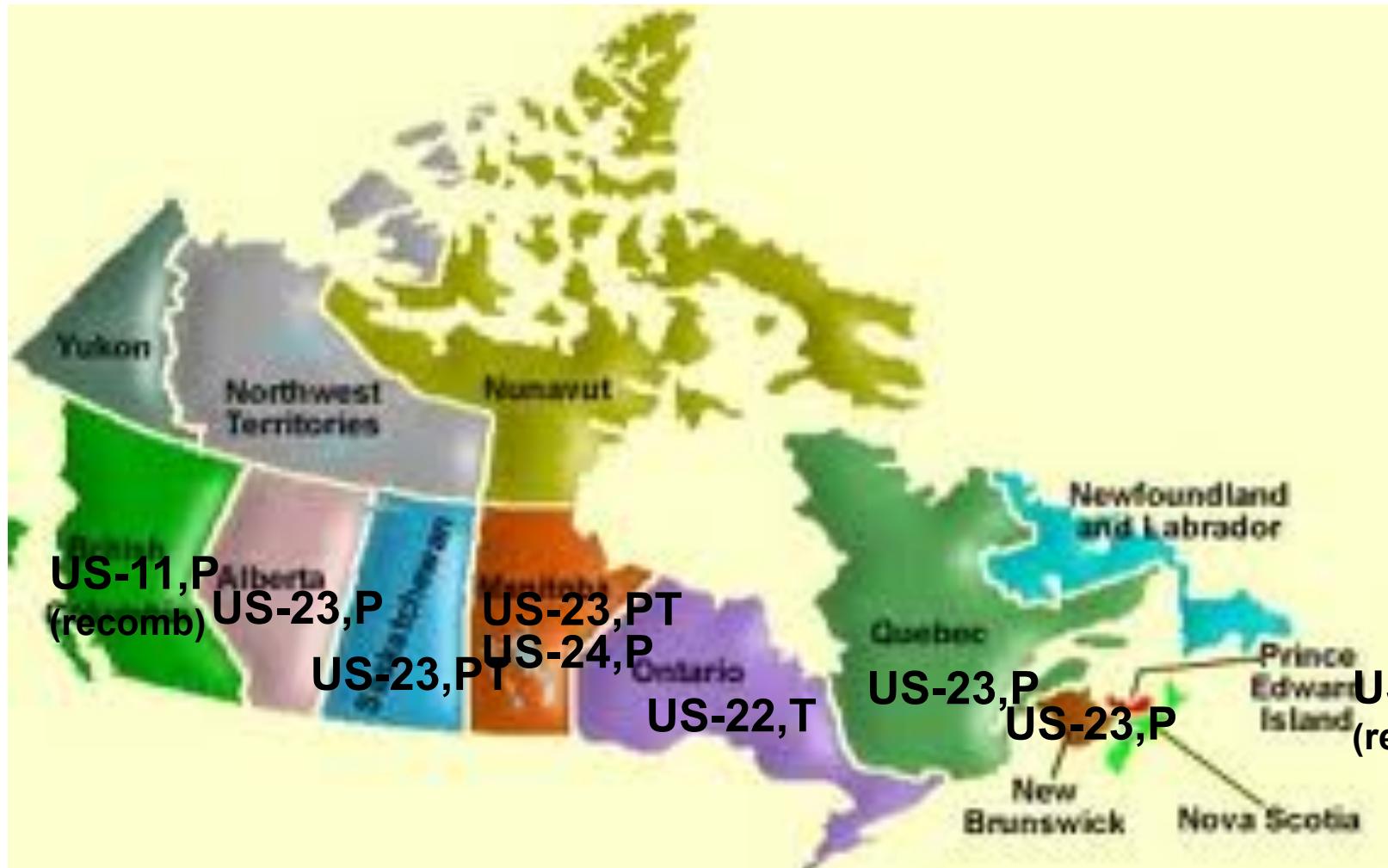


➤ 80% of isolates from western Canada were US-23

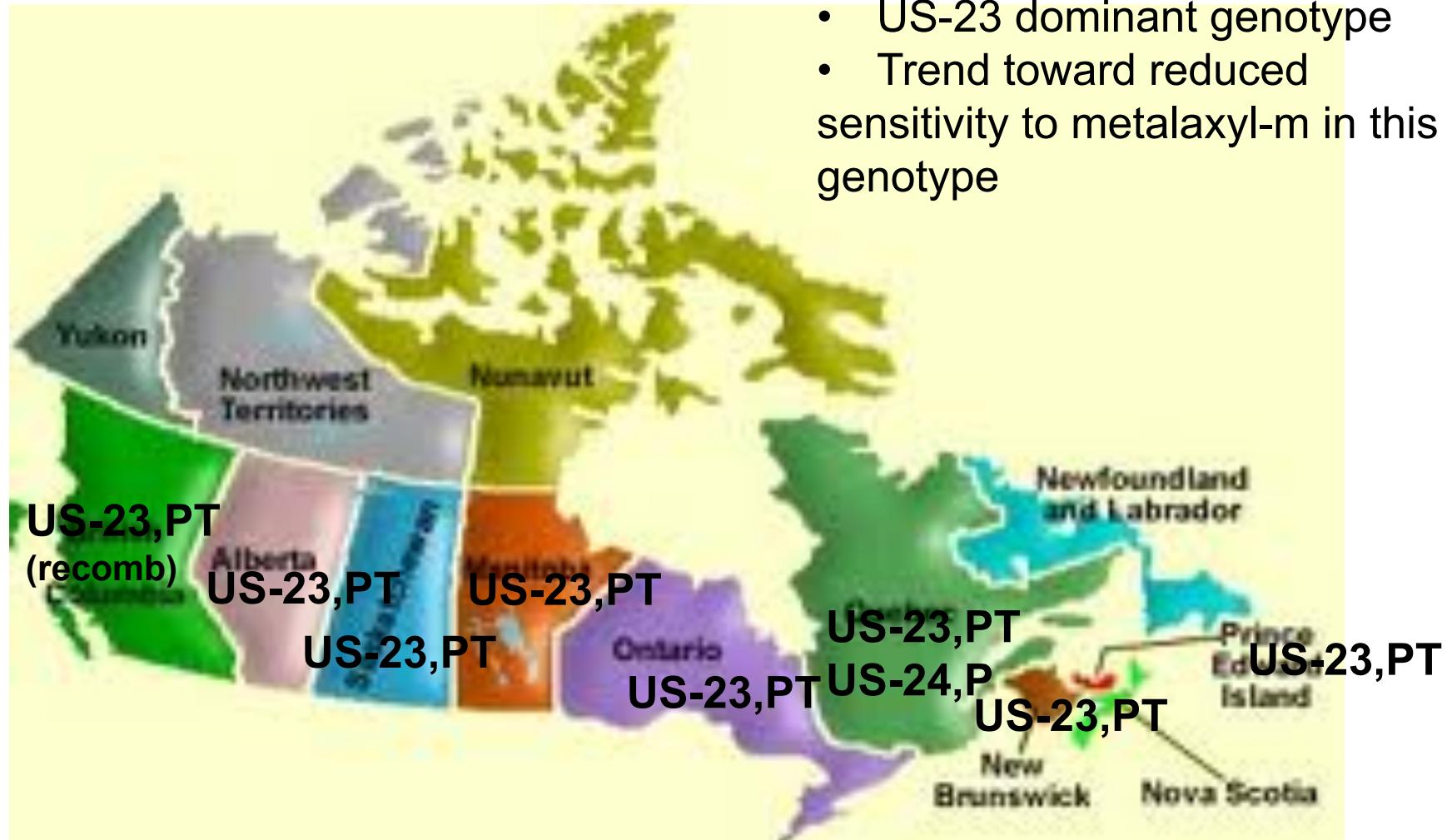
# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) 2011 Canadian Survey



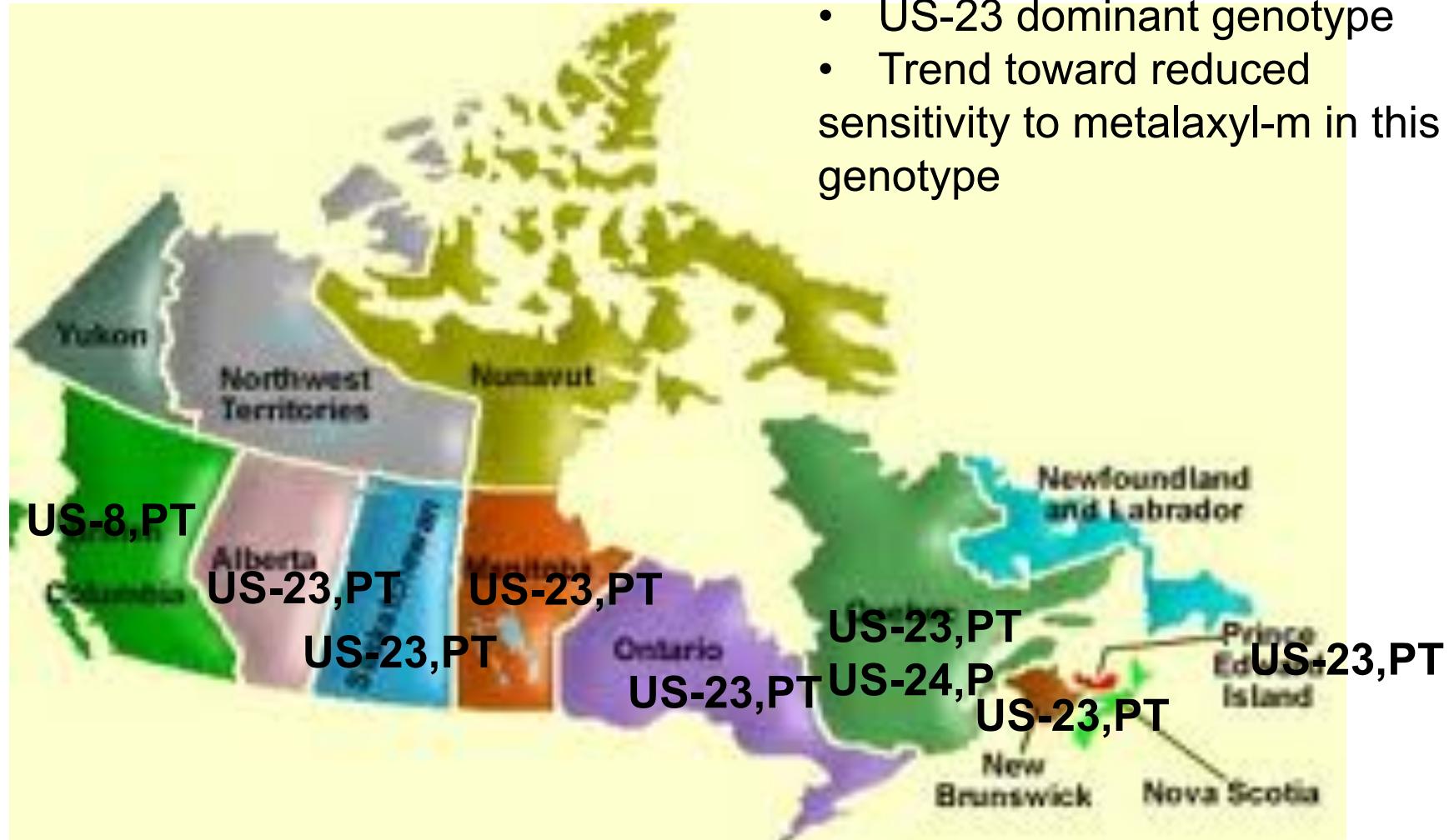
# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) 2012 Canadian Survey



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) 2013 and 2014 Canadian Surveys

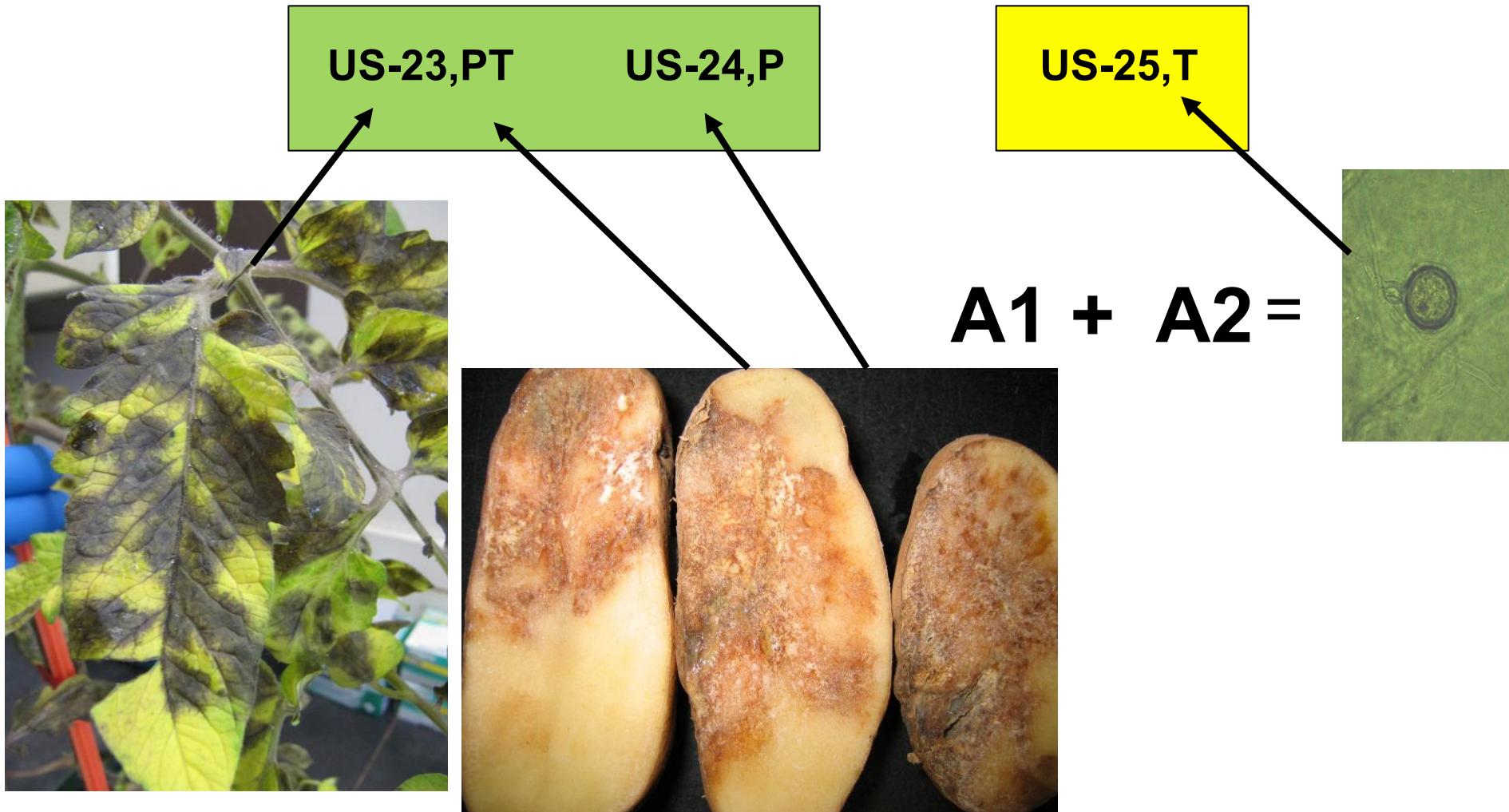


# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) 2015 and 2016 Canadian Surveys



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)

## Origin of New Genotypes in Recent Years



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)

## Origin of New Genotypes in Recent Years



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)

## What are the characteristics of the new strains?

2012 Field Trial – Dr. Robert Coffin

- Late blight resistant tomato varieties  
Mountain Magic (Ph2 + Ph3), Defiant (Ph2 + Ph3),  
Plum Regal (Ph3)
- Late blight susceptible tomato varieties  
Scotia, Brandywine, Oxheart, Monster



# 2013 Late Blight – Host/Genotype Interactions

## Greenhouse Trials

### Anne MacPhail and Marleen Clark

Hosts

Potato  
Tomato  
Pepper  
Petunia



Pathogen

*Phytophthora infestans* (US-8, US-23 and US-24)

Rating

% tissue diseased  
sporulation (0-3 scale)

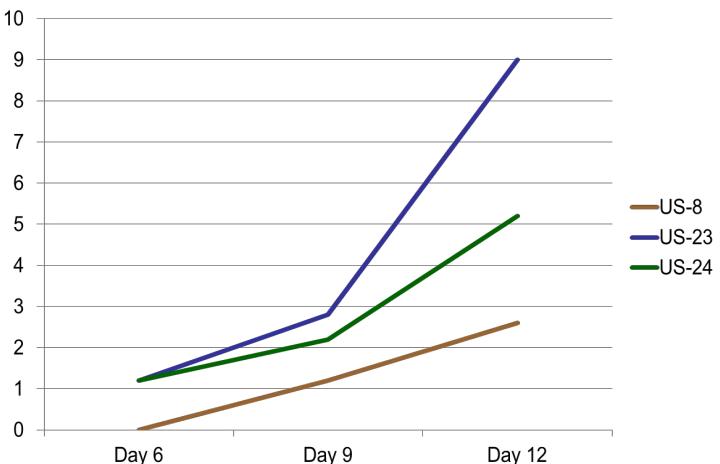
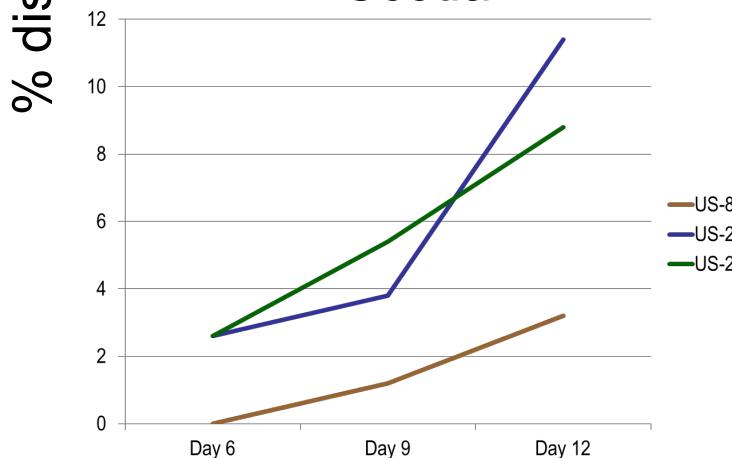
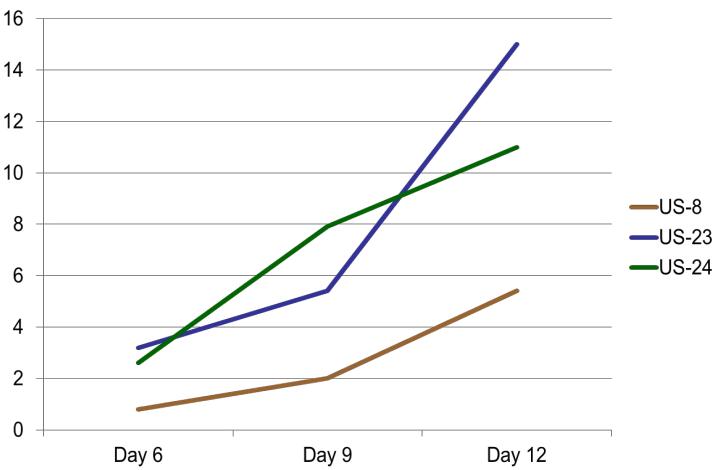
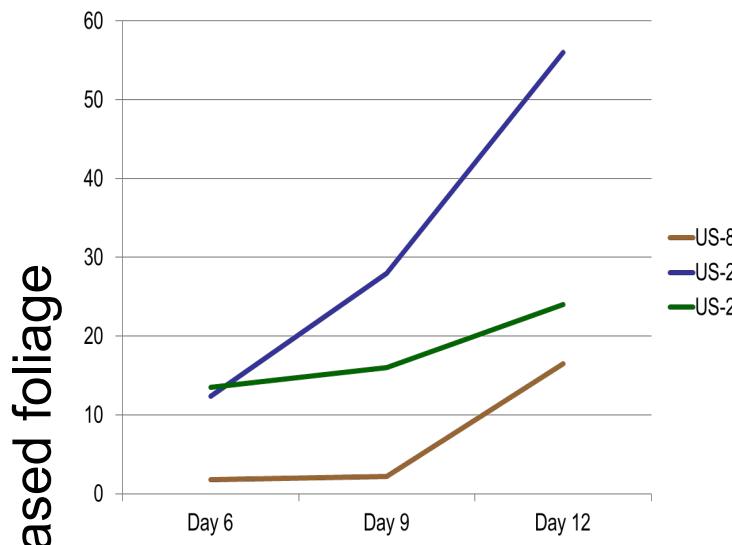


# 2013 Late Blight – Host/Genotype Interactions Greenhouse Trials



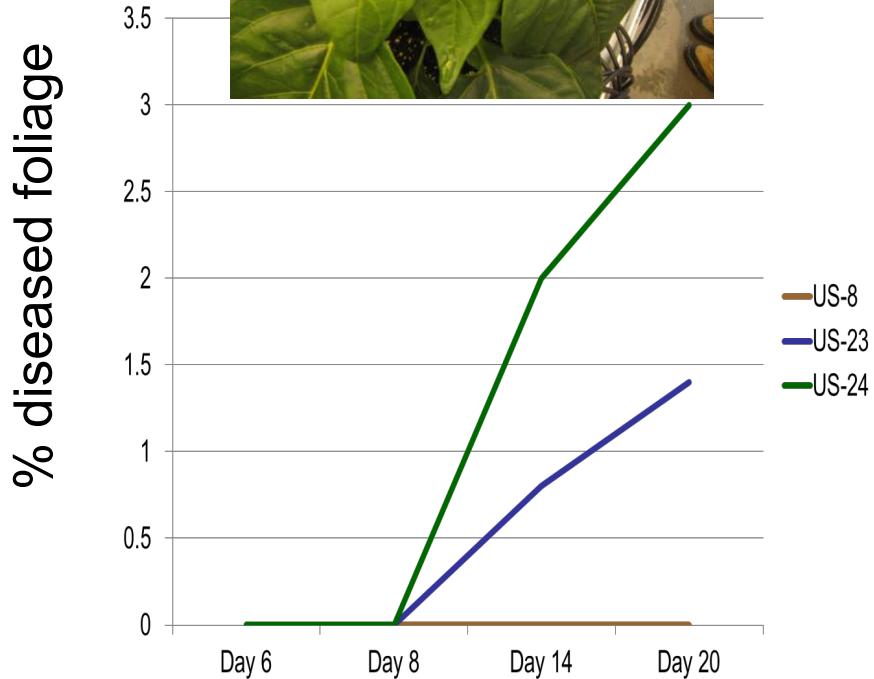
# 2013 Late Blight – Genotype Aggressiveness

## Tomato



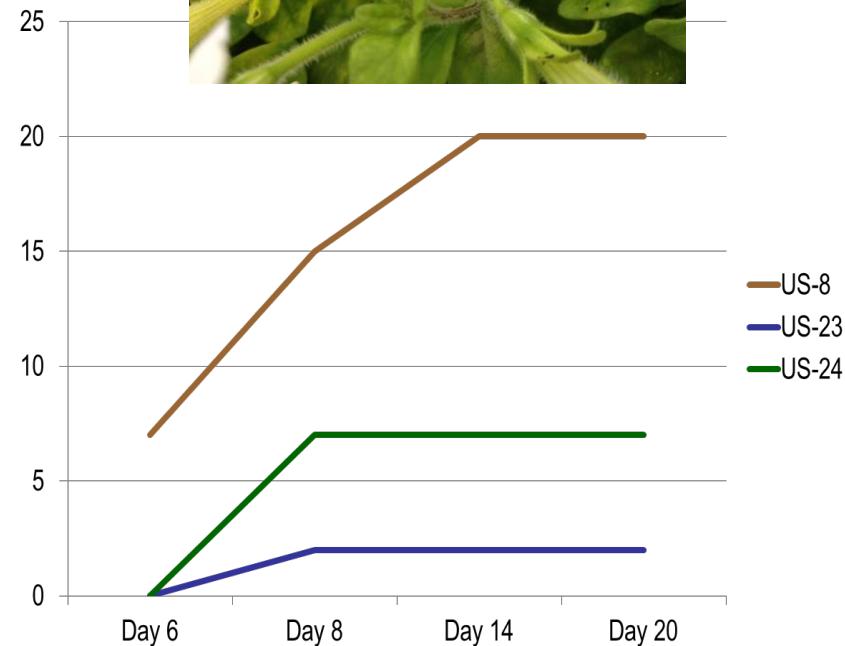
Days after inoculation

# 2013 Late Blight – Genotype Aggressiveness Pepper and Petunia



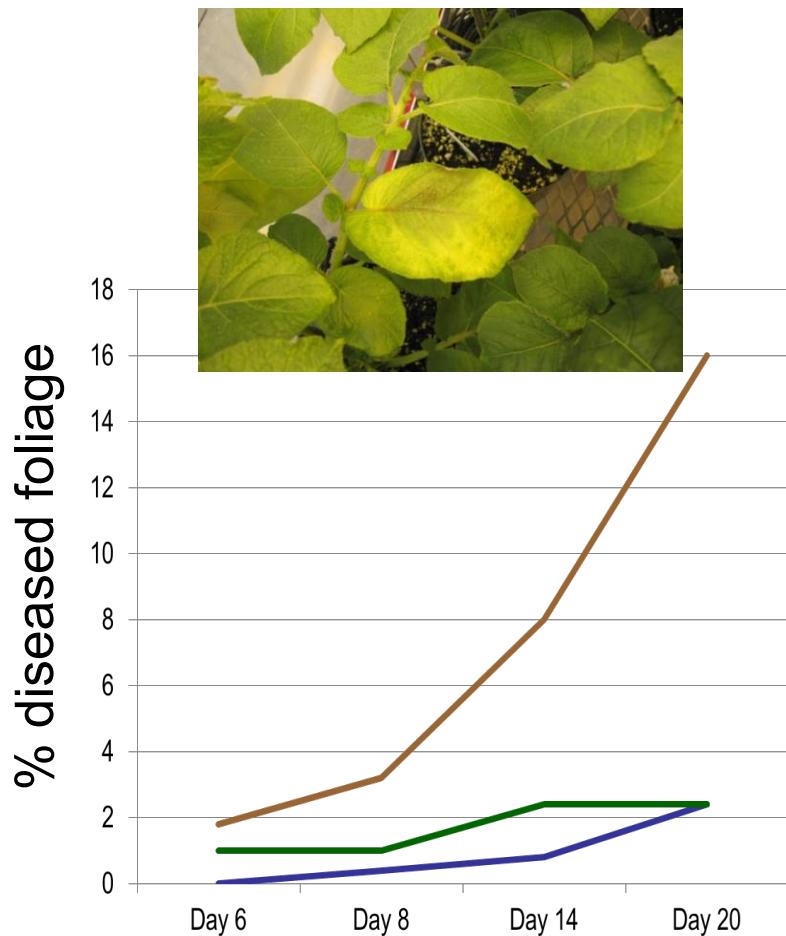
New Ace

Days after inoculation



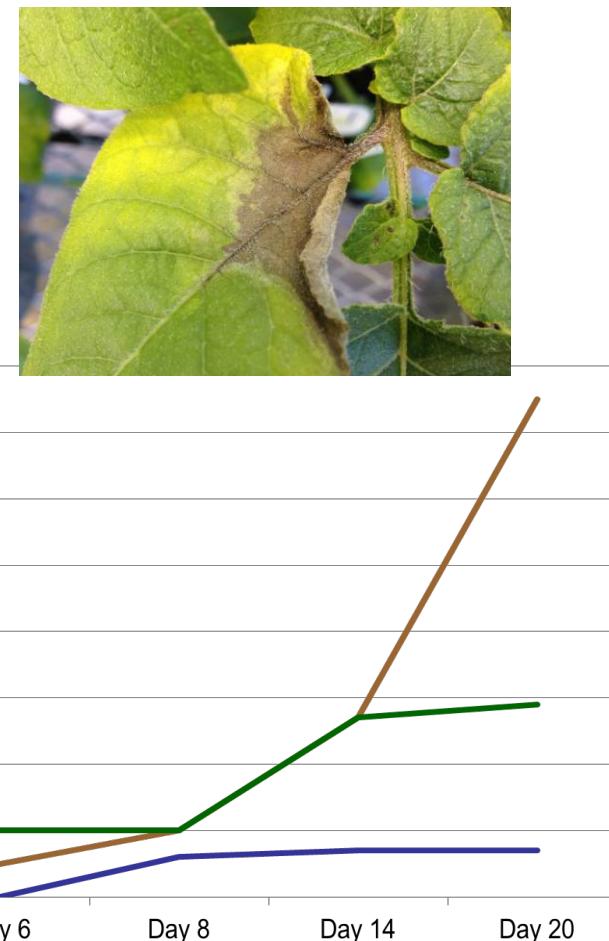
Purple Wave

# 2013 Late Blight – Genotype Aggressiveness Potato



Russet Burbank

Days after inoculation



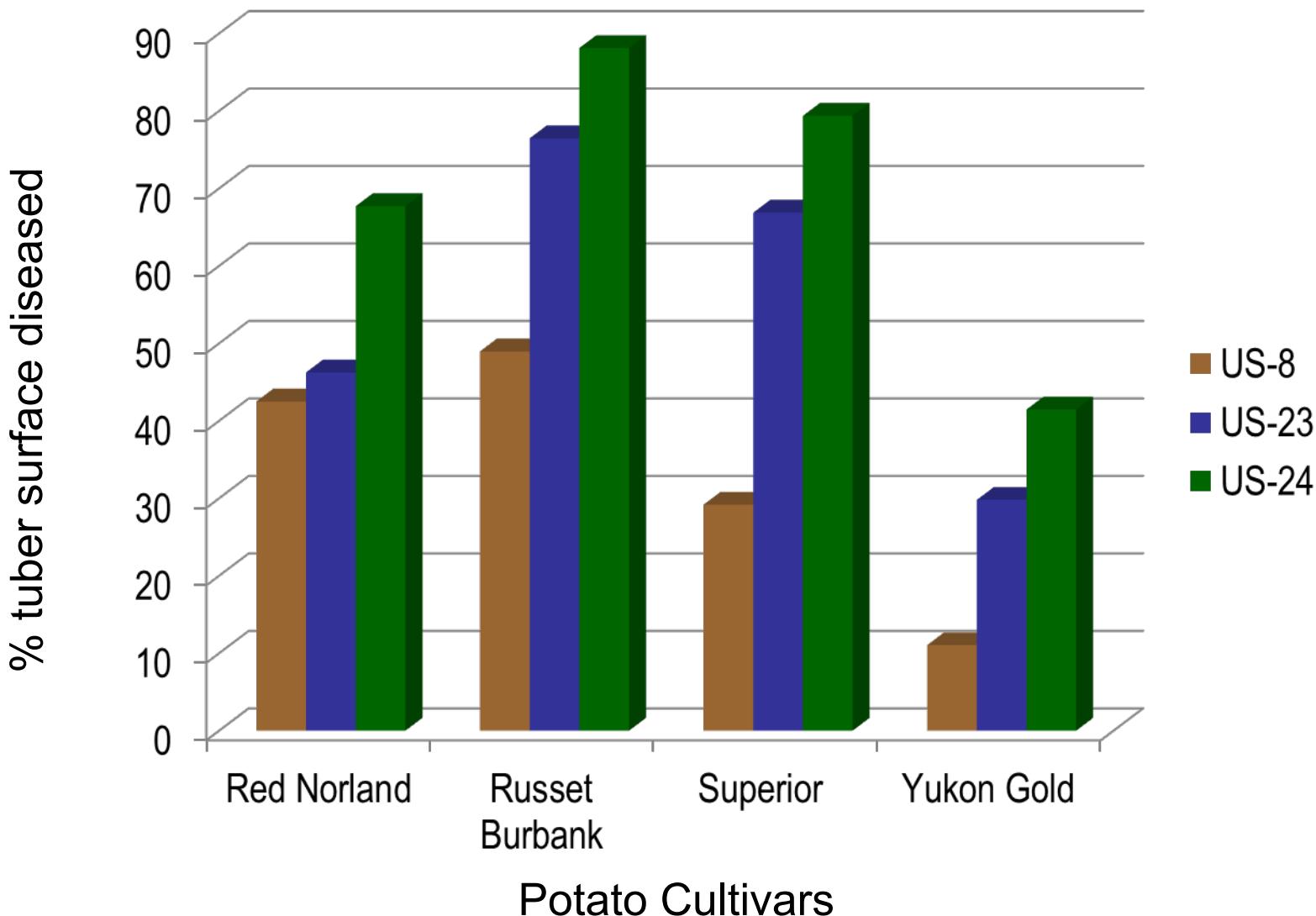
Superior

# Potato cultivar inoculation trials: US-8, US-23, US-24

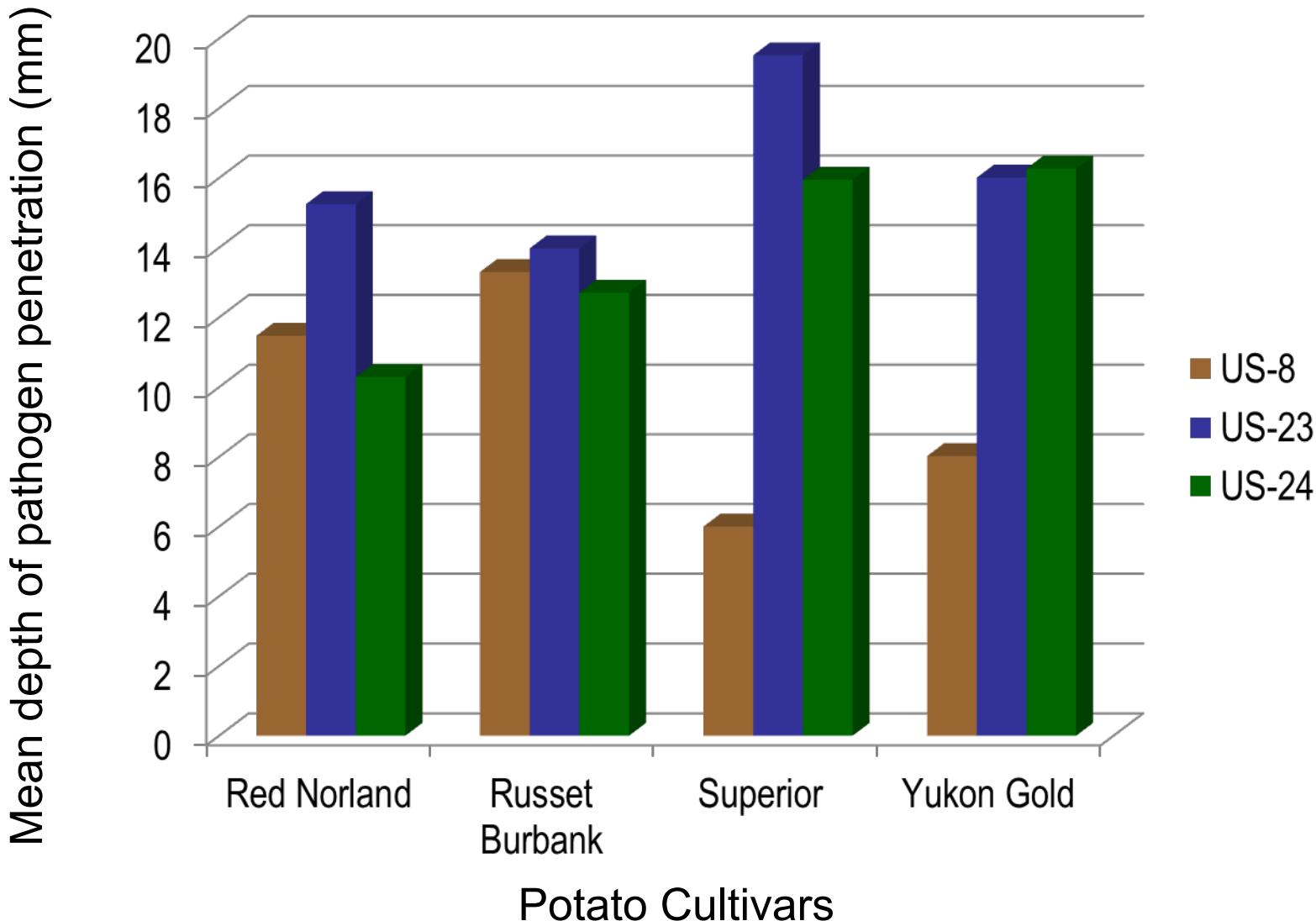
Anne MacPhail and Marleen Clark



## 2013 Late Blight – Genotype Aggressiveness Potato Tuber Inoculations



## 2013 Late Blight – Genotype Aggressiveness Potato Tuber Inoculations



# Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)

## Summary Comments

- Genotypes vary in host preference and aggressiveness
- US-8 was most aggressive on potato foliage and less so on tomato foliage; conversely, US-23 was most aggressive on tomato foliage and less so on potato foliage; US-24 provided intermediate responses on both hosts
- Some genotypes could produce sporulating lesions on pepper and petunia
- All genotypes were very aggressive on potato tubers
- US-23 now predominant genotype in Canada, but each year, pockets of other genotypes occur, including recombinants
- Tomato varieties with genes for late blight resistance effectively suppress disease development (Mountain Magic, Defiant, Mountain Merit, Jasper, etc.)
- Epidemiology and disease management has been significantly altered following recent strain displacement wave

# *P. infestans* - DISEASE MANAGEMENT

## Manage Late Blight in Tomatoes!

- Look for disease in transplants (industry and home-owner awareness)
- Manage the disease in tomatoes grown in home gardens
  - destroy and bag diseased plants
  - grow resistant varieties!
  - awareness of issue in general public



# *P. infestans* - DISEASE MANAGEMENT

## Aggressive Home-Gardener Outreach Program

- industry meetings with Garden Centre staff
- meetings with garden clubs
- distribution of free LB-resistant tomato seed
- local and national newspapers, radio and television programs
- posters and brochures
- starting to see results! (no or minimal late blight in PEI, AB in the past 2 years)



# Acknowledgments

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Khalil Al-Mughrabi

Participating Potato and Tomato  
Growers

Provincial Government Reps  
& Diagnostic Clinics

Industry Reps



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# Thank you !

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