

# Developing a Predictive Boxwood Blight Model for the U.S.

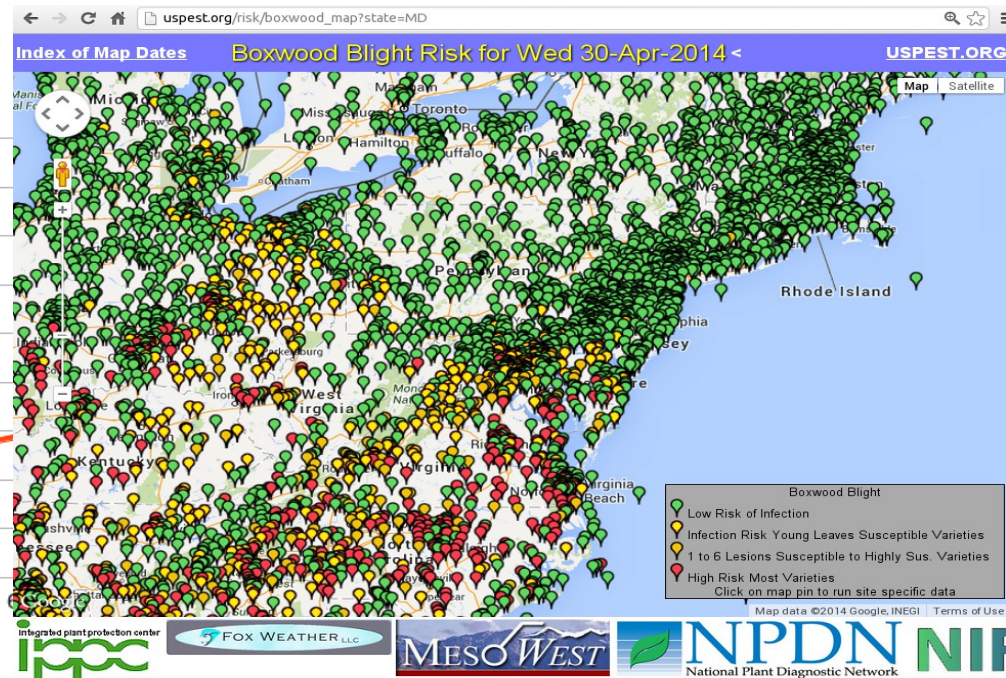
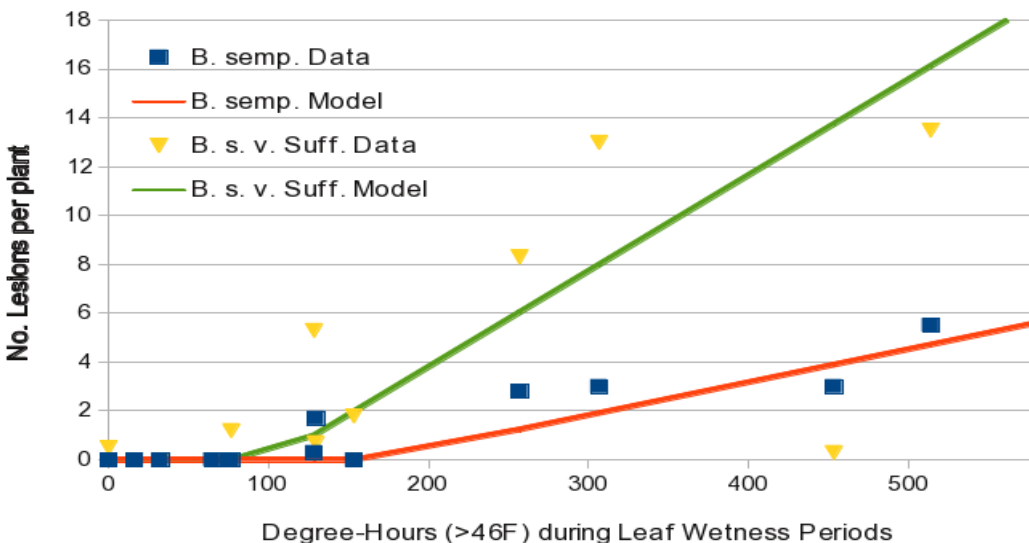
Len Coop

Integrated Plant Protection Center & Botany and Plant Pathology Dept.  
Oregon State University, Corvallis OR

May 13, 2014

DHs Leaf Wetness vs # Infections Boxwood Blight

Two Varieties - to 600 DHs



# USPEST.ORG Website

- Serving weather-driven pest models since 1996
- Now with 104 models (mostly degree-day and hourly weather-driven)
- Support for several invasive pests, working with USDA APHIS PPQ, ipmPIPE, NPDN, Western IPM Centers, NIFA funded grants

MyPest Page -  
IPM Pest and Plant  
Disease Models and  
Forecasting



for Agricultural, Pest  
Management, and Plant  
Biosecurity Decision  
Support in the US

## Plant Disease/Other Hourly Driven Models

- ▣ **Fireblight**
  - Fire Blight (Cougarblight older version)
  - Fire Blight (Cougarblight 2010EZ)
  - Fire Blight (Cougarblight 2010 hourly)
- ▣ **Powdery Mildew**
  - Cherry Powdery Mildew
  - Cleistothecial Powdery Mildew
  - GT Powdery Mildew
  - Hop Powdery Mildew
  - Pearson-Gadoury (1987) Ascospore release Model
  - Strawberry Powdery Mildew
- ▣ **Scab**
  - Apple Scab
  - Pear Scab
- ▣ **Tomcast and Melcast**
  - Muskmelon Melcast
  - Tomcast DSV
  - Watermelon Melcast
- ▣ **Other**
  - Anjou Pear Scald
  - Botrytis
  - Boxwood Blight Infection Risk
  - Chilling Units (Simple) [i](#)
  - Chilling Units (Utah)
  - Custom Degree-Hour Accumulation Model [i](#)
  - Tomato Potato Late Blight

## Degree-day/Phenology Models

### Available Models

Apple Maggot 1st Emerge  
Apple Maggot Percent Emerge  
Apple Scab  
Barley  
Bertha Armyworm  
Black Cutworm  
Cabbage Looper  
Cabbage Maggot  
Canary  
Canola-Argentine

--- Add --->

<--- Remove ---

### Selected Models

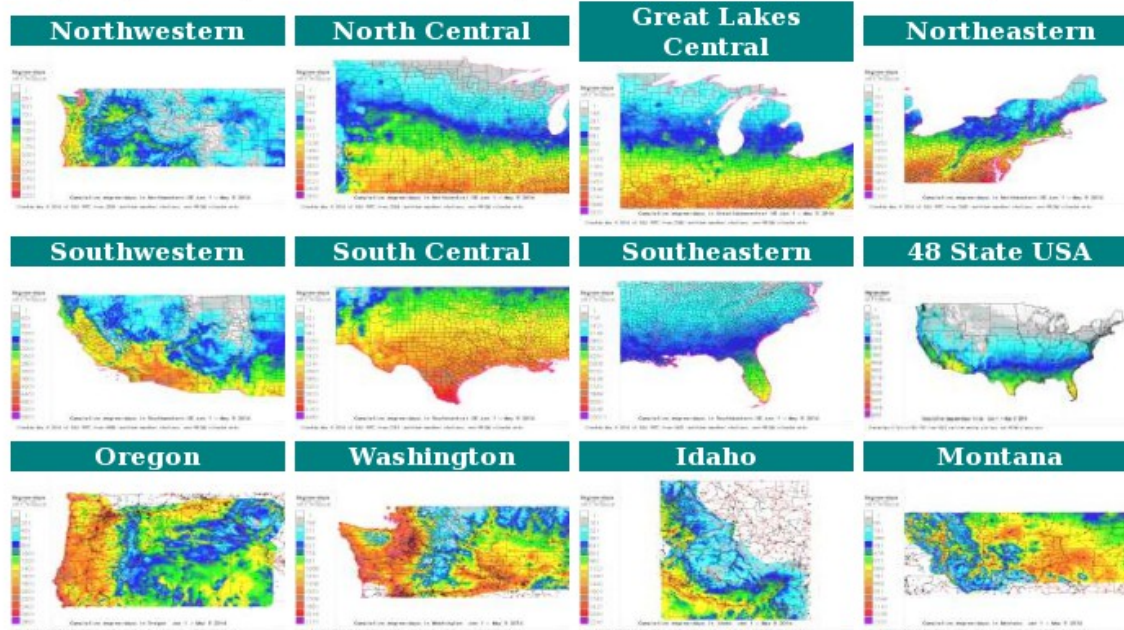
Asian Citrus Psyllid  
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug  
Cereal Leaf Beetle  
Emerald Ash Borer  
European Grapevine Moth  
Gypsy Moth Sheehan-Simplified  
Light Brown Apple Moth  
Spot. Wing Dros. OW Mortal.  
Spotted Wing Drosophila

[Introduction](#) [Quick Start](#) [Map Index](#) [Shortcut Links](#) [Degree-day Maps](#)

**Custom degree-day mapmaker** [i](#) for 48 US states - use your own settings:

[new server \(fastest\)](#), [2nd server](#)

**Daily degree-day accumulation maps** [i](#) - click on a region for more maps:

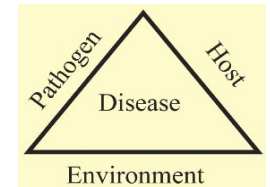


Use these maps to track heat unit build-up using the temperature thresholds 32°, 41°, and 50° F, and for GIS interface to calculate degree-days at specific locations.

# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Models

Some considerations:

- A goal is to provide a risk warning system for when the environment is conducive to infection events
- We plan to keep the model or series of models as up to date as time and funding allows
- The current model is derived almost entirely from the Belgian work team including Kurt Heungens, Bjorn Gehesquiere, et al.



## 2. Effect of temperature and leaf wetness period

No lesions

Lesions on young leaves only

Lesions on young and mature leaves

### A Decade Plus of Boxwood Blight Research

Bjorn Gehesquière, Johan Van Huylenbroeck, Filip Rys, Kurt Heungens

18<sup>th</sup> Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Pests

September 25, 2012

Average # of diseased leaves per plant (6 reps)

	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>				<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Suffruticosa'			
	6.0°C	12.0°C	17.6°C	22.4°C	6.0°C	12.0°C	17.6°C	22.4°C
7D	0,0	3,0	29,5	40,2	0,0	0,3	91,2	101,8
48H	0,0	1,7	10,2	17,3	0,5	0,7	34,3	48,7
24H	0,0	0,0	3,0	5,5	0,0	0,0	13,0	13,5
12H	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,8	0,0	0,0	1,8	8,3
6H	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,0	1,2	5,3

Observations

- Minimum leaf wetness period for infection heavily depends on temperature AND cultivar
- Young leaves infected at lower temperatures (6-12°C) than mature leaves (12-14°C)

Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research

Plant Sciences Unit  
www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be



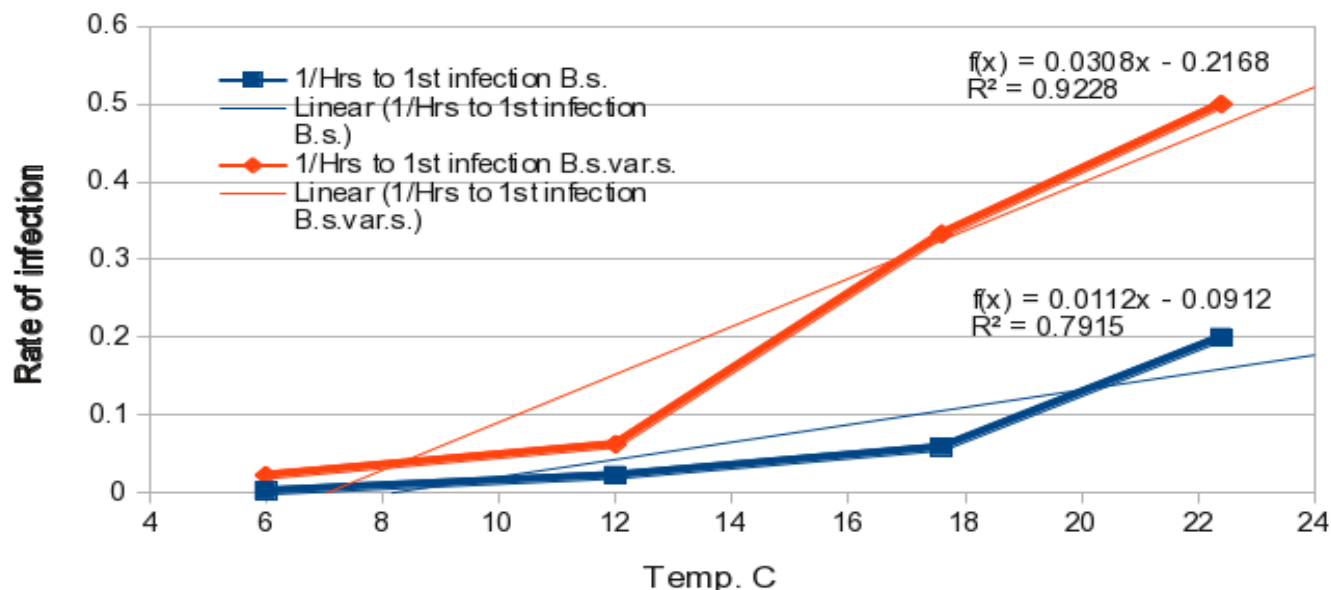
Werkgroep  
Buxus



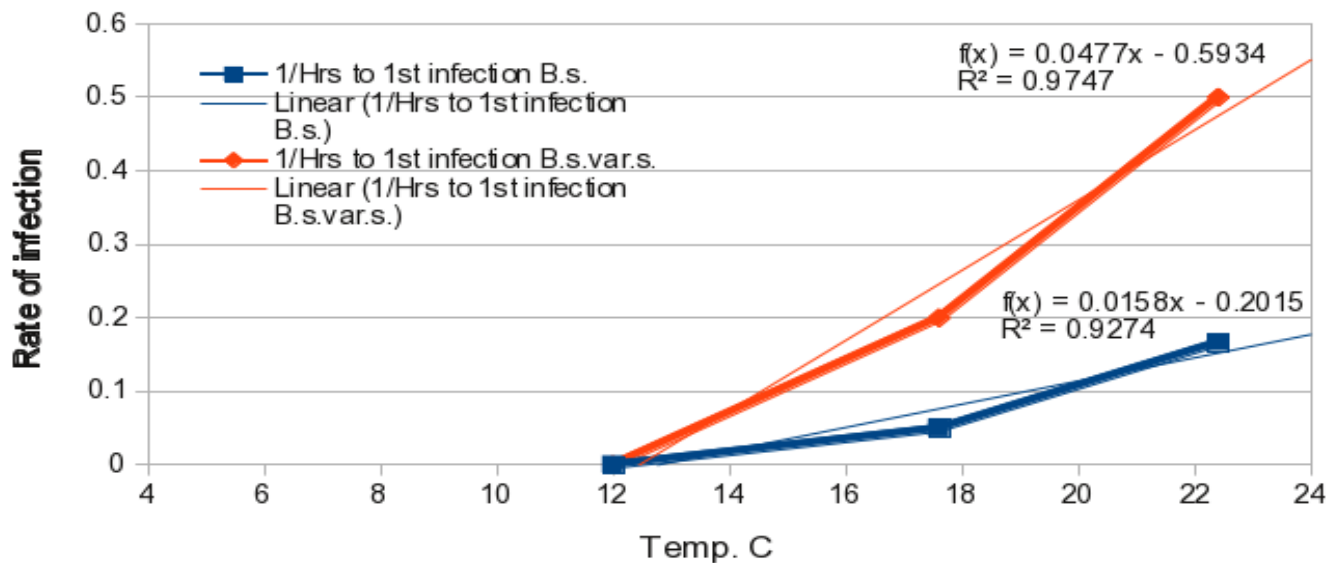
# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Models

Degree-Hours to Infection (visible lesions)  
2 vars of Buxus sempervirens - young leaves

- The first question for building one or more models: as the temperature threshold seems to be much lower for young vs. mature leaves, do we need separate models with different thresholds?



Degree-Hours to Infection (visible lesions)  
2 vars. of Buxus sempervirens - mature leaves

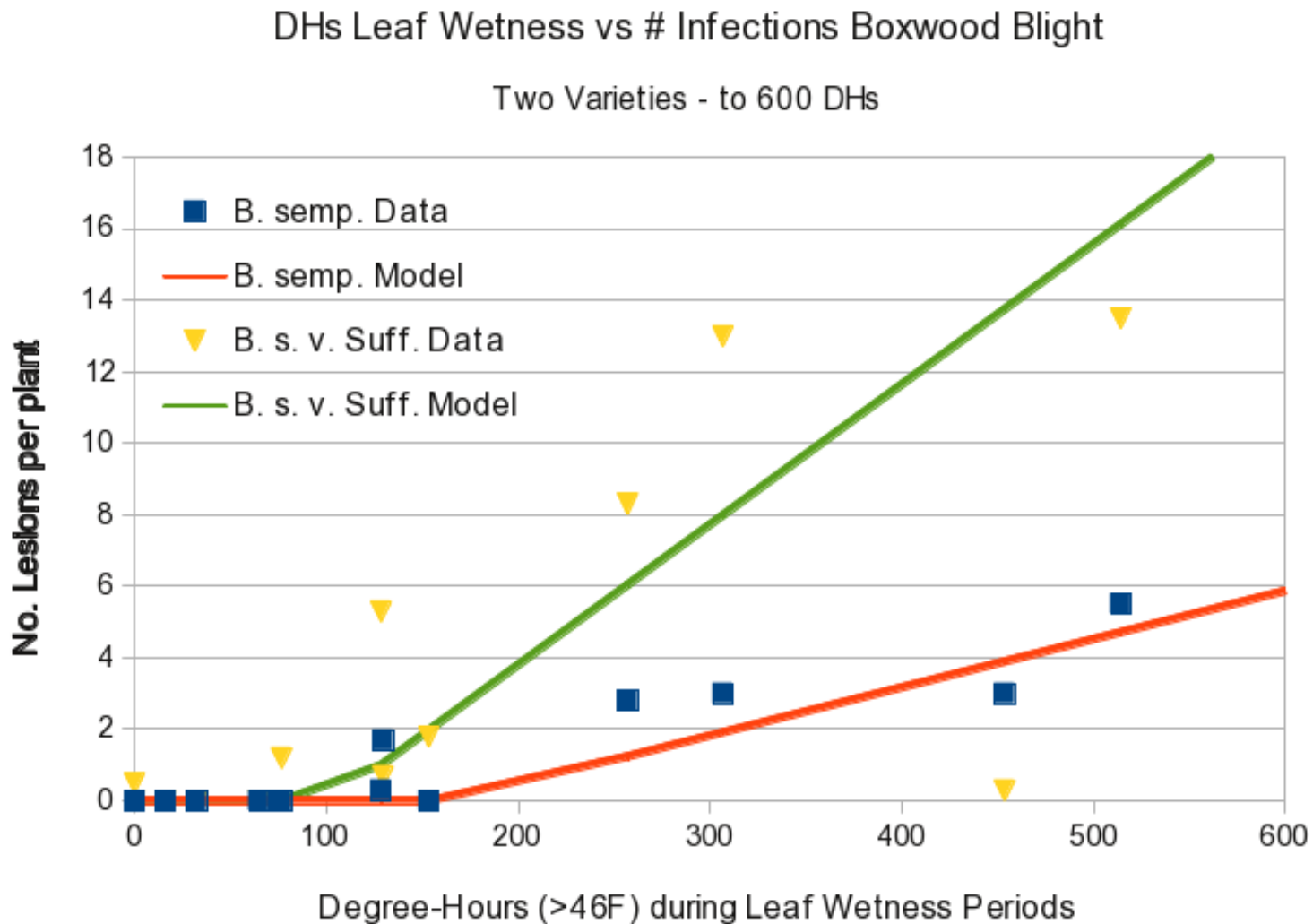


# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Models

- The 2nd question for building model(s):

Do we want to model just first infection risk or (also) the number of lesions or severity of the disease?

We used this method to help settle on a single model with a lower threshold of 7.78 C (46 F)



# Summary of Parameters for Modeling Boxwood Blight (Vers 1.0):

**Name of model:** Boxwood blight infection risk  
**Model type:** Degree-hours (DHs) accum. during leaf wetness periods  
"inverse Mills table approach"  
**Lower temp. threshold:** 46F (7.78C)  
**Upper temp. threshold:** 85F (29.4C)

**No. of dry hours to stop the infection cycle:** more than 8.0

**DHs to first infection of young leaves (highly susc. Var.):** 56  
**DHs to first infection of young leaves (susc. Var.):** 160  
**DHs for infection resulting in: 6 lesions, highly susc. Var., 1 lesion, susc. Var:** 250  
**DHs for infection resulting in: 12 lesions, highly susc. Var., 3 lesions, susc. Var:** 400  
**DHs for infection resulting in: 18 lesions, highly susc. Var., 5 lesions, susc. Var:** 550

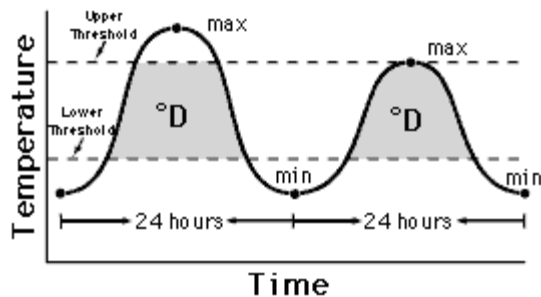
**Model assumptions:** 1. Spores from microsclerotia generally require rainfall to spread and initiate the infection process, thus the model conservatively does not require rainfall events, as spores may also be present from existing lesions.

2. The model should reflect a range of infection conditions most likely to occur in typical N. America climates; it was adjusted to reflect needs in the humid mid-latitudes (such as NC, VA, WV, PA, and MD).

3. These results reflect work performed on one highly susceptible (English boxwood) and one susceptible (American boxwood) variety; lower infection risk levels would be expected for less susceptible varieties.

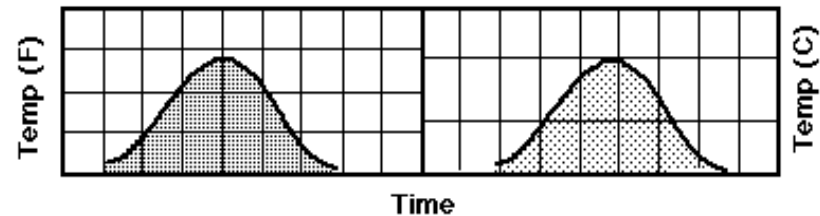
# What is a degree-hour?

Like a degree-day, which is a thermal unit that integrates temperature over time spanning 1 day...



Simple formula DDs =  
(daily max+min/2) - Tlow

A degree-hour integrates temperature over 1 hour...



Used in plant disease management because the infection process can take just hours rather than days...

And happens typically during periods of sufficient moisture such as when  $RH > 95\%$  or when leaf wetness occurs

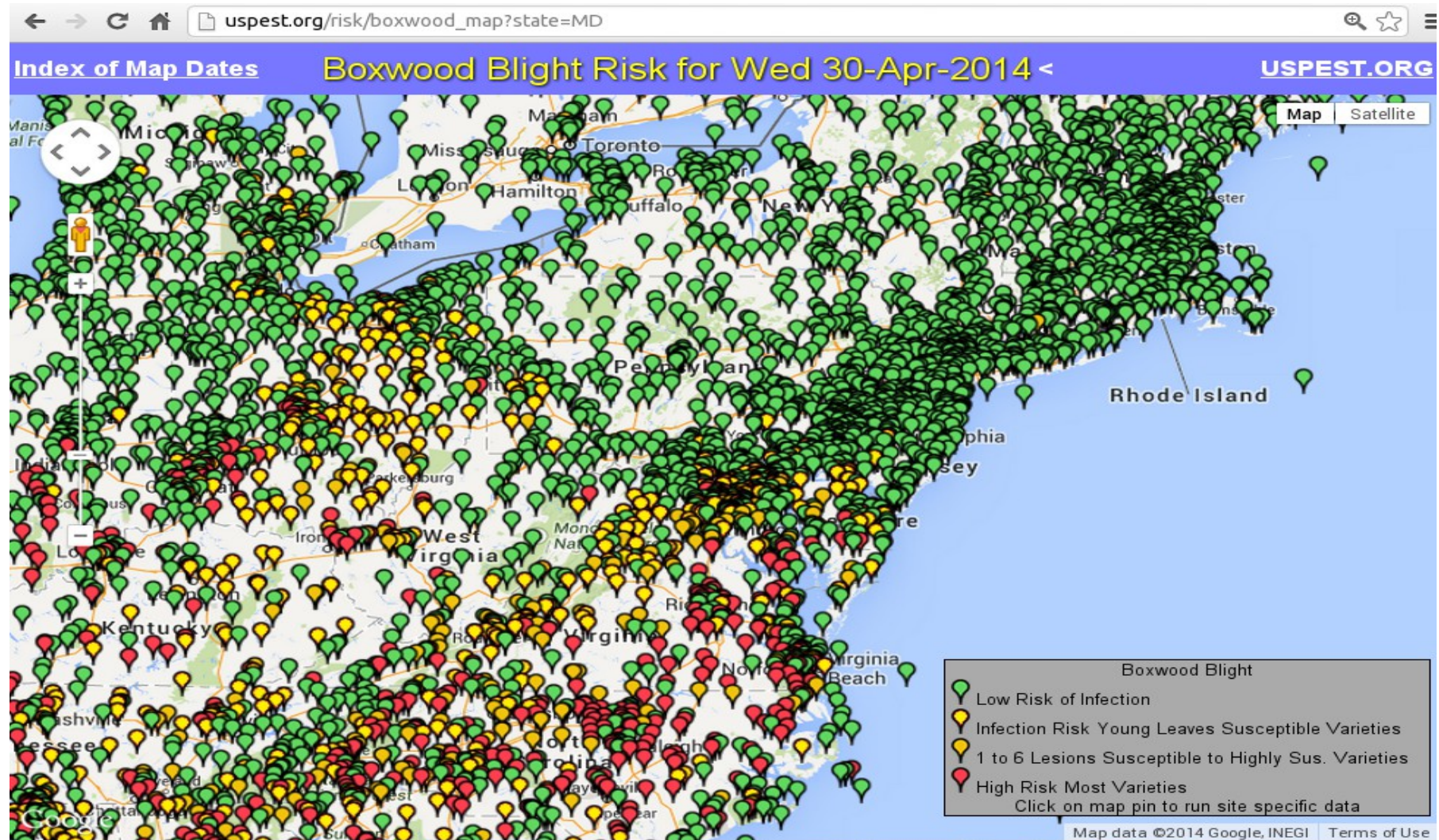
Simple formula DHs =  
hourly avg temp - Tlow

# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Mapping

[uspest.org/risk/boxwood\\_map](http://uspest.org/risk/boxwood_map)

Some considerations:

- Hourly risk accumulated over past several days
- Numerous public weather networks of varying quality/citing standards



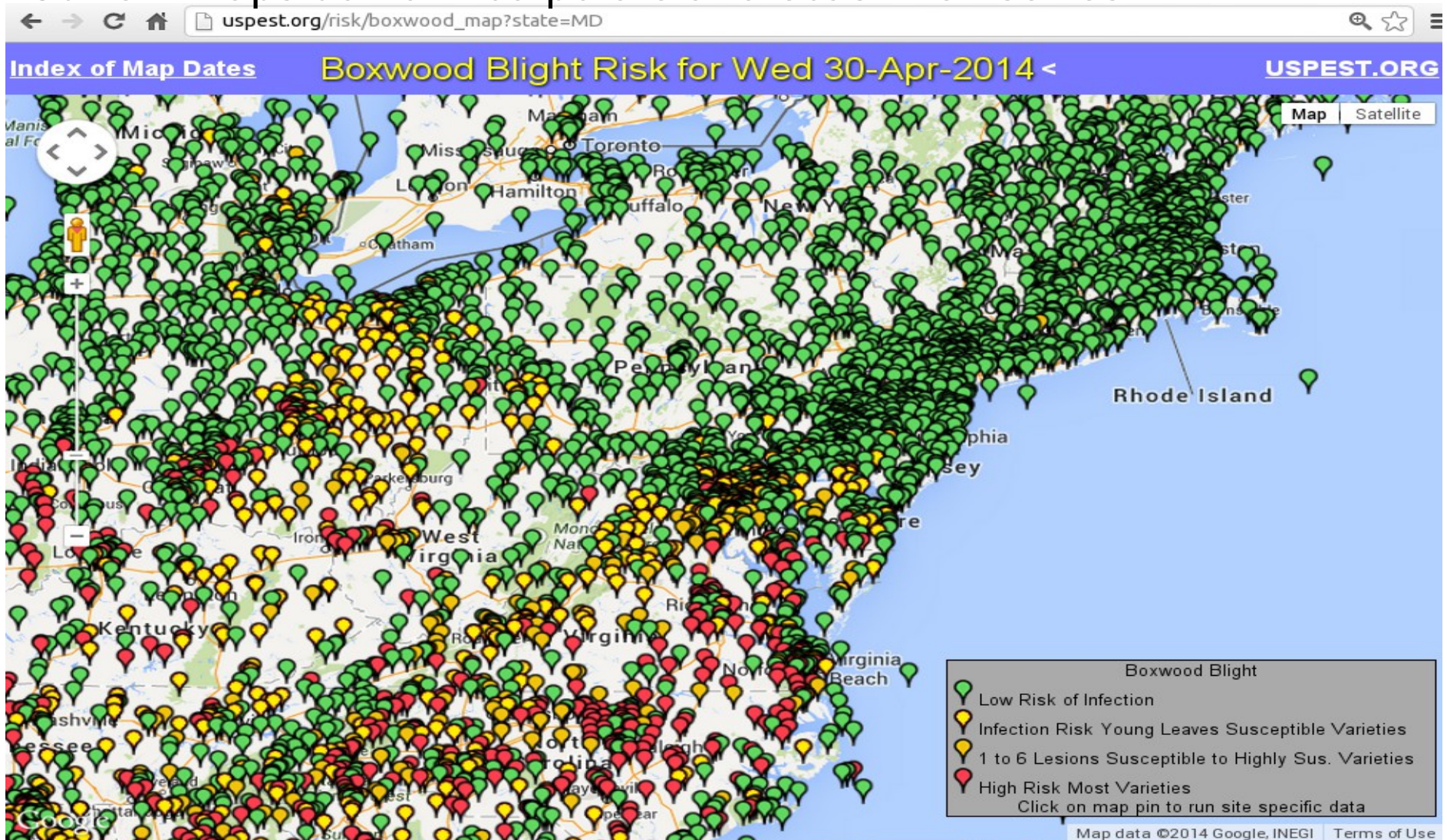


# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Mapping

[uspest.org/risk/boxwood\\_map](http://uspest.org/risk/boxwood_map)

Some considerations:

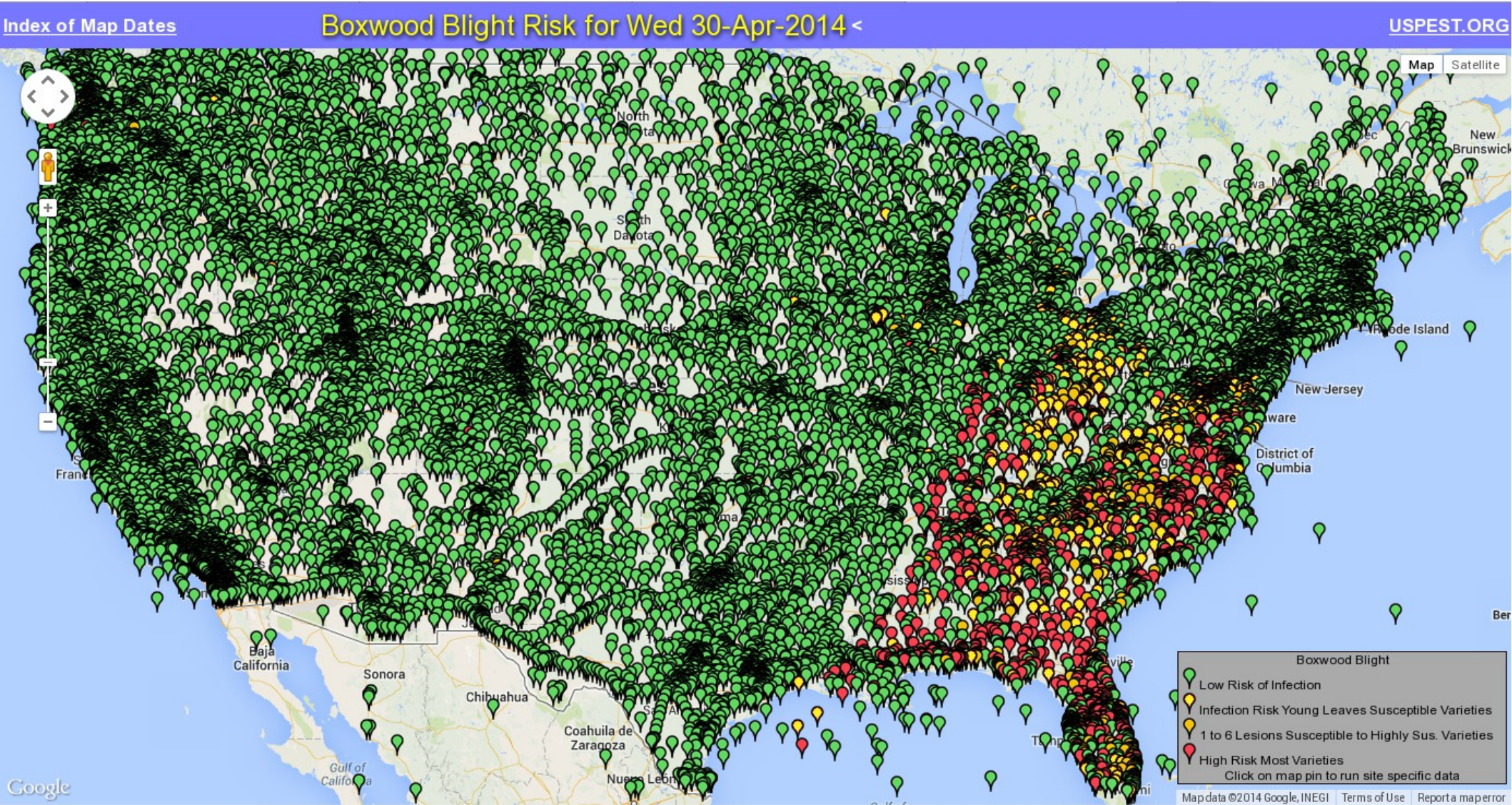
- Click on a pin to run the model w/7-day forecast for that weather station
- Current maps do not incorporate a forecast themselves



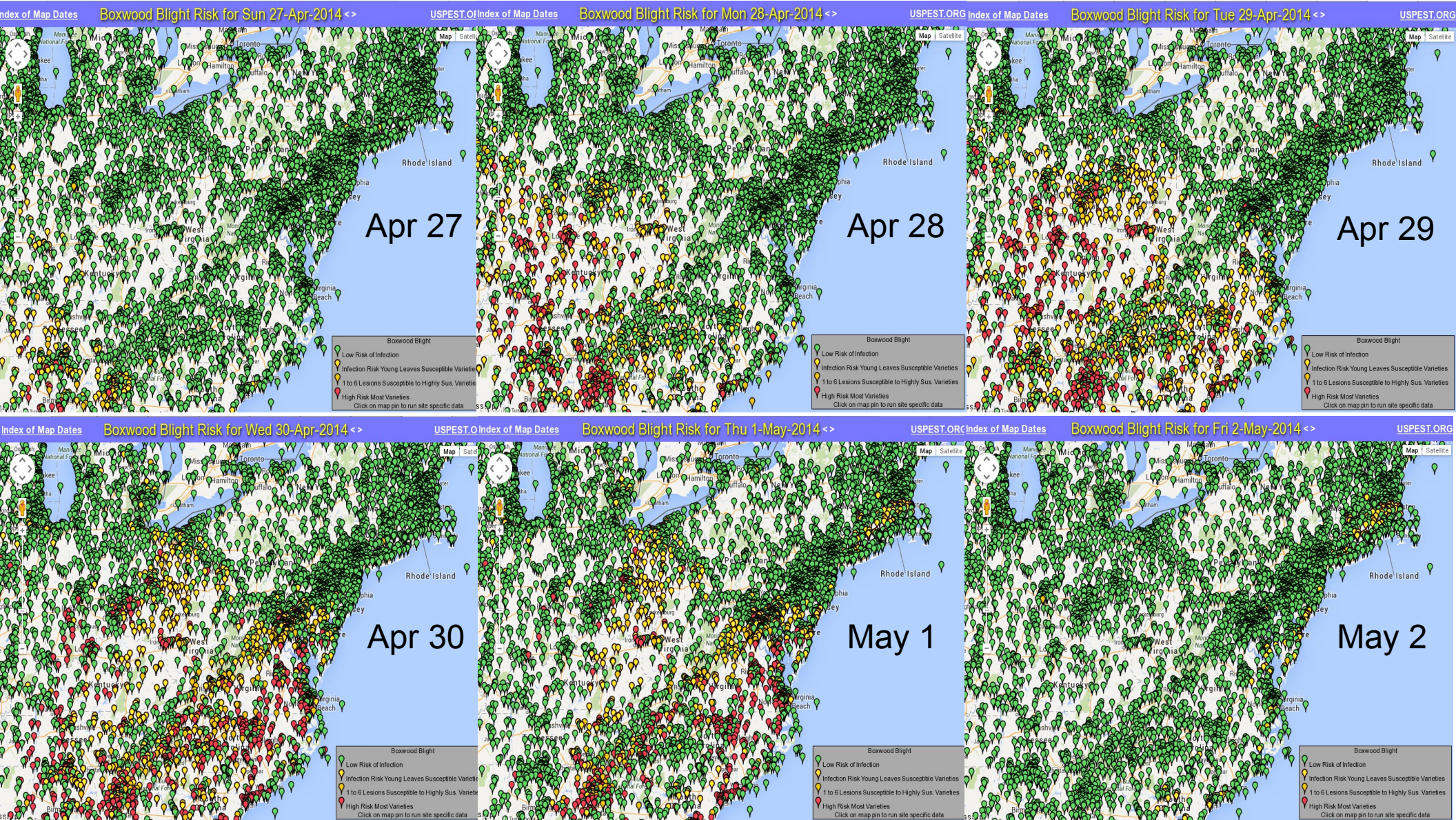
# Uspest.org Infection Risk Mapping

Some considerations:

- Computed daily over 18,000 locations US and outlying areas



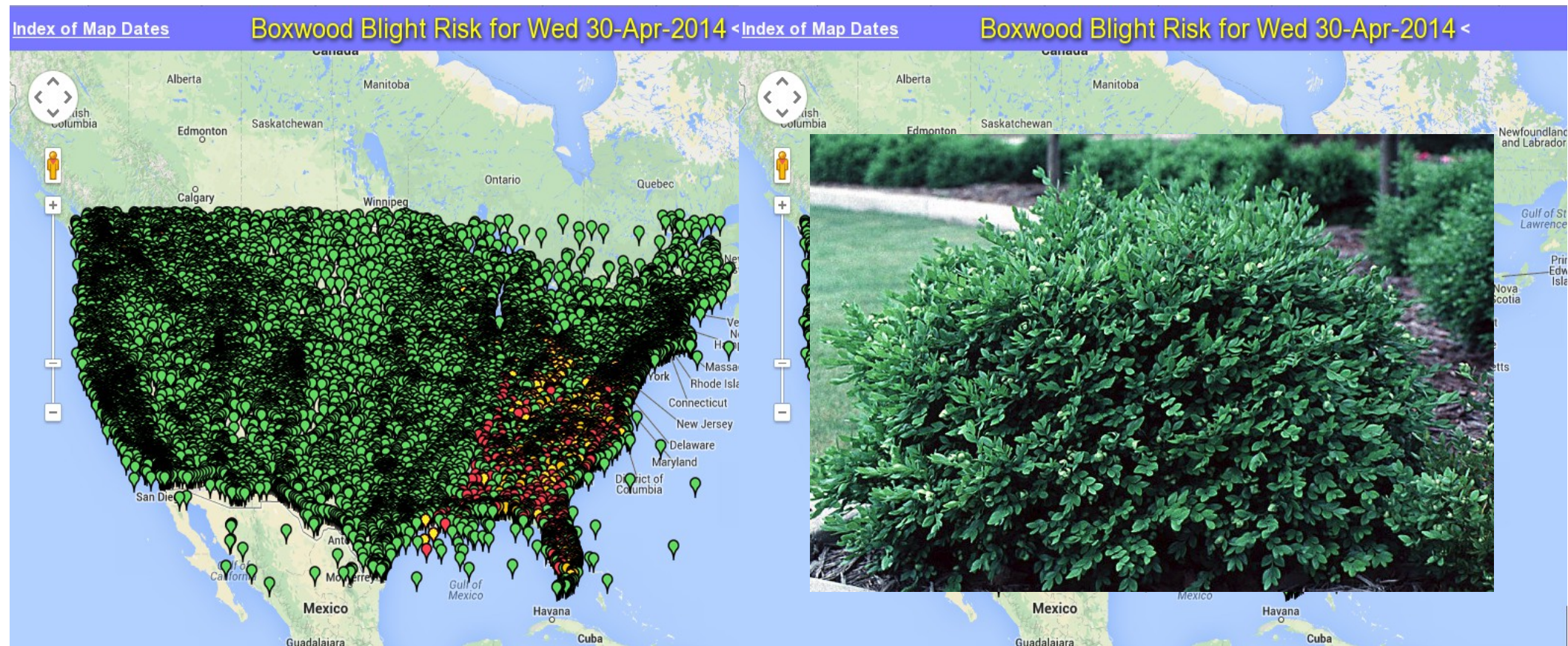
# Uspest.org Infection Risk Mapping – stepping day by day – a recent infection event cycle (Apr 27-May 2)



# Uspest.org Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Mapping

Coincidence?

- Zoom out far enough the map kind of looks like boxwood ;-)



# Optional infection risk mapping – Infrastructure built for 4 regions, 4 diseases – 800m resolution, PRISM data interpolation, loops

[uspest.org/risk/grid\\_display](http://uspest.org/risk/grid_display)  
ex. Columbia Basin hop powdery mildew

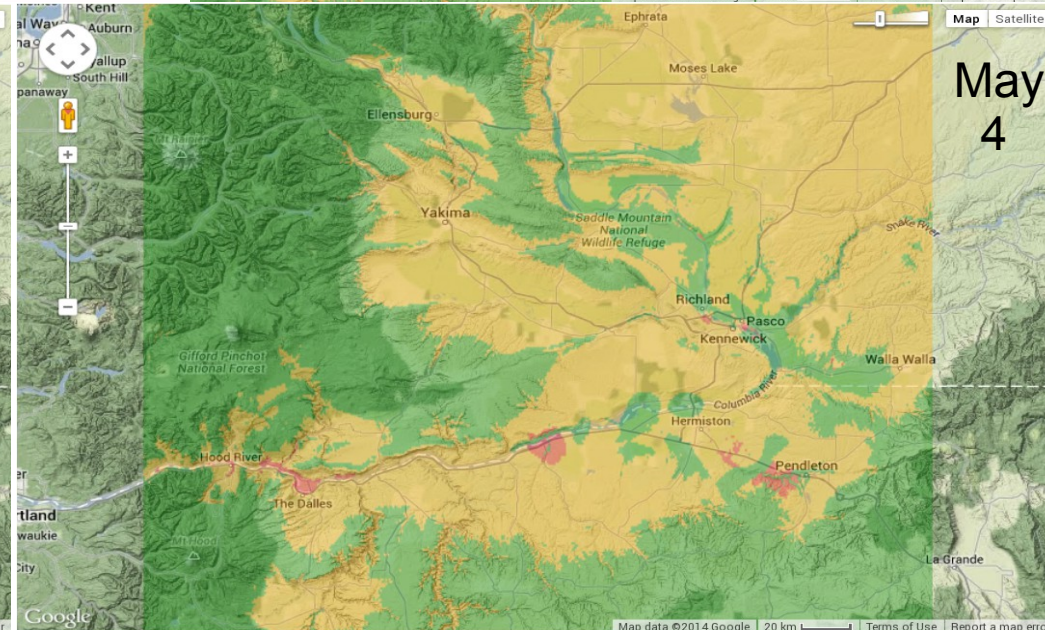
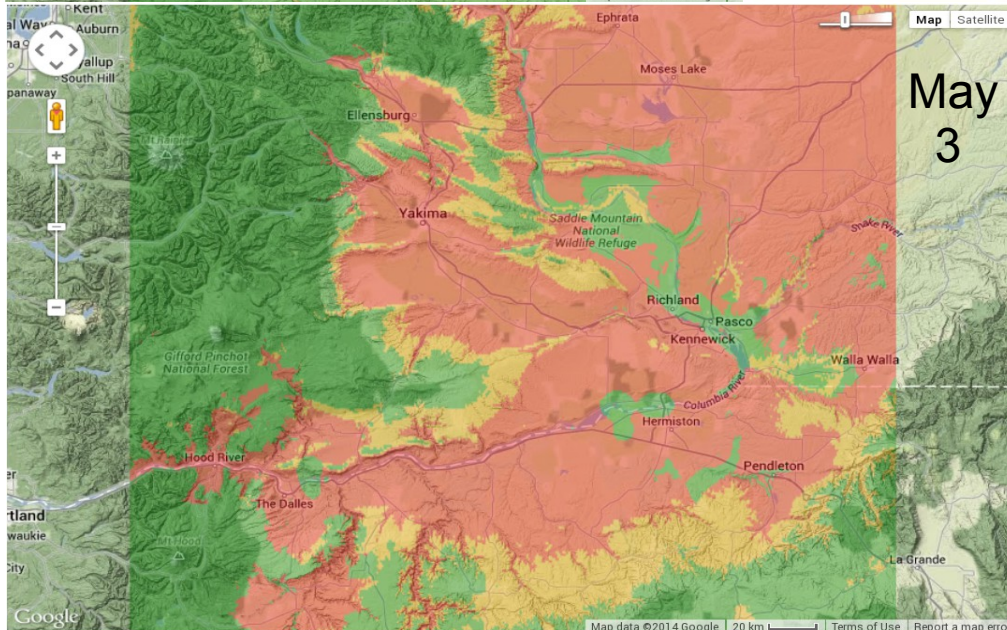
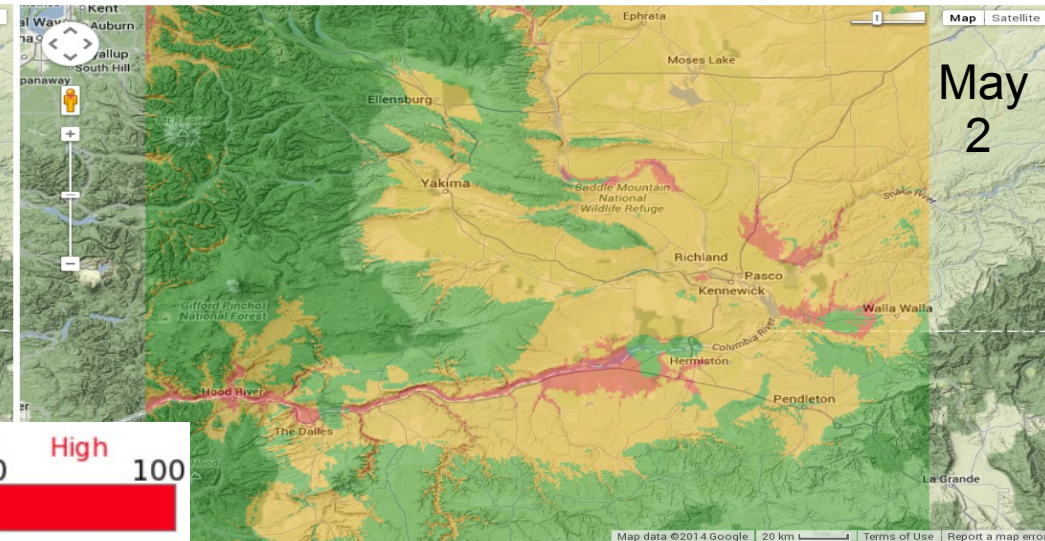
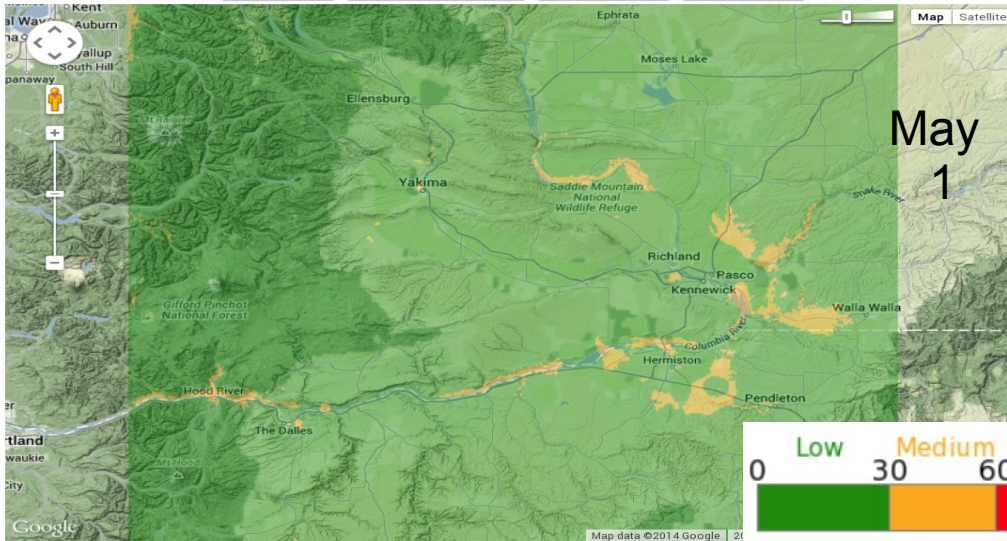
MyPest Page: Plant Disease Risk and Weather Maps for Selected Regions

Region: Columbia Basin

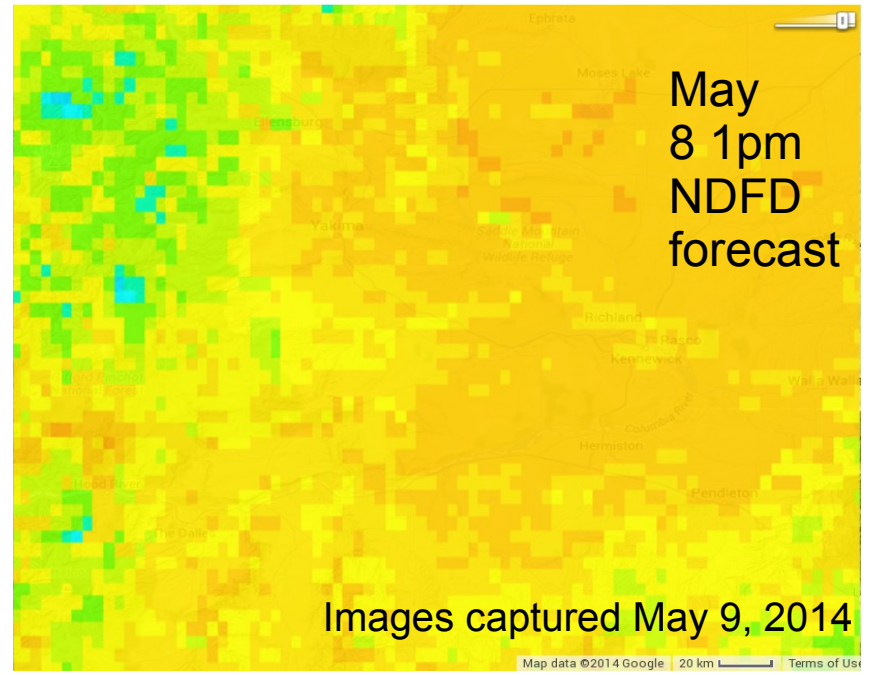
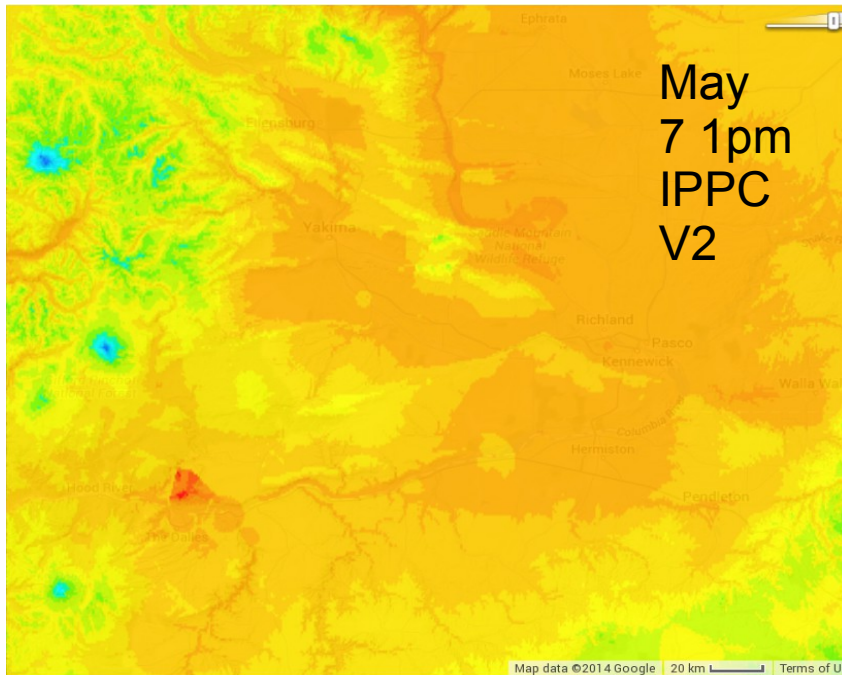
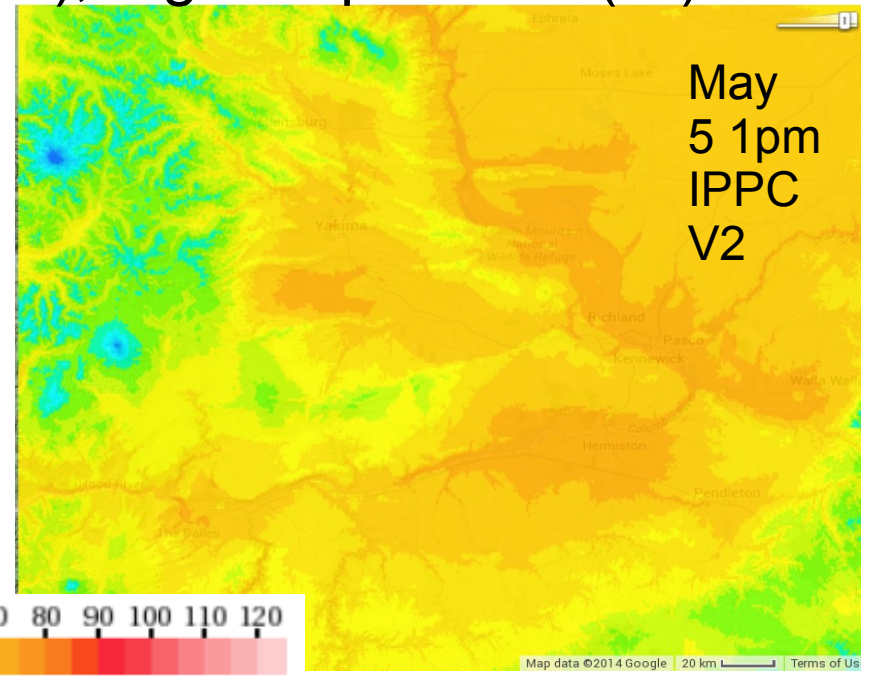
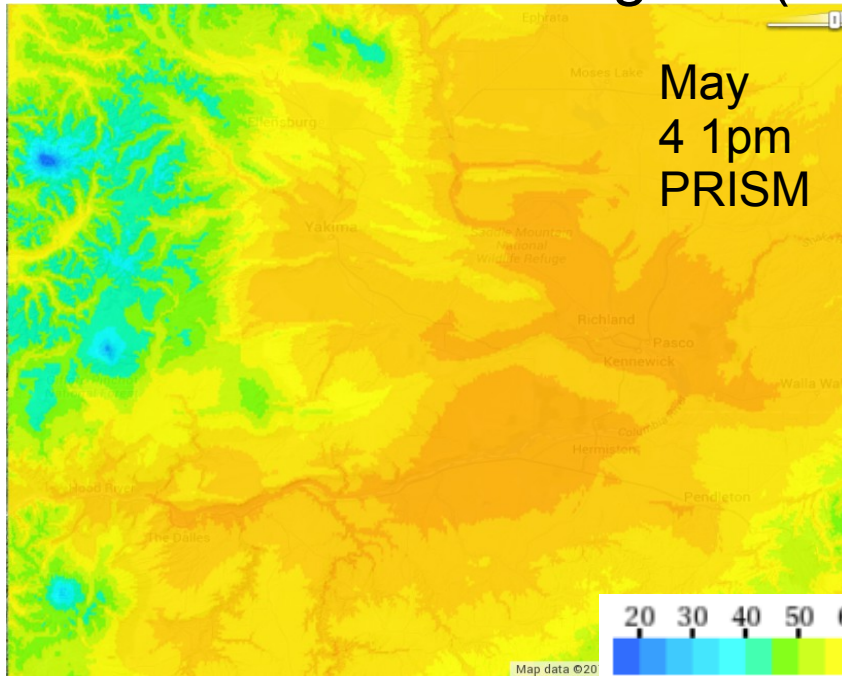
Temperature  Dew Point  Rel. Humidity  Precip  Windspeed  Leaf Wetness  
 Botrytis  GT Powdery Mildew  Hop Powdery Mildew  Tomato Potato Late Blight

2014050107

Thu 1-May-2014 07 am



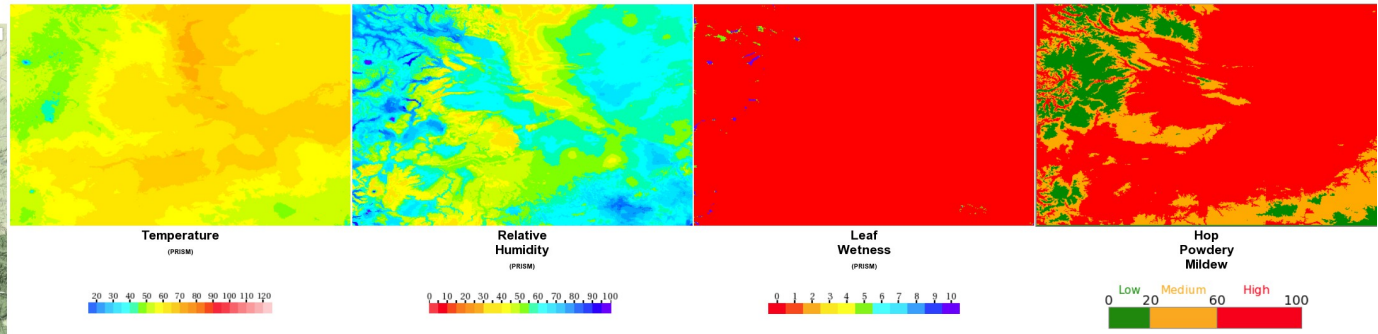
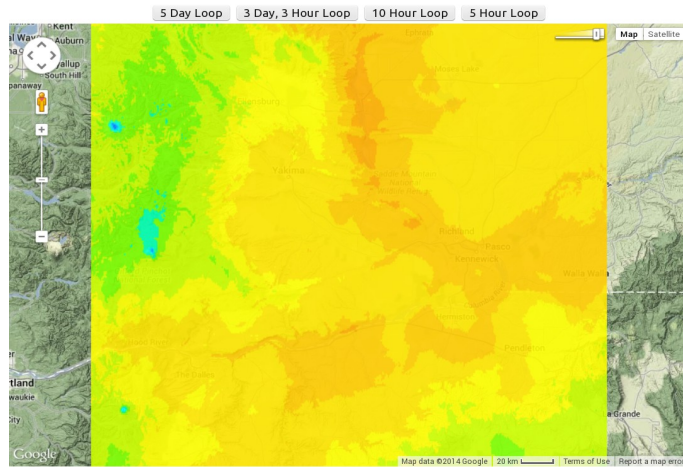
# Disease grids based on hourly PRISM (800m), IPPC V2 (800m) and NDFD forecast grids (2.5km), e.g. temperature (°F)



# PRISM (800m), IPPC V2 (800m) interpolated weather observations & NDFD gridded forecast (2.5km)

Fri 2-May-2014 07 am

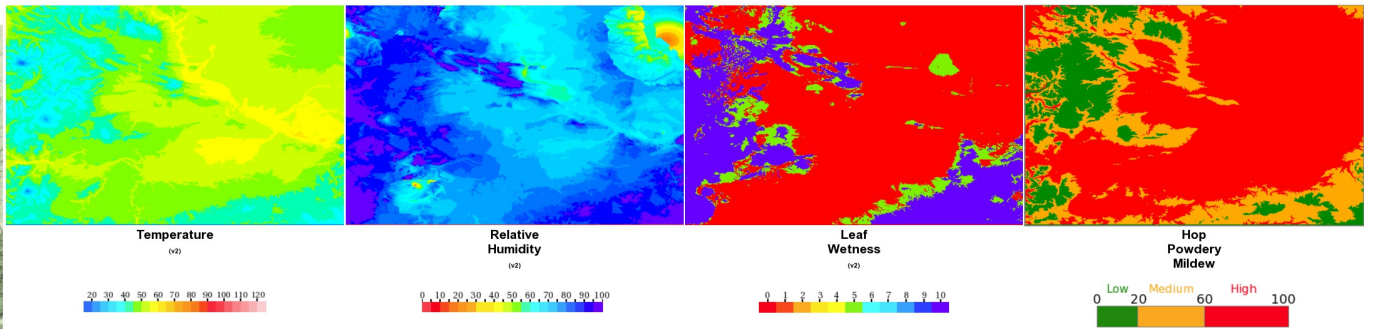
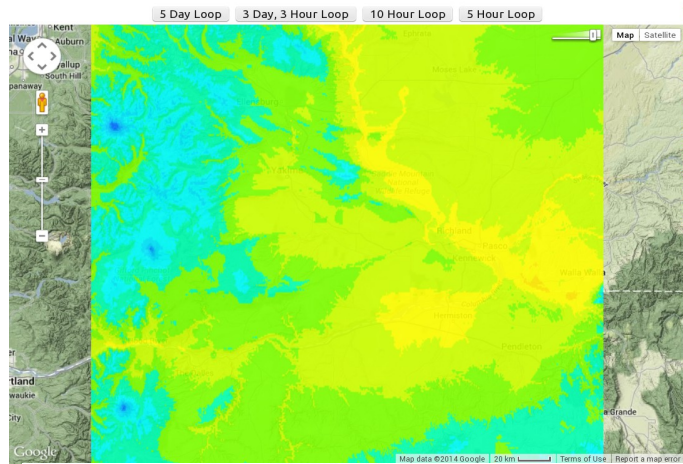
click on any image to overlay on left



## May 2 7am PRISM

Mon 5-May-2014 07 am

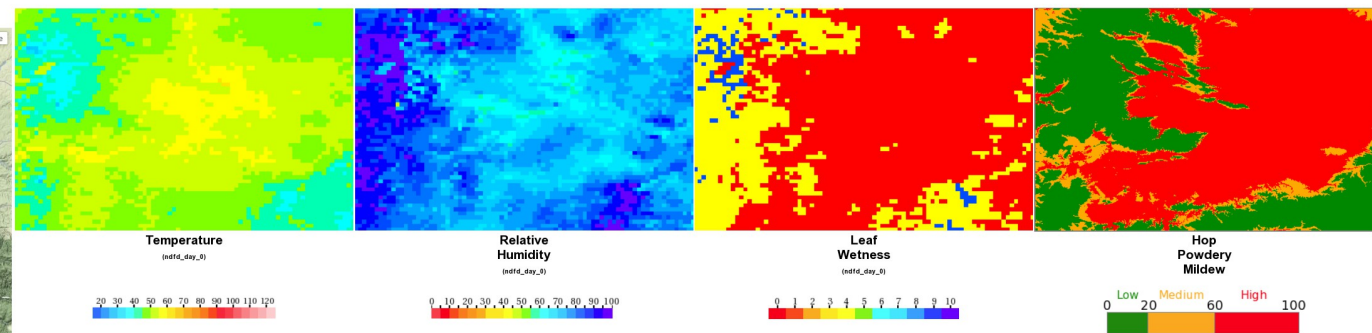
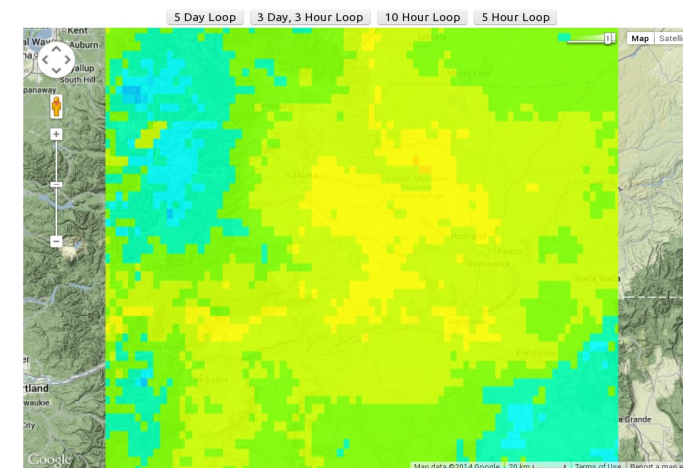
click on any image to overlay on left



## May 5 7am IPPC V2

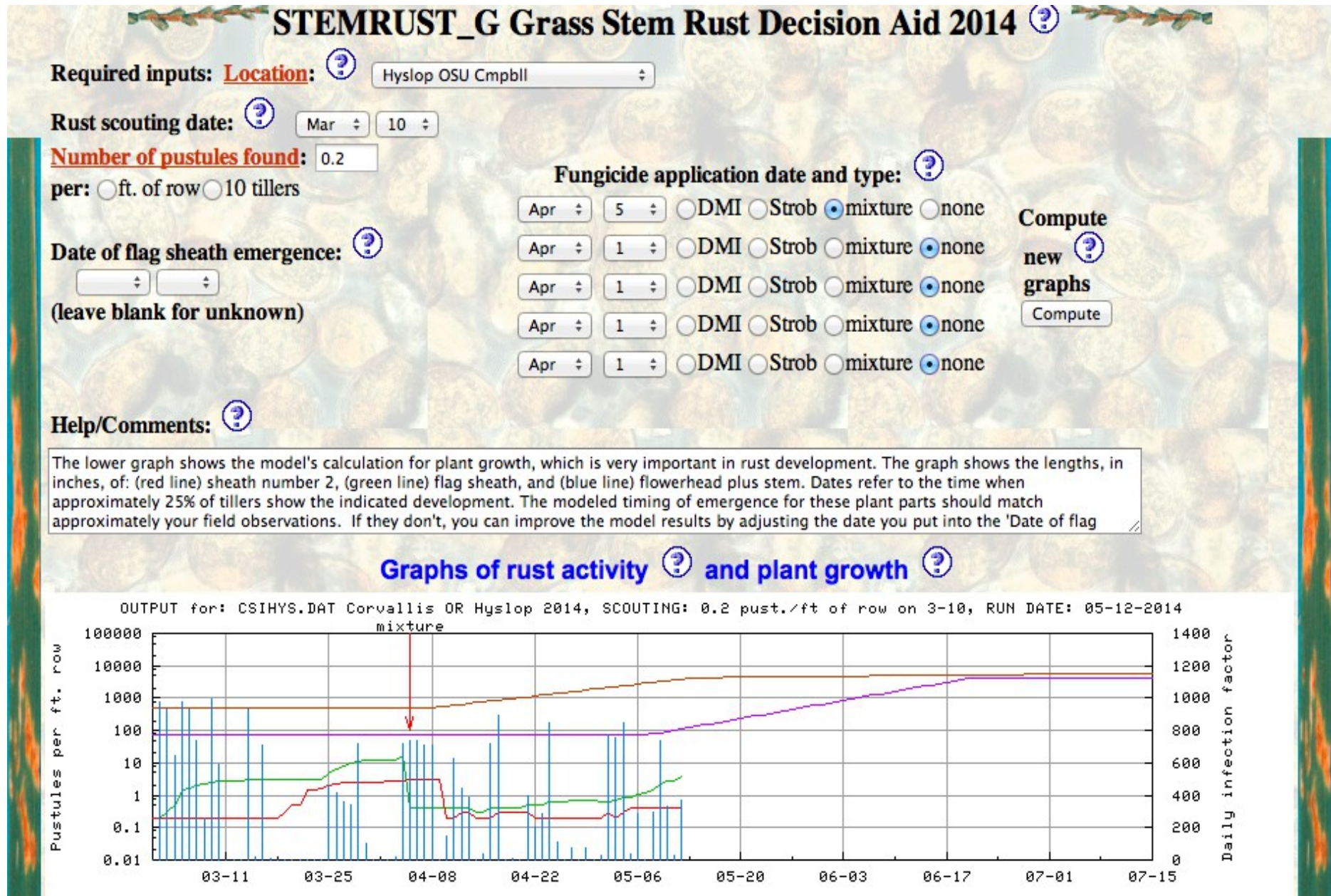
Thu 8-May-2014 07 am

click on any image to overlay on left



## May 8 7am NDFD forecast

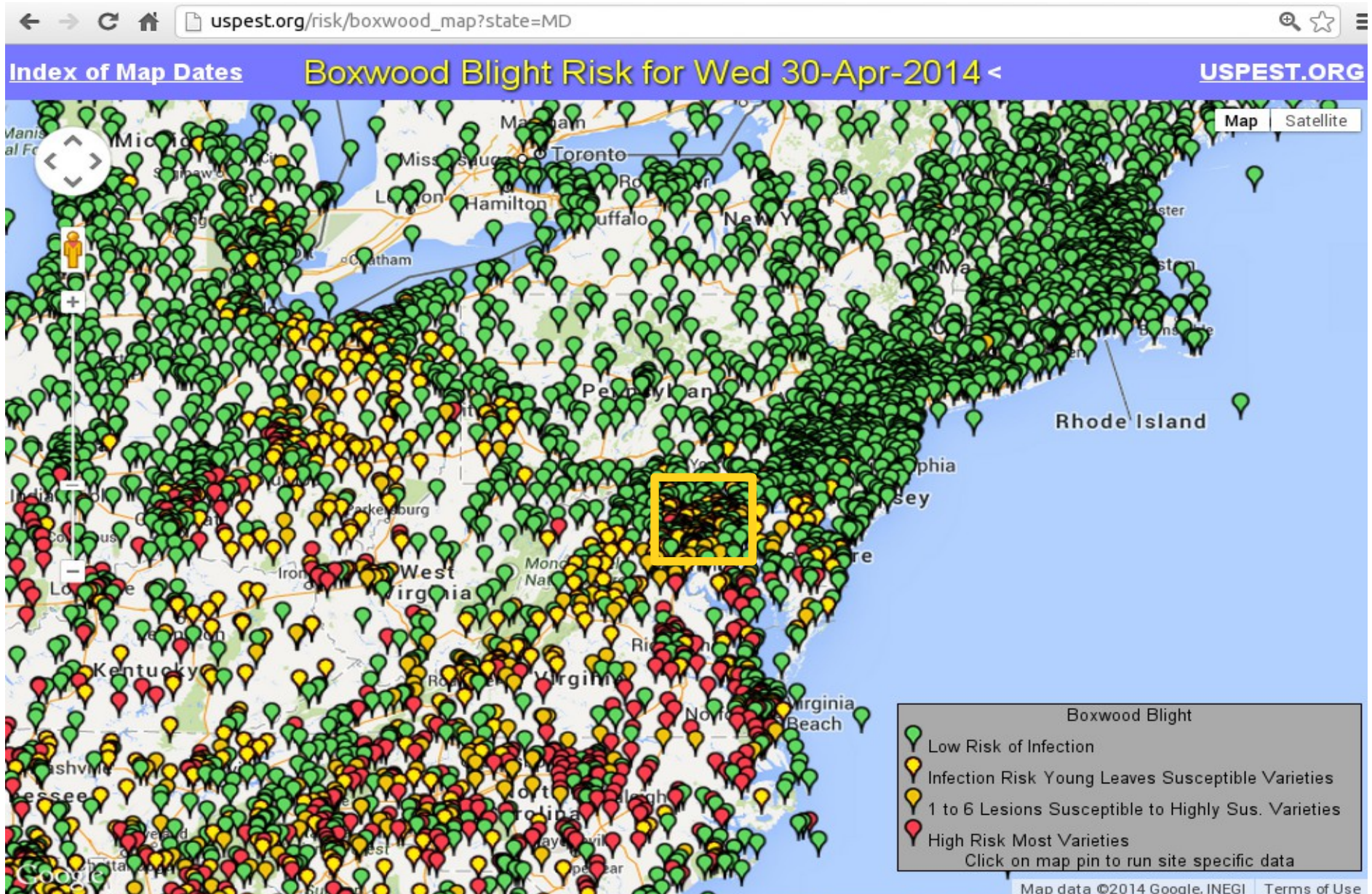
# Uspest.org Example Simulation model for epidemiology and management of a plant disease – model by Bill Pfender et al.





# Uspest.org Infection Risk Mapping

uspest.org/risk/boxwood\_map, zoom to local region

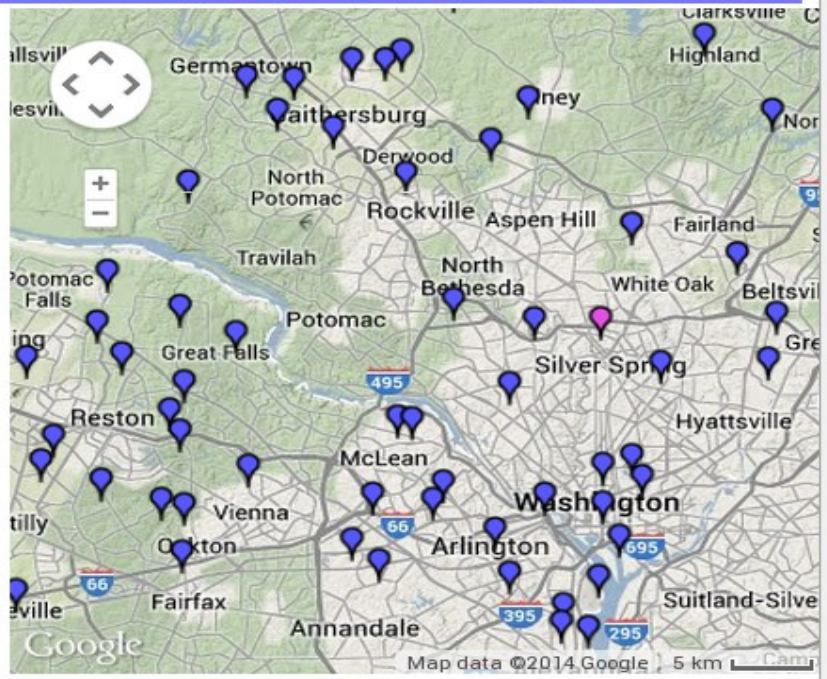
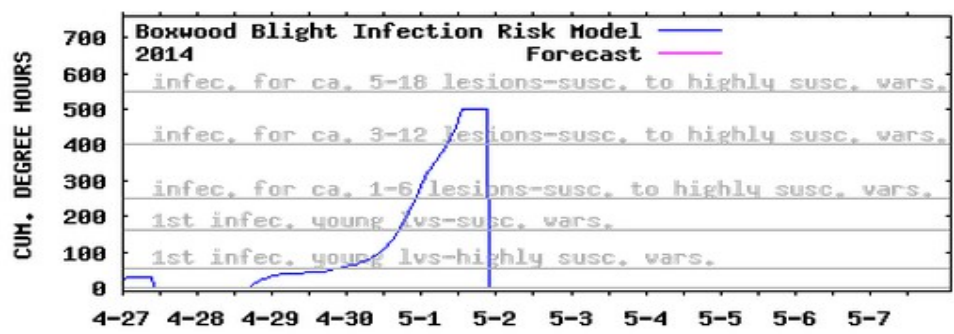
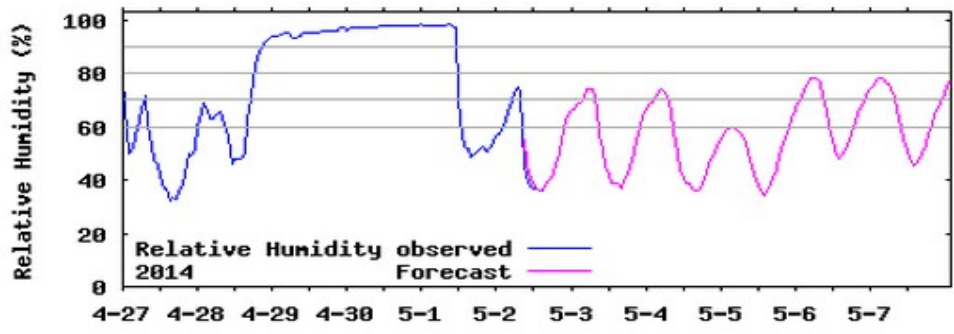
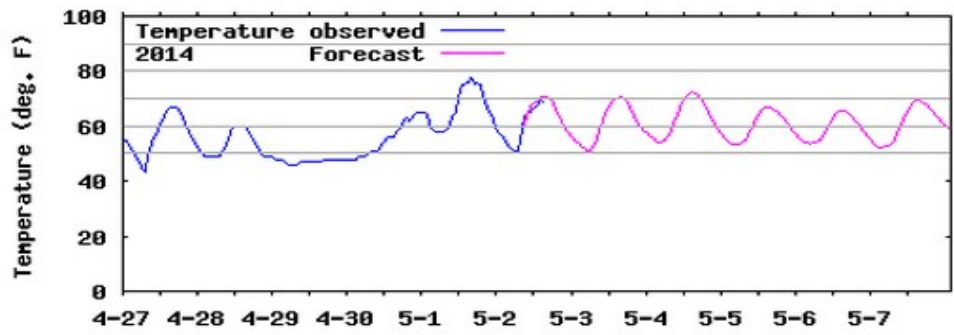




# Uspest.org Infection Risk Mapping → “MyPest Page” Model

click on Silver Spring (weather station D9421)  
 uspest.org/risk/models

**MyPest Page: Hourly Weather, Plant Disease Risk, and Degree-Day/Phenology Models** Home



lat=39

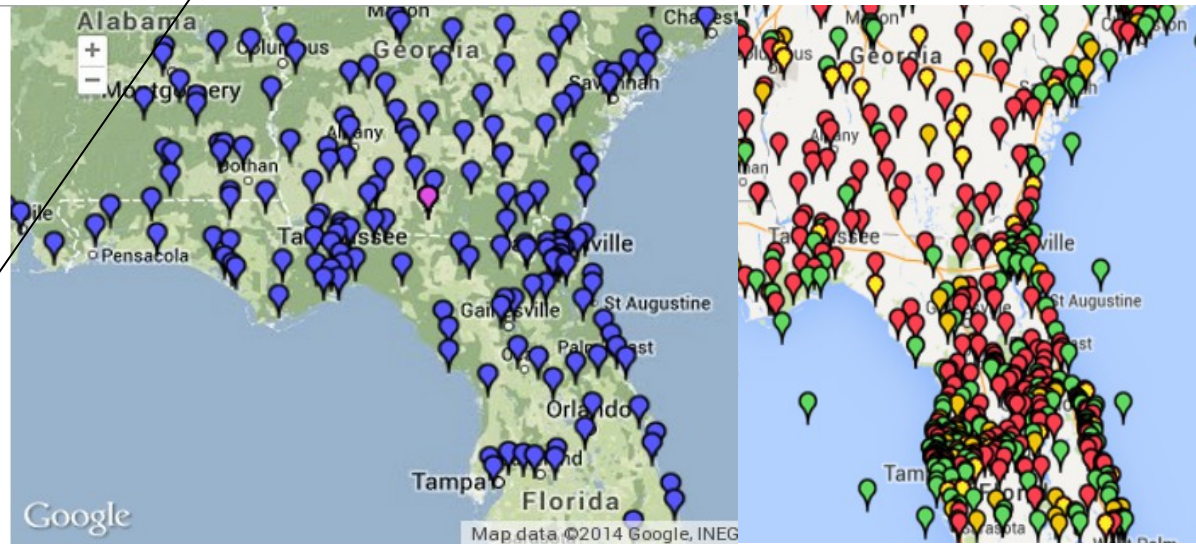
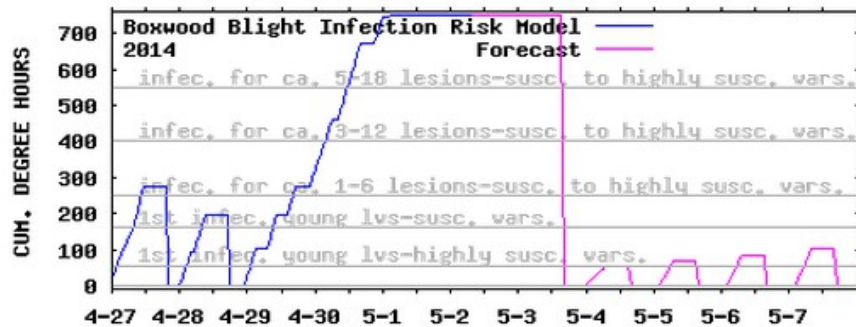
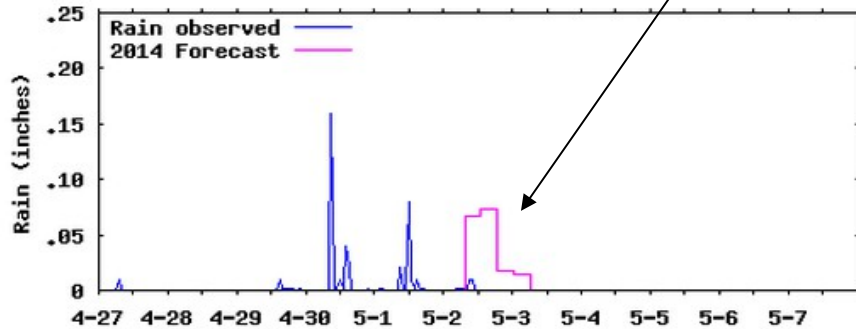
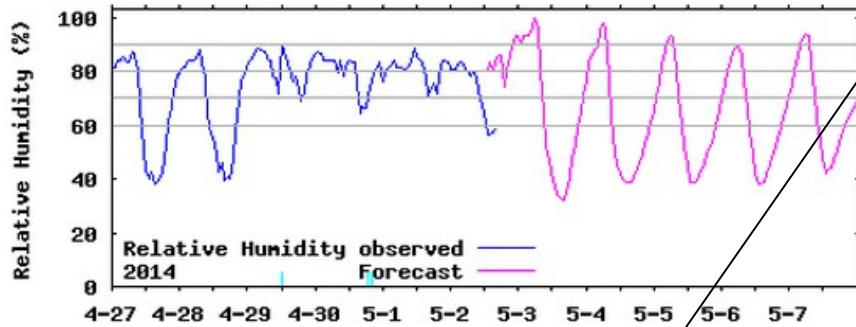
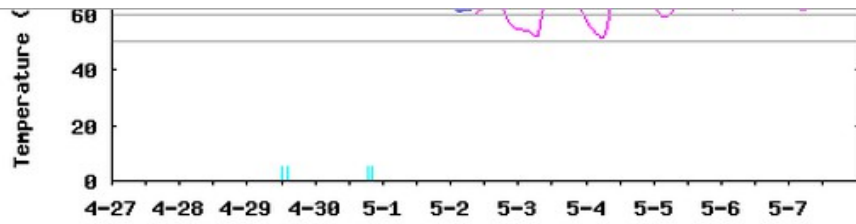
**D9421 APRSWXNET 39.0058 -77.0328**  
**2014 DW9421 Silver Spring MD elevation: 348'**

Refresh - click to reset display

- Display Dates
- Weather Parameters
- Plant Disease/Other Hourly Driven Models
  - Boxwood Blight Infection Risk
- Degree-day/Phenology Models
- Display Settings
- Download Data
- Display Data Table

Forecast Engine Info:  
 NDFD (hi-res)

# Uspest.org Infection Risk Model – high risk forecast S. Georgia



lat=27

**KVLD METAR 30.7831 -83.2831**  
**2014 Valdosta Reg Apt GA elevation: 203'**

Refresh - click to reset display

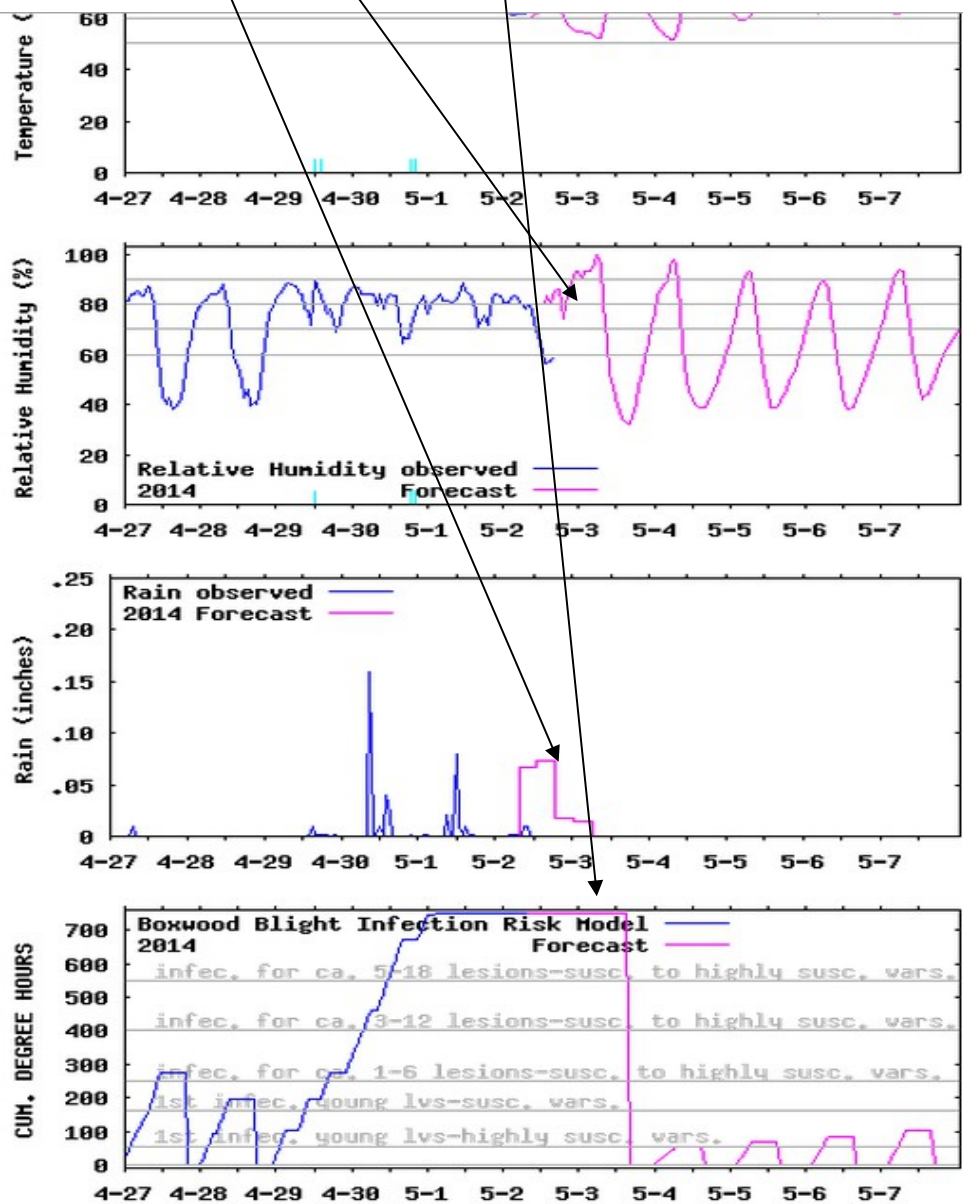
- Display Dates**
- Weather Parameters**
  - Temperature (°F)
  - Dew Point (°F)
  - Relative Humidity (%)
  - Wind Speed (mph)
  - Rain (inches)
  - Leaf Wetness** (0=dry, 10=wet)
- Plant Disease/Other Hourly Driven Models**
  - Boxwood Blight Infection Risk
- Degree-day/Phenology Models**
- Display Settings**

# Uspest.org Infection Risk Model – high risk S. Georgia

## National Weather Service NDFD forecast

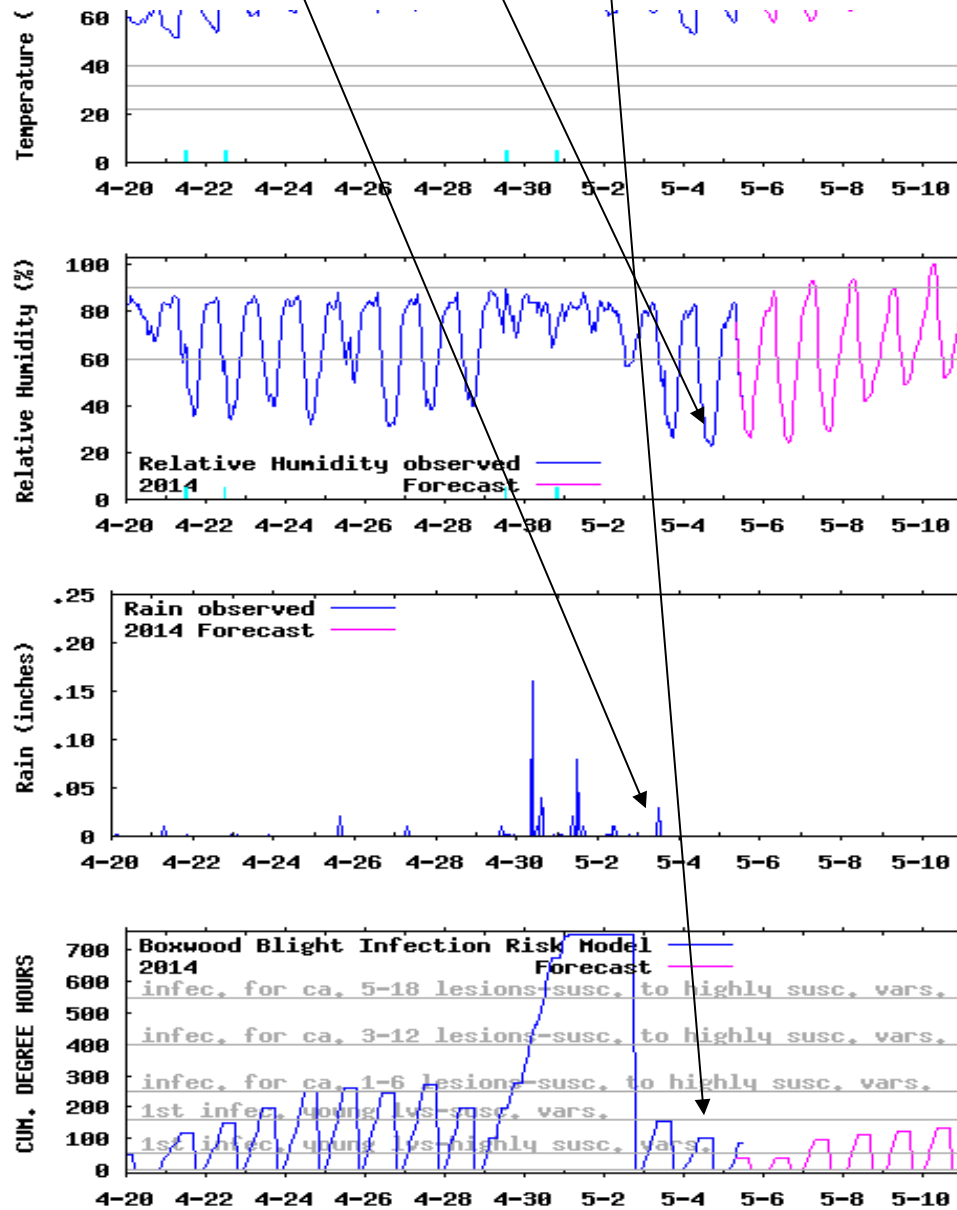
May 2 model run w/NDFD:

High: rainfall, RH, disease risk *forecast*



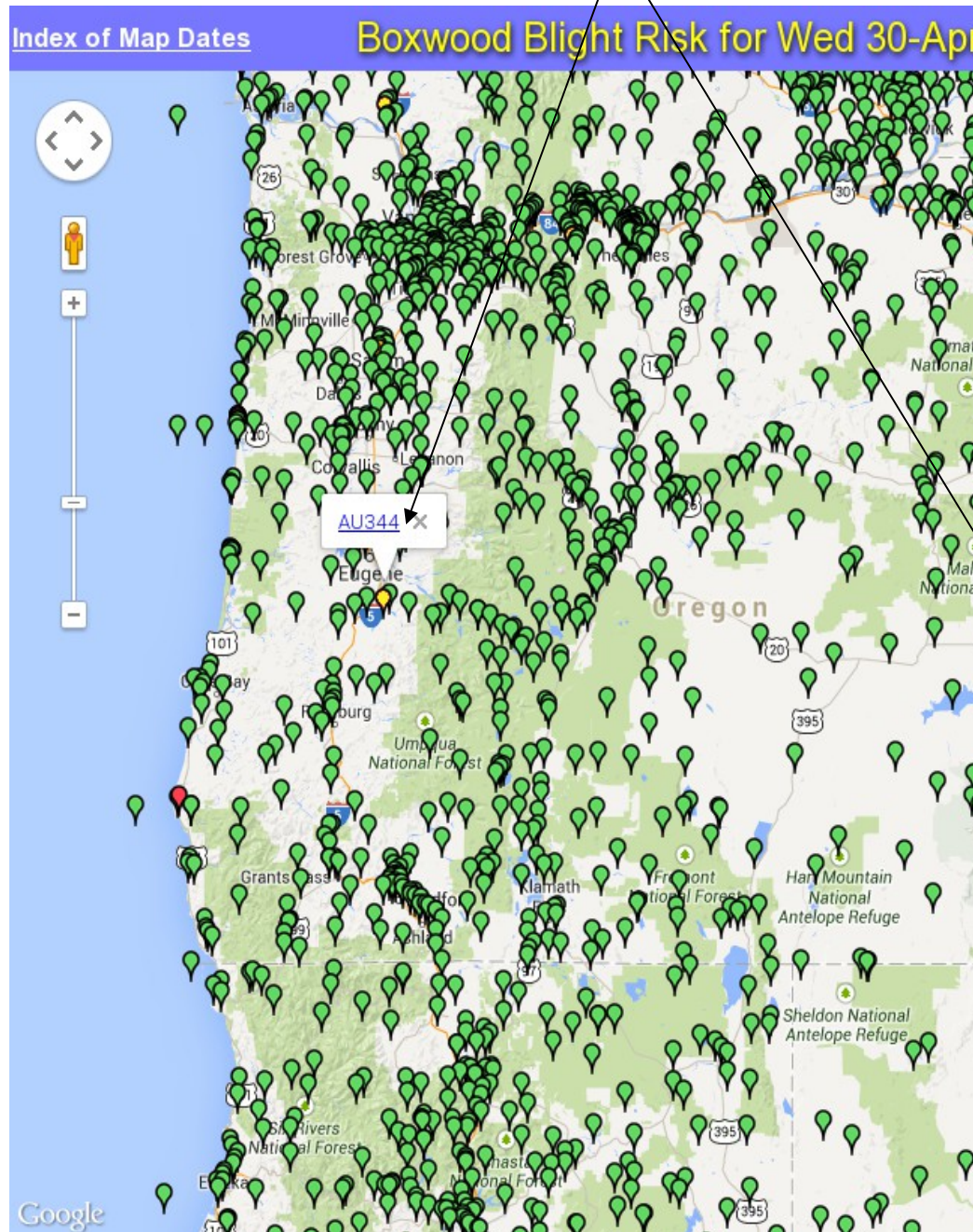
May 5 model run:

Low: rainfall, RH, disease risk *observed*

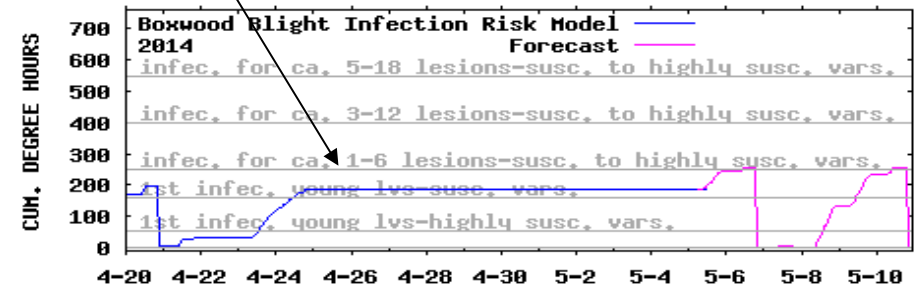
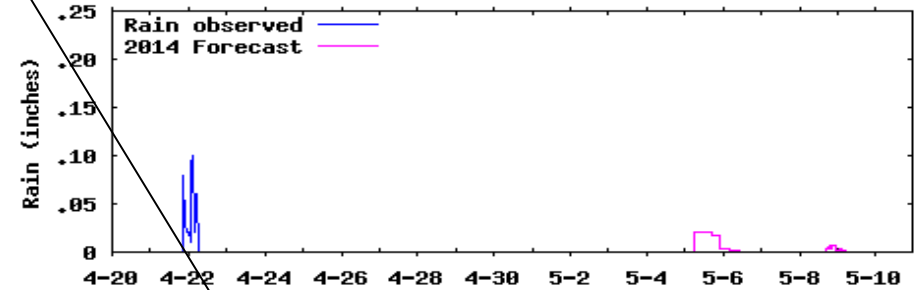
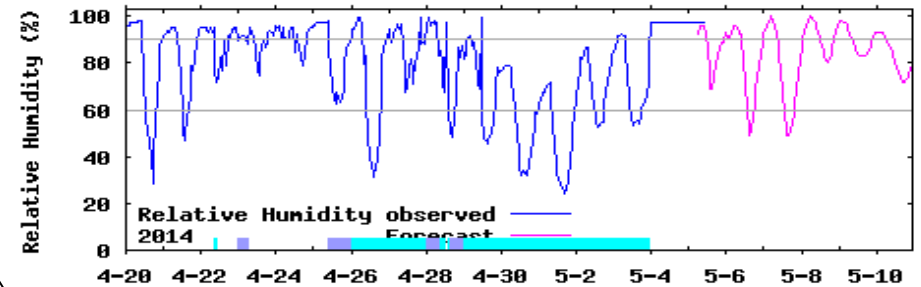
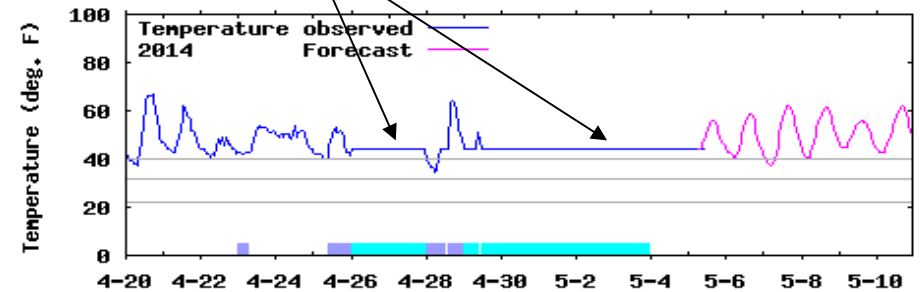


# Uspest.org Infection Risk Mapping/Modeling –data QA considerations

“moderate risk” shown

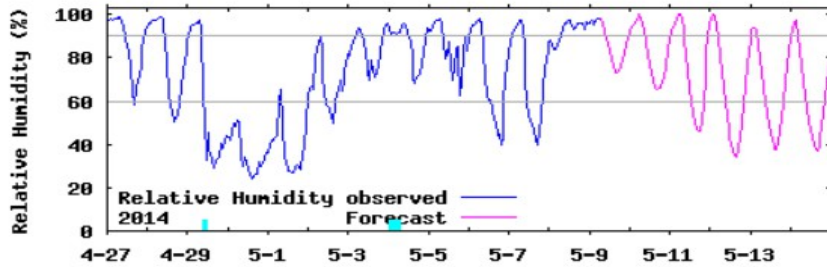


Temperature outage responsible

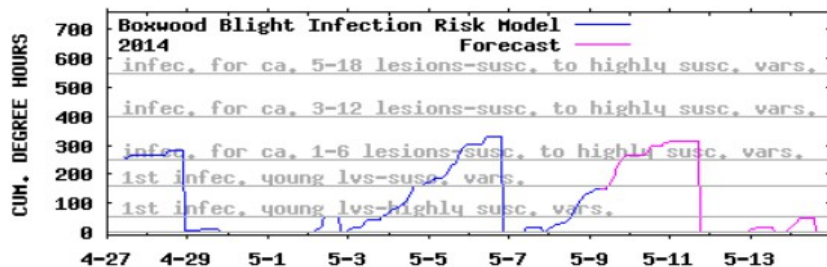
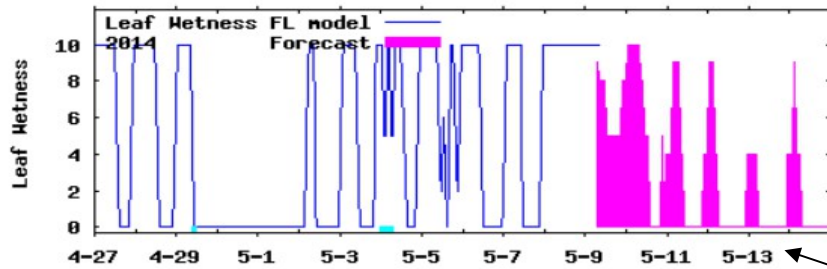
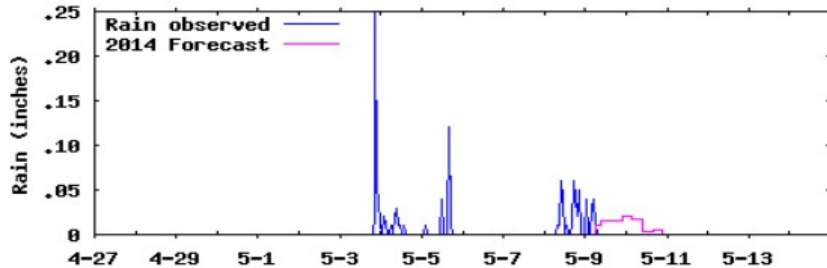


# Uspest.org Infection Risk – rainfall contributes to leaf wetness & risk Portland (Nursery is #1 commodity Oregon \$745m 2012)

Model run Friday May 9, 2014



lat= 45.44632 long= -122.592



**E1145 APRSWXNET 45.5328 -123.1447**  
**2014 EW1145 Forest Grove OR elevation: 262'**

**My Virtual Stations**

Refresh - click to reset display

**Display Dates**

**Weather Parameters**

- Temperature (°F)
- Dew Point (°F)
- Relative Humidity (%)
- Wind Speed (mph)
- Rain (inches)
- [Leaf Wetness](#) (0=dry, 10=wet)

**Plant Disease/Other Hourly Driven Models**

Boxwood Blight Infection Risk

**Degree-day/Phenology Models**

**Display Settings**

Download Data

Display Data Table

Leaf wetness calculated using Iowa State (Kim et al 2004, 2005, 2010) Fuzzy Logic algorithm with addition of rainfall wetness

Forecast Engine Info:  
NDFD (lo-res)

# Uspest.org Infection Risk – click on plot for pop-up table

**Boxwood Blight Infection Risk Model** run on  
 Fri 9-May-2014  
 Index calculated: 12pm ▾ local time Refresh  
 Location: E1145 OR [Model Details](#)  
 QA Temperature 50% ok, Dew point 50% ok

Date	Hr	Index	Risk
4/27/14	12pm	254	infect. for ca. 1-6 lesions-susc. to highly susc. vars.
4/28/14	12pm	272	infect. for ca. 1-6 lesions-susc. to highly susc. vars.
4/29/14	12pm	9	Low risk of new infections
4/30/14	12pm	0	Low risk of new infections
5/1/14	12pm	0	Low risk of new infections
5/2/14	12pm	53	Low risk of new infections
5/3/14	12pm	45	Low risk of new infections
5/4/14	12pm	125	1st infect. young lvs-highly susc. vars.
5/5/14	12pm	213	1st infect. young lvs-susc. vars.
5/6/14	12pm	332	infect. for ca. 1-6 lesions-susc. to highly susc. vars.
5/7/14	12pm	17	Low risk of new infections
5/8/14	12pm	47	Low risk of new infections
<b>Forecast Data:</b>			
5/9/14	12pm	179	1st infect. young lvs-susc. vars.
5/10/14	12pm	270	infect. for ca. 1-6 lesions-susc. to highly susc. vars.
5/11/14	12pm	0	Low risk of new infections
5/12/14	12pm	13	Low risk of new infections
5/13/14	12pm	28	Low risk of new infections
5/14/14	12pm	49	Low risk of new infections



# Summary Points for Modeling Boxwood Blight (Vers 1.0) :

## Questions remain:

Lower temp. threshold: 46F (7.78C) <-- 1. Need research on this

Upper temp. threshold: 85F (29.4C) <-- 2. Need research on this

Under high humidity/rainfall/leaf wetness conditions, at temperatures above 46F and below ca. 85F, if inoculum is present and you have susceptible hosts, infection is likely to occur with sufficient time as measured using degree-hours (DH).

No. of dry hours to stop the infection cycle: more than 8.0

## 3. Need research on this

DHs to first infection of young leaves (highly susc. Var.): 56

DHs to first infection of young leaves (susc. Var.): 160

## 4. Should we build a separate model with a lower threshold for young leaves?

DHs for infection resulting in: 6 lesions, highly susc. Var., 1 lesion, susc. Var: 250

DHs for infection resulting in: 12 lesions, highly susc. Var., 3 lesions, susc. Var: 400

DHs for infection resulting in: 18 lesions, highly susc. Var., 5 lesions, susc. Var: 550

## 5. Should we build a separate model with a higher threshold for mature leaves?

## What's next for Boxwood Blight infection risk/other models:

### Questions remain:

**Model assumptions:** 1. Spores from microsclerotia generally require rainfall to spread and initiate the infection process, thus the model conservatively does not require rainfall events, as spores may also be present from existing lesions.

**6. Should we study type of rain drops in spore dissemination?**

**7. Does Oregon drizzle count as rain?**

2. The model should reflect a range of infection conditions most likely to occur in typical N. America climates; it was adjusted to reflect needs in the humid mid-latitudes (such as NC, VA, WV, PA, and MD).

**8. How do we design the model to be as robust as possible?**

3. These results reflect work performed on one highly susceptible (English boxwood) and one susceptible (American boxwood) variety; lower infection risk levels would be expected for less susceptible varieties.

**9. To what extent do we need more work on varieties with different levels of susceptibility?**

**10. Are there other types of models (establishment risk, overwintering survival, short and long distance spore dissemination, other types of risk, management including fungicidal residual activity) that we should be focusing on?**

**Low hanging fruit vs. research grant proposals...**