

Is Biology Winning the Battle Against Phytophthora Root Rot of Soybean?

Dean Malvick, University of Minnesota

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Advanced Crop Advisors Workshop...Fargo....January 2024





Topics for this session

What is *Phytophthora* root rot and what causes it
How does the disease develop, symptoms, and diagnosis
What methods are established and new methods to detect and identify
different pathotypes of *P. sojae*
Management of *Phytophthora* root rot

Phytophthora root rot of soybean

Phytophthora sojae & *P. sansomeana* - oomycetes (water molds)
soybean plants at all growth stages.
oogonium survives in the soil for years
Phytophthora rot is associated with warm and saturated soils
Phytophthora sojae exists as different pathotypes



Phytophthora sansomeana

Appears not as common as *P. sojae*? (as far as we know)

- Infects soybean and corn
- Occurs across the Midwest

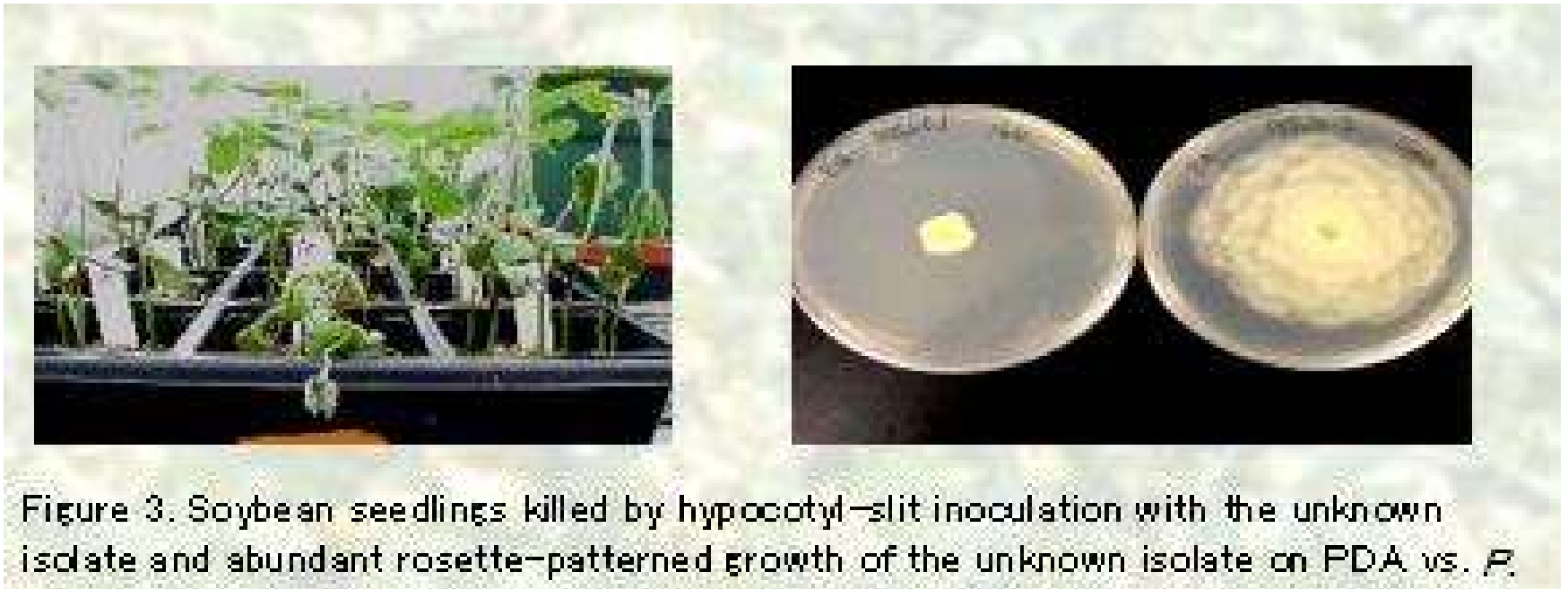


Figure 3. Soybean seedlings killed by hypocotyl-slit inoculation with the unknown isolate and abundant rosette-patterned growth of the unknown isolate on PDA vs. *P.*

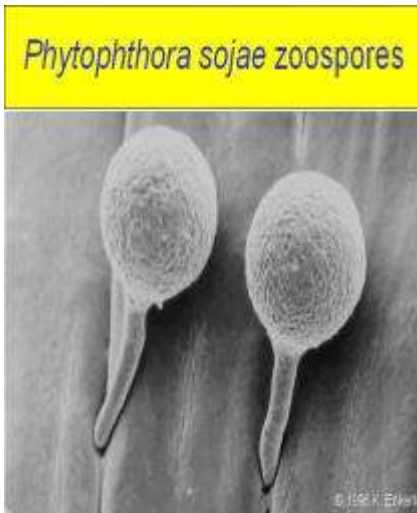
***Pytophthora* is related to the Oomycete *Pythium*
rot on Soybean. Typically favored by wet, cool soil**



The Pathogen

Oomycetes, such as *Phytophthora sojae*, are organisms which were once classified in the Kingdom of Fungi, but which are now considered to be more closely related to the Protista.

Oospores of *P. sojae*

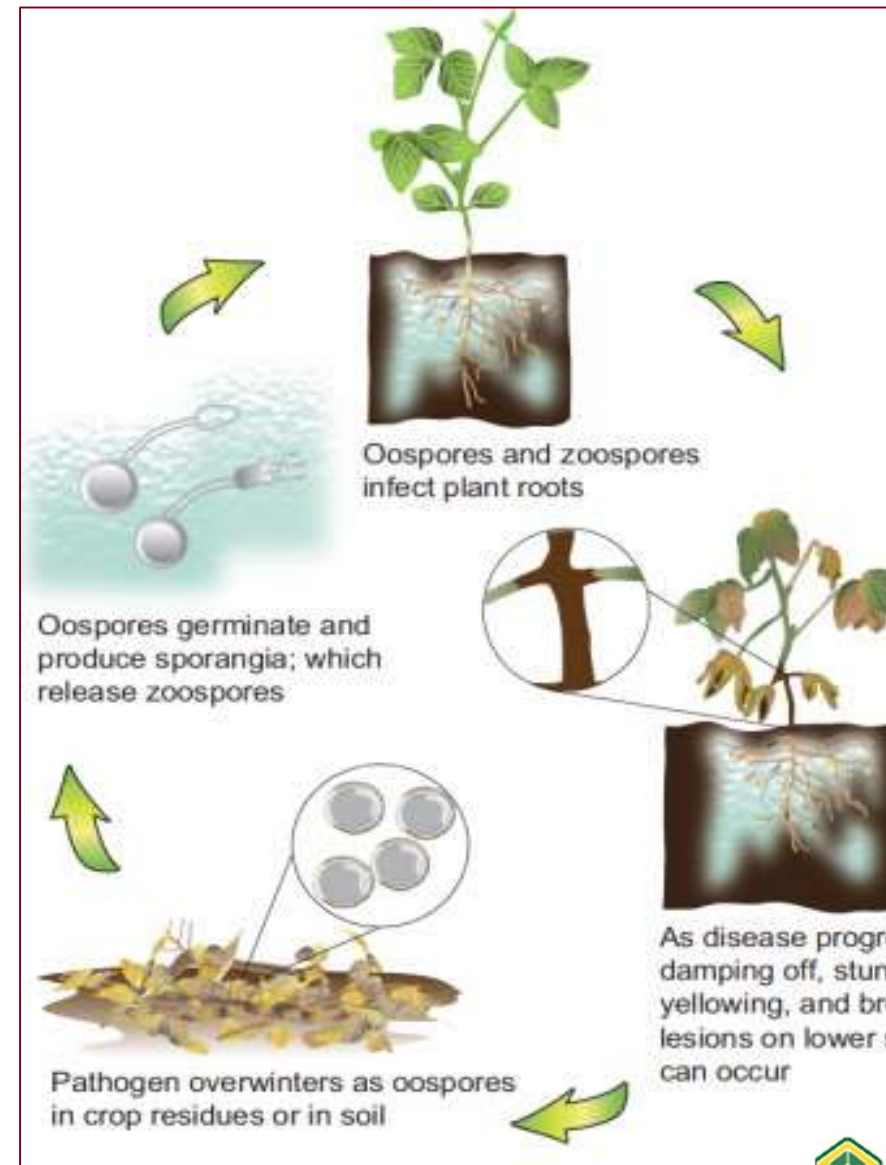


Enkerli, Univ. of GA



Zoosporangia of *P. sojae*

Schmitthenner, OSU



Phytophthora root and stem rot disease cycle.

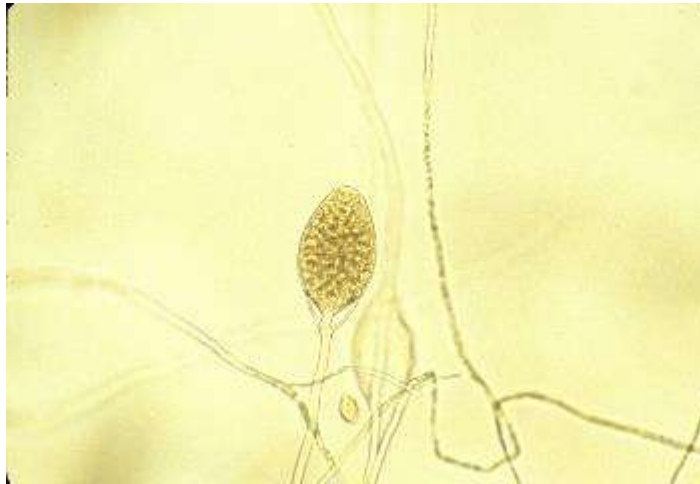
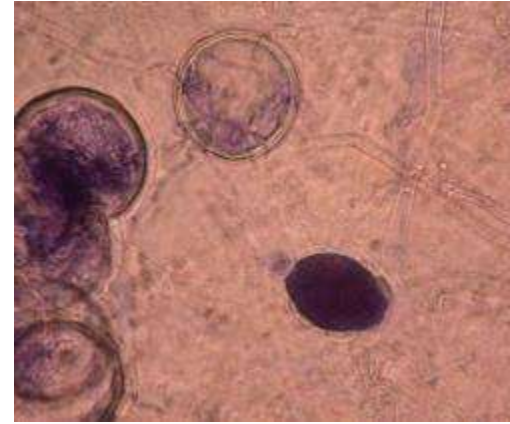


Phytophthora rot of soybean

Disease Cycle

Survives as oospores in soil

Oospores germinate in spring (60 F)



Plasmodia release zoospores when soil is flooded
Zoospores are attracted to roots and swim to them
Zoospores attach to root surface and penetrate

Phytophthora sojae exists as different pathotypes

Pathotypes (vs races) of *P. sojae*

What is a pathotype?

Defined based on which Rps genes are overcome in differential soybean varieties with different Rps genes (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1k, 3a, 6 and 7)

For pathotype, the Rps genes that are overcome are reported.

Especially valuable in areas (most) where mixed types occur.

Examples:

Race 25

Pathotype: 1a,1b,1c,1k,7

Mix of races 3, 25, 41

Pathotype: 1a,1b,1c,1d,1k,7

Phytophthora sojae: Races and Pathotypes

What is a race vs. pathotype

- Defined based on which Rps genes are overcome in differential soybean varieties with 8 different Rps genes (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1k, 3a, 6 and 7)

- Examples of races

Race 3: overcomes Rps 1b and 7

Race 25: overcomes Rps 1a, 1b, 1c, 1k and 7

Race 30: overcomes Rps 1a, 1b, 1k, 3a, 6, 7

Race 41: overcomes Rps 1a, 1b, 1d, 1k and 7

Race 54: overcomes Rps 1d and 7

Phytophthora Survey Projects

Objectives: determine races/pathotypes of *Phytophthora sojae* in a region and evaluate different sources of resistance

Approach: collect soil and plant samples; isolate *P. sojae*, and test race/pathotype via greenhouse or lab. tests

Outcomes

Race/pathotype distribution

Resistance efficacy – include Rps8

New Phytoph. sp.

Partial resistance/tolerance evaluations

Resistance to Phytophthora: Rps Resistance

Established method to determine resistance and pathotypes

Isolate pathogen from plants or soil, then grow in lab

Seedlings (5-7 days old) are inoculated through wound in stem

Seedlings kept in moist conditions for 12-18 hr

Seedlings rated susceptible or resistant 7-10 d later



New method(s) to test for pathotype: extract pathogen DNA (from infected plant or soil) and test with DNA method (e.g., AYOS)

A recently-developed molecular method designed to efficiently and accurately identify *P. sojae* variants

97% accuracy rate when compared to a modified plant inoculation method

Discriminant haplotypes of avirulence genes of *Phytophthora sojae* lead to a molecular assay to predict phenotypes

Chloé Dussault-Benoit¹ | Geneviève Arsenault-Labrecque¹ | Humira Sonah^{1,2} | François Belzile¹ | Richard R. Bélanger¹ 

Molecular Assessment of Pathotype Diversity of *Phytophthora sojae* in Canada Highlights Declining Sources of Resistance in Soybean

Vanessa Tremblay,¹ Debra L. McLaren,² Yong Min Kim,² Stephen E. Strelkov,³ Robert L. Conner,⁴ Owen Wally,⁵ and Richard R. Bélanger^{1,*}

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Stable predictive markers for *Phytophthora sojae* avirulence genes that impair infection of soybean uncovered by whole genome sequencing of 31 isolates



Geneviève Arsenault-Labrecque¹, Humira Sonah¹, Armandine LeBreton¹, Caroline Laboué¹, Geneviève Marchand², Allen Xue³, François Belzile¹, Brian J. Kraus⁴, Niklaus J. Grünwald⁴ and Richard R. Bélanger¹ 

Mutations in the Promoter and Coding Regions of *Avr3a* Cause Gain of Virulence of *Phytophthora sojae* to *Rps3a* in Soybean

Yanhong Hu, Zhilua He, Yebin Kang and Linkai Cui*

College of Horticulture and Plant Protection, Hebei University of Science and Technology, Tangshan, China

Phytophthora Root Rot

Symptoms and Identification



- **Seedling death**
- **Stunting**
- **Premature wilting**
- **Development of dark brown lesion creeping up from soil**

Disease Symptoms and Identification



- **Seedling death**
- **Stunting**
- **Premature wilting**
- **Development of dark brown lesion creeping up from soil line**

Phytophthora Root Rot risk factors

- Varieties without major resistance genes: Rps1K, Rps1c, Rps6, or Rps3
- Varieties with low tolerance (partial resistance)
- Poor soil drainage
- Frequent rainfall in the first month after planting
- Warm wet soil for extended periods
- History of disease in field

Phytophthora rot of soybean: Management

Ideally: plant in well-drained locations

Choose varieties with Rps genes that are effective against specific pathotypes

Treat seed with specific ‘fungicides’ (‘oomycicides’)

In the long run, the best varieties may have partial resistance (tolerance) combined with specific Rps resistance

Soil Drainage to Reduce Phytoph RR



Figure 6. Saturated fields can significantly increase the chances of Phytoph incidence.

Improve soil drainage & reduce compaction to eliminate/reduce flooding

Phytoph zoospores are produced only when soil is saturated

Fields that are not saturated early in the season, they may escape disease

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Advanced Search About OSU Extension

Phytophthora Damping-off and Root Rot of Soybean

Dana Martin, Research Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University
Dr. Anne E. Dorrance, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University

Seed treatments for Managing Phytophthora Root Rot



Fungicide Efficacy for Control of Soybean Seedling Diseases (05/2023)

Efficacy categories:

P=Poor; F=Fair; G=Good; VG=Very Good; E=Excellent;
 NL=Not Labeled for use against this disease; NR=Not Recommended;
 U=Unknown efficacy or insufficient data to rank product

Fungicide active ingredient	Pythium spp. ¹	Phytophthora	Rhizoctonia spp.	Fusarium spp. ^{1,2}	Sudden death syndrome (SDS) <i>Fusarium virguliforme</i>	Ascochyta spp.
Azoxystrobin	P-G	NL	VG	F-G	NR	P
Carboxin	U	U	G	U	NR	U
Ethaboxam	E	E	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fludioxonil	NR	NR	G	F-VG	NR	G
Fluopyram	NR	NR	NR	NR	VG	NR
Fluxapyroxad	U	U	E	G	NR	G
Iproconazole	P	NR	F-G	F-E	NR	G
Mefenoxam	E ²	E	NR	NR	NR	NR
Metalaxyl	E ²	E	NR	NR	NR	NR
Oxathiapiprolin	P-G	E	NR	NR	NR	NR
PCNB	NR	NR	G	U	NR	G
Penflufen	NR	NR	G	G	NR	G
Prothioconazole	NR	NR	G	G	NR	G
Pydiflumetofen	NS	NS	NS	NS	VG	NS
Pyraclostrobin	P-G	NR	F-G	F	NR	G
Sedaxane	NR	NR	E	NS	NR	G
Thiabendazole	NR	NR	NS	NS	P	G
Trifloxystrobin	P	P	F-E	F-G	NR	P-F

¹ Products may vary in efficacy against different *Fusarium* and *Pythium* species.

² Areas with mefenoxam or metalaxyl insensitive populations may see less efficacy with these products.

³ Listed seed treatments do not have efficacy against *Fusarium virguliforme*, causal agent of sudden death syndrome.

https://cropprotectionnetwork.s3.amazonaws.com/cpn10/cidefficacysoybeanseedling_2023.pdf

Qps Genes and Field Tolerance

Qps Genes

Single genes

Effective against specific
races

Correct combinations
prevent disease

Resistance can easily break
down

Field Tolerance

- Multiple genes
- Does not depend on *P. sojae*
races
- Allows for reduced disease
development, but not
complete
- Durable resistance

Deployment of Resistance

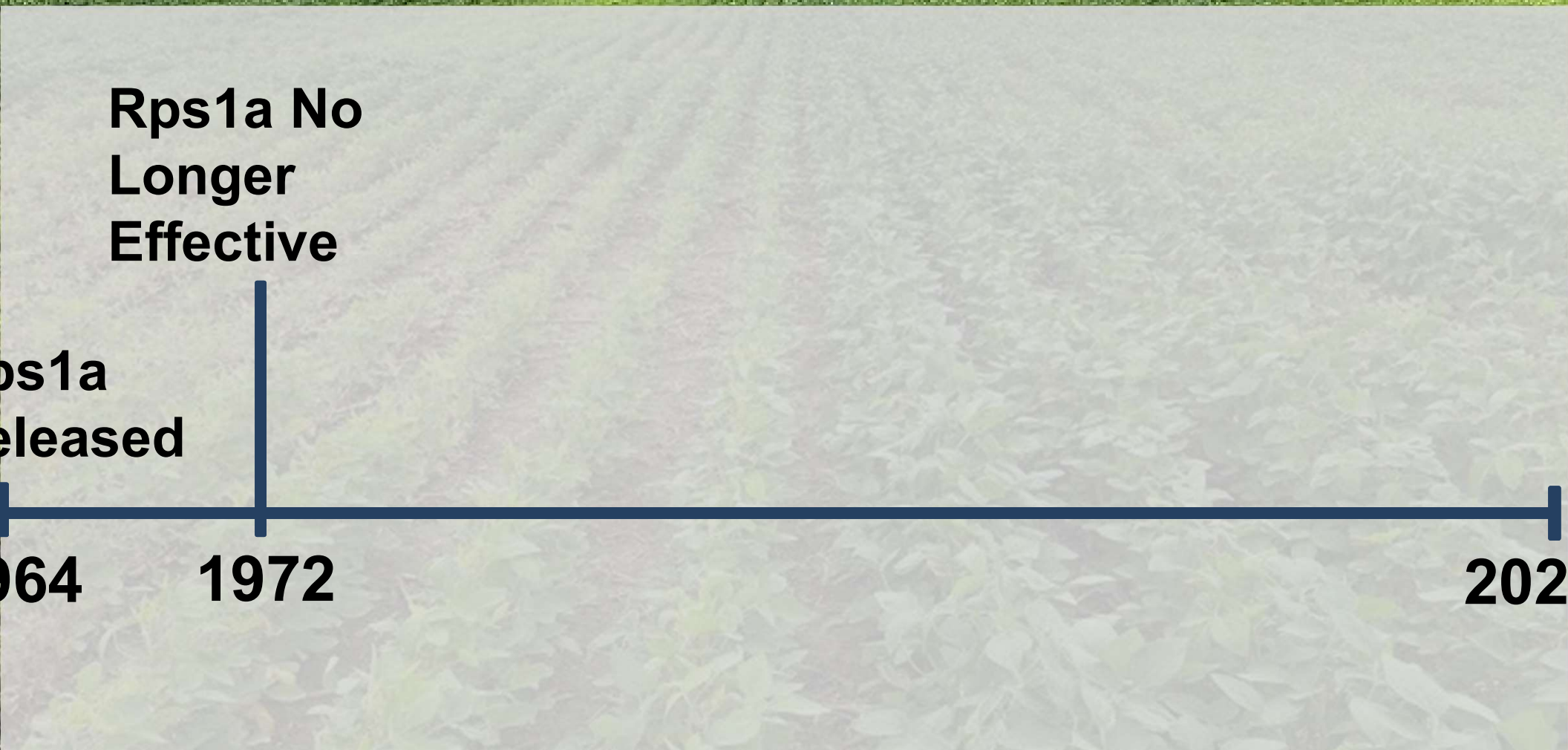
pos1a
released

1964

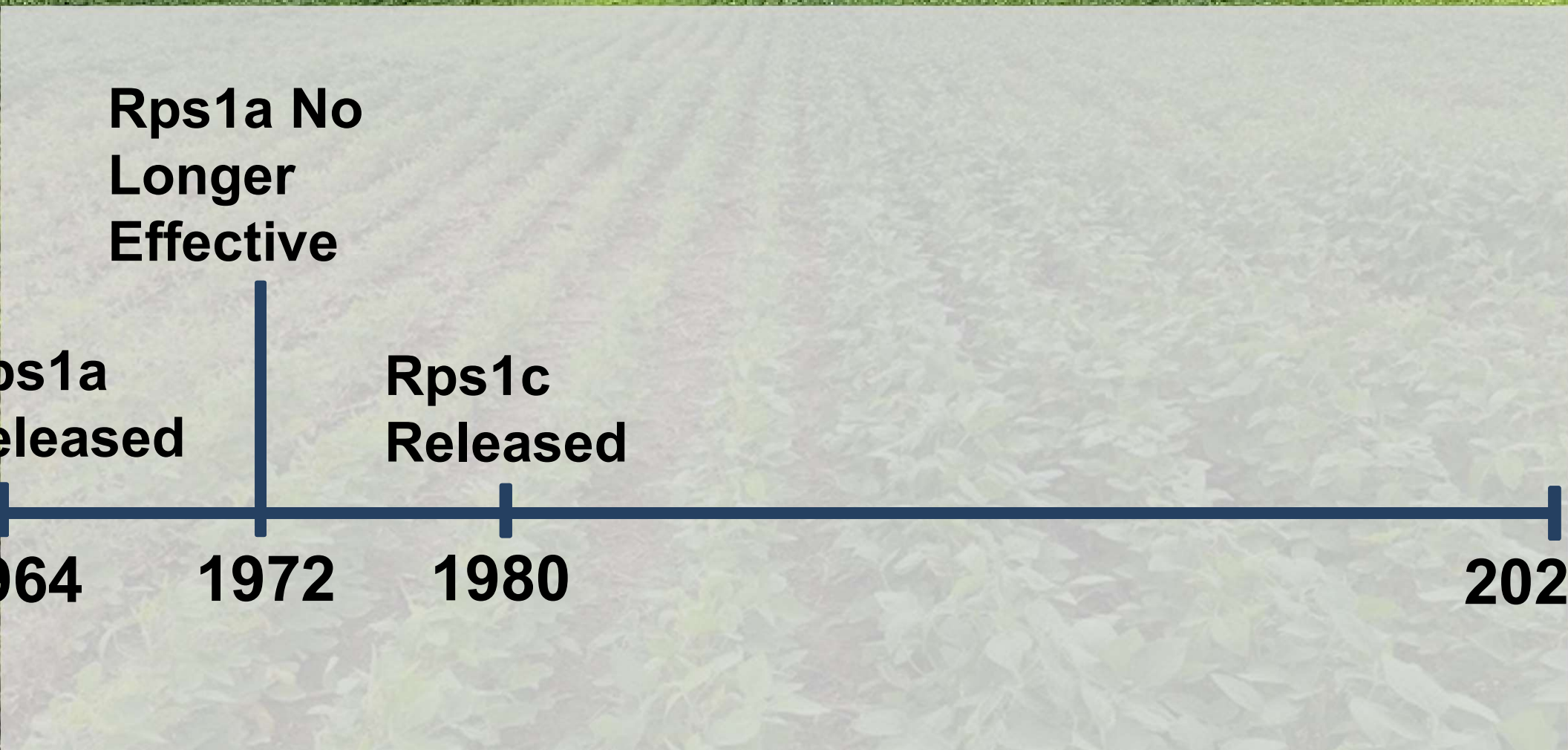
2021

Photo: Marty Ch

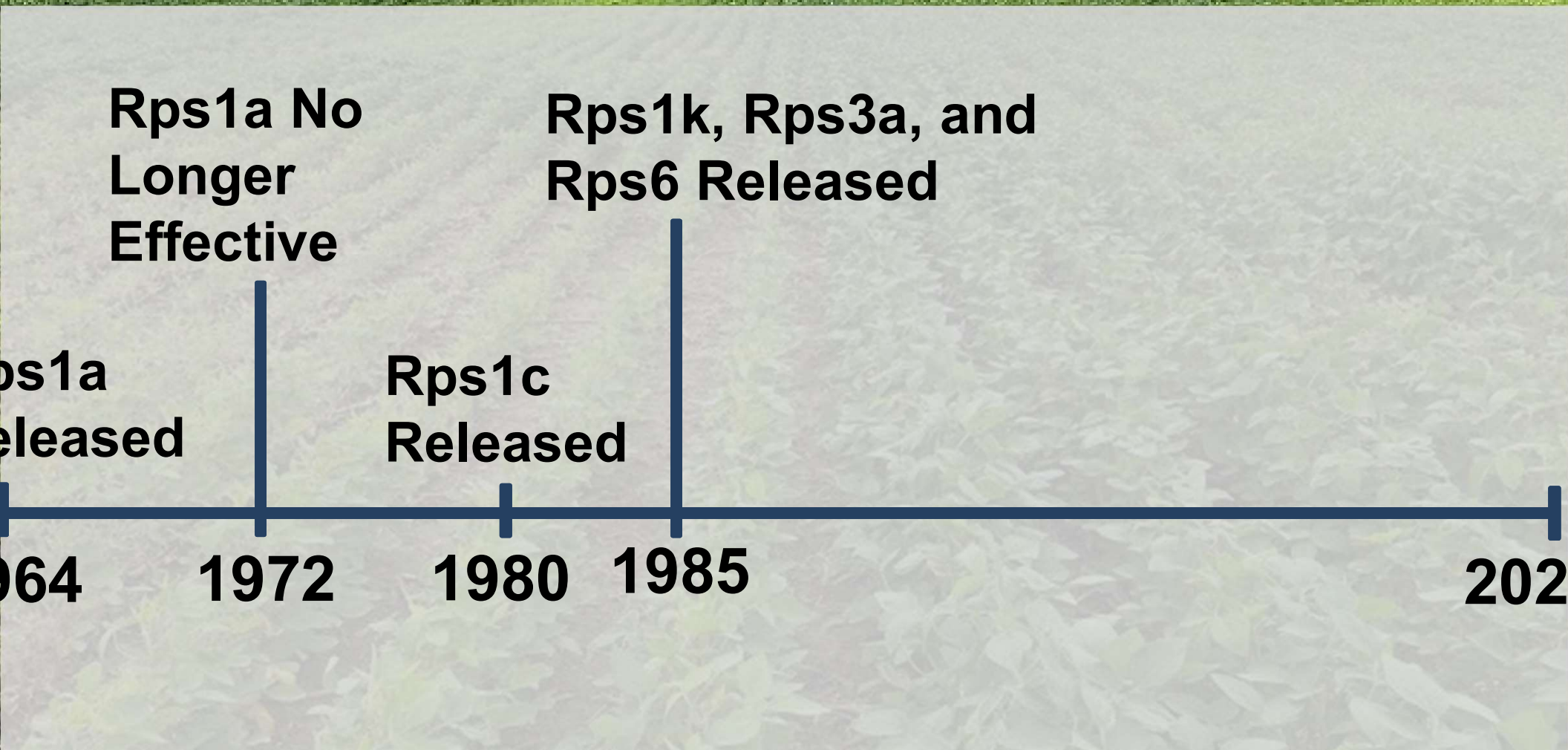
Deployment of Resistance



Deployment of Resistance



Deployment of Resistance

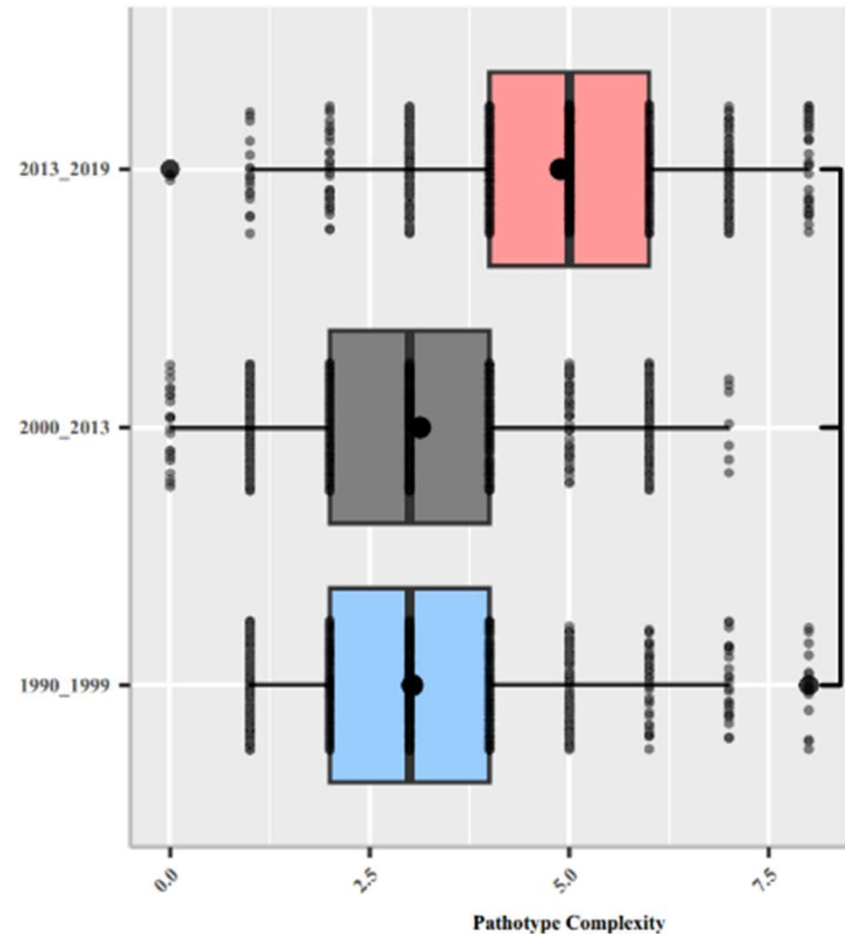


Effectiveness of Rps Genes Across the US

*o*jae has adapted to Rps genes

later diversity of pathotypes
currently developing

is a result of overreliance on
same Rps genes



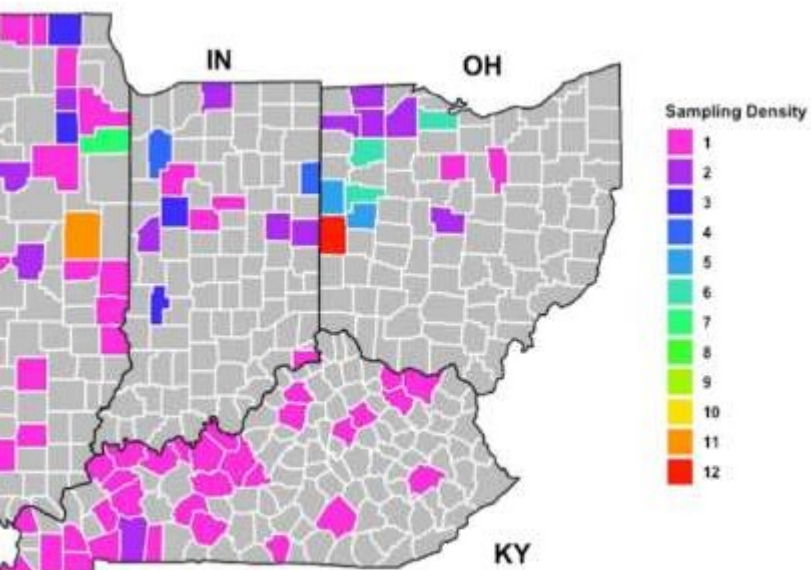
Efficacy of Rps Genes against *P. sojae* in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. 2016-2018

Phytopathology® · 2022 · 112:563-581 · <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-12-20-0561-R>

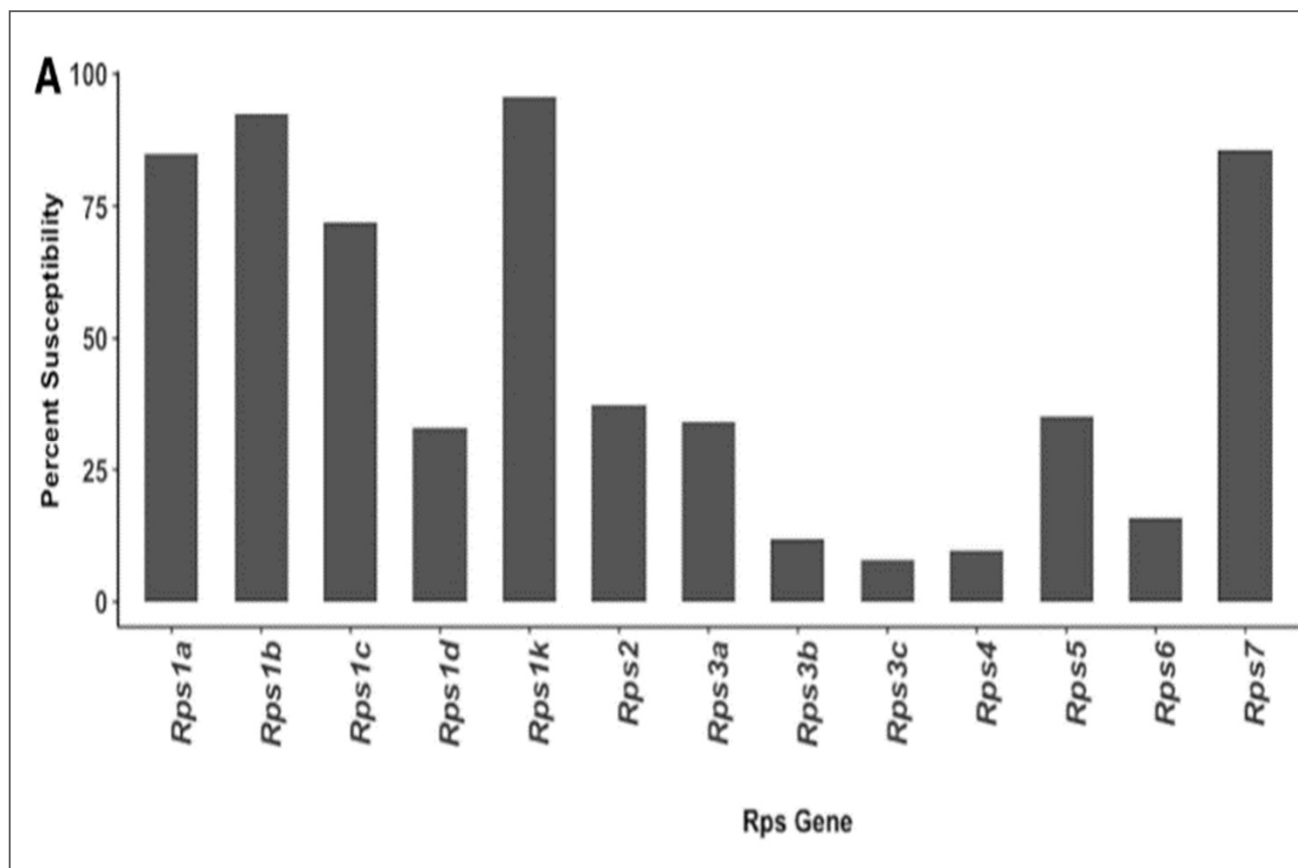
Population Biology e-Xtra®

Complexity and Genetic Characterization of *Phytophthora sojae* Populations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio

Julia M. Hebb,¹ Carl A. Bradley,² Santiago Xavier Mideros,³ Darcy E. P. Telenko,⁴ Kirsten Wise,² and Anne E. Dorrance^{1,†}



Map for collection of soil samples with *Phytophthora sojae* by county in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. The number of fields sampled from one to 12. Soil samples were collected between 2016 and 2018.



Long-term temporal analysis on *Phytophthora* resistance-gene efficacy

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-41321-7>

July 2023

August 2023

September 2023

1000

Austin G. McCoy¹, Richard R. Belanger², Carl A. Bradley³, Daniel G. Cerritos-Garcin⁴, Vinicius C. Gernica⁵, Loren J. Gieseler⁶, Pablo E. Orjuela⁷, Eduardo Quillin⁸, Maria A. Henriquez⁹, Yong Min Kim¹⁰, Dean K. Malvick¹¹, Rashelle L. Matthiesen¹², Santiago X. Mideros¹³, Zachary A. Noel¹⁴, Alison E. Robertson¹⁵, Mitchell G. Roth¹⁶, Clarice L. Schmidt¹⁷, Damon L. Smith¹⁸, Adam H. Sparks^{17,18}, Darcy E. P. Telenko¹⁹, Vanessa Tremblay², Owen Wally²⁰ & Martin I. Chilvers¹

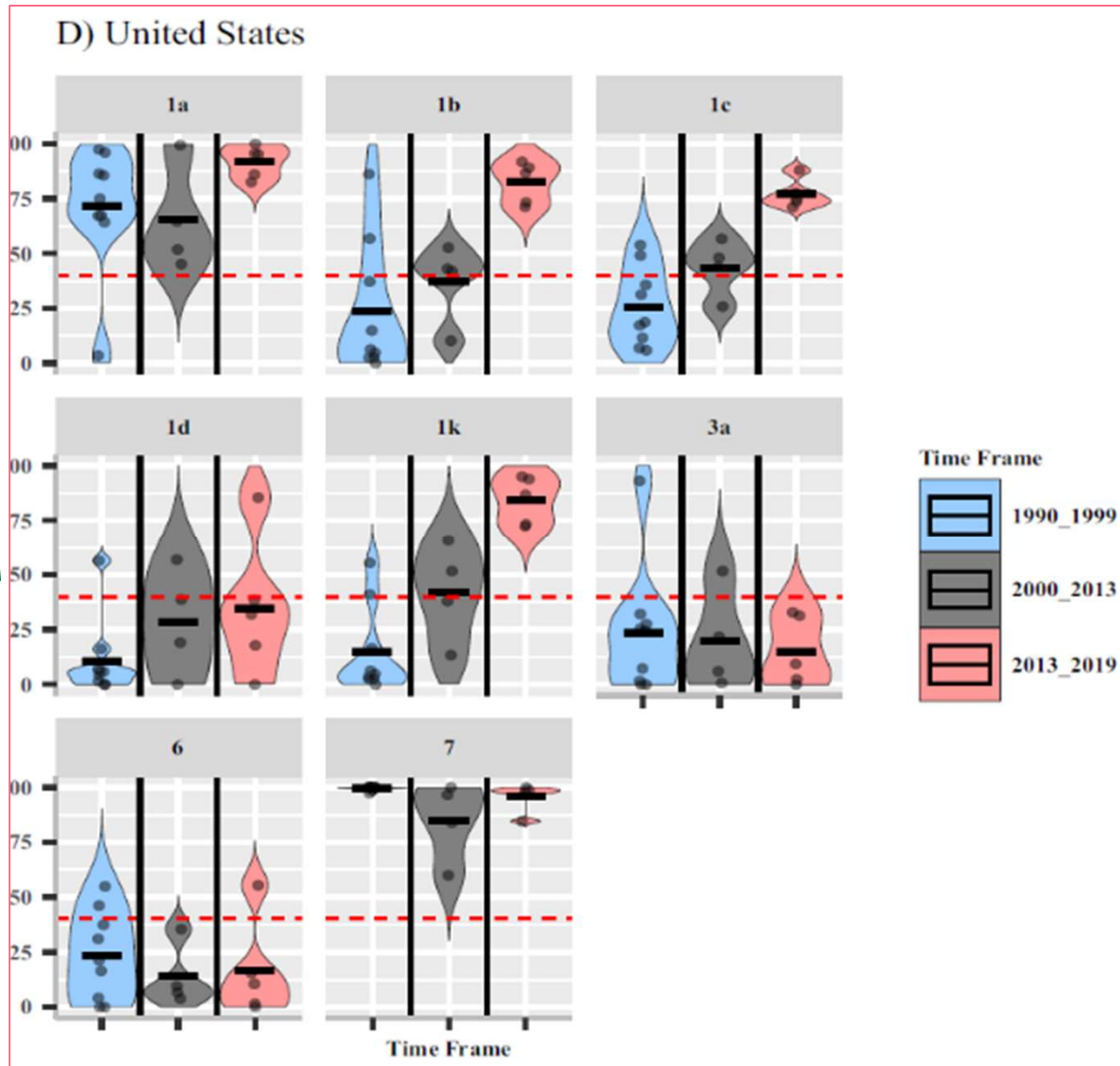
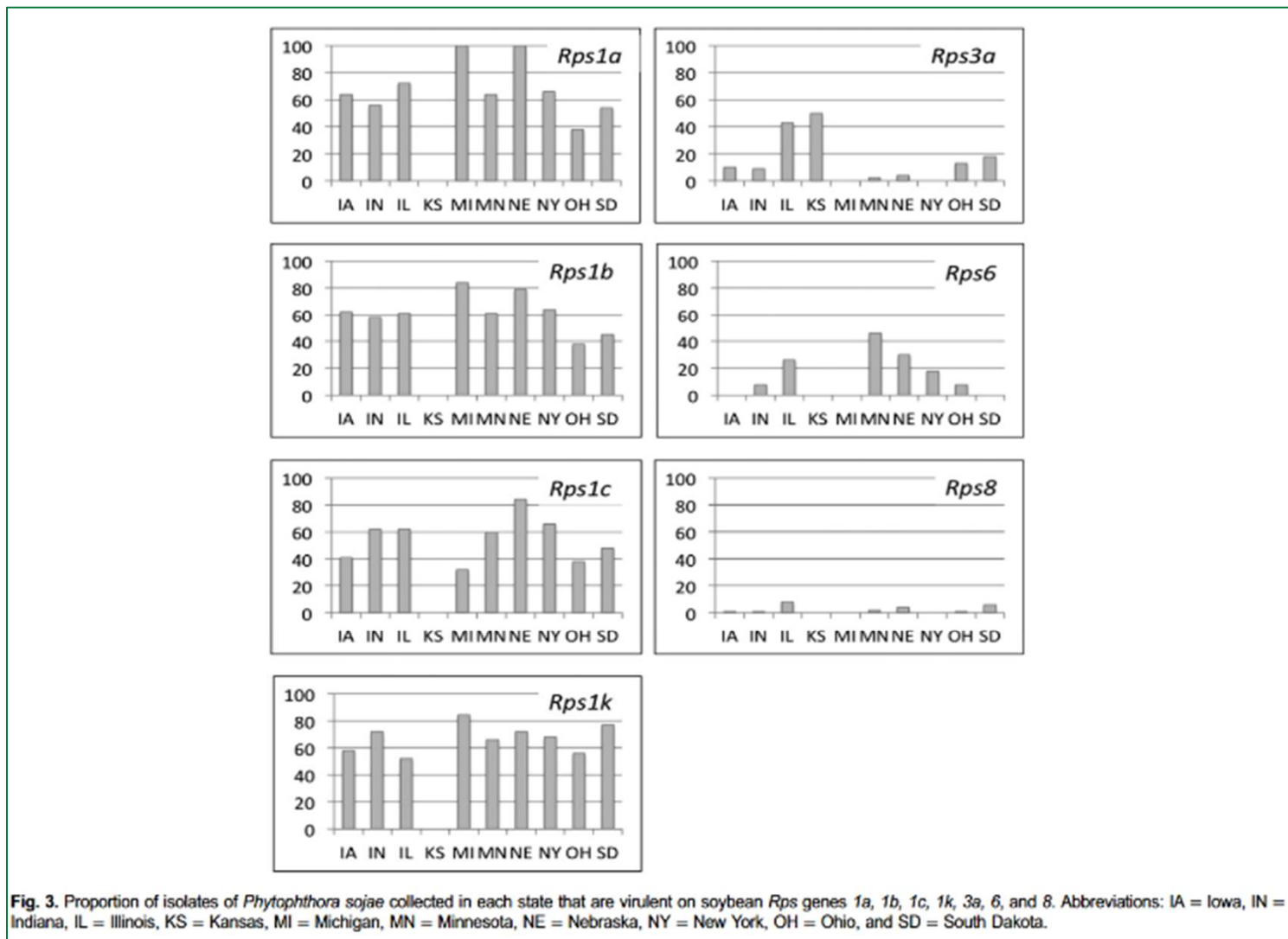


Fig. 2 | Resistance gene efficacy for each *Rps* gene and timepoint interaction by country. Facets denote the *Rps* genes tested; the Y-axis is the percent of isolates that are pathogenic on a given gene at a specific time frame from each study. Panel

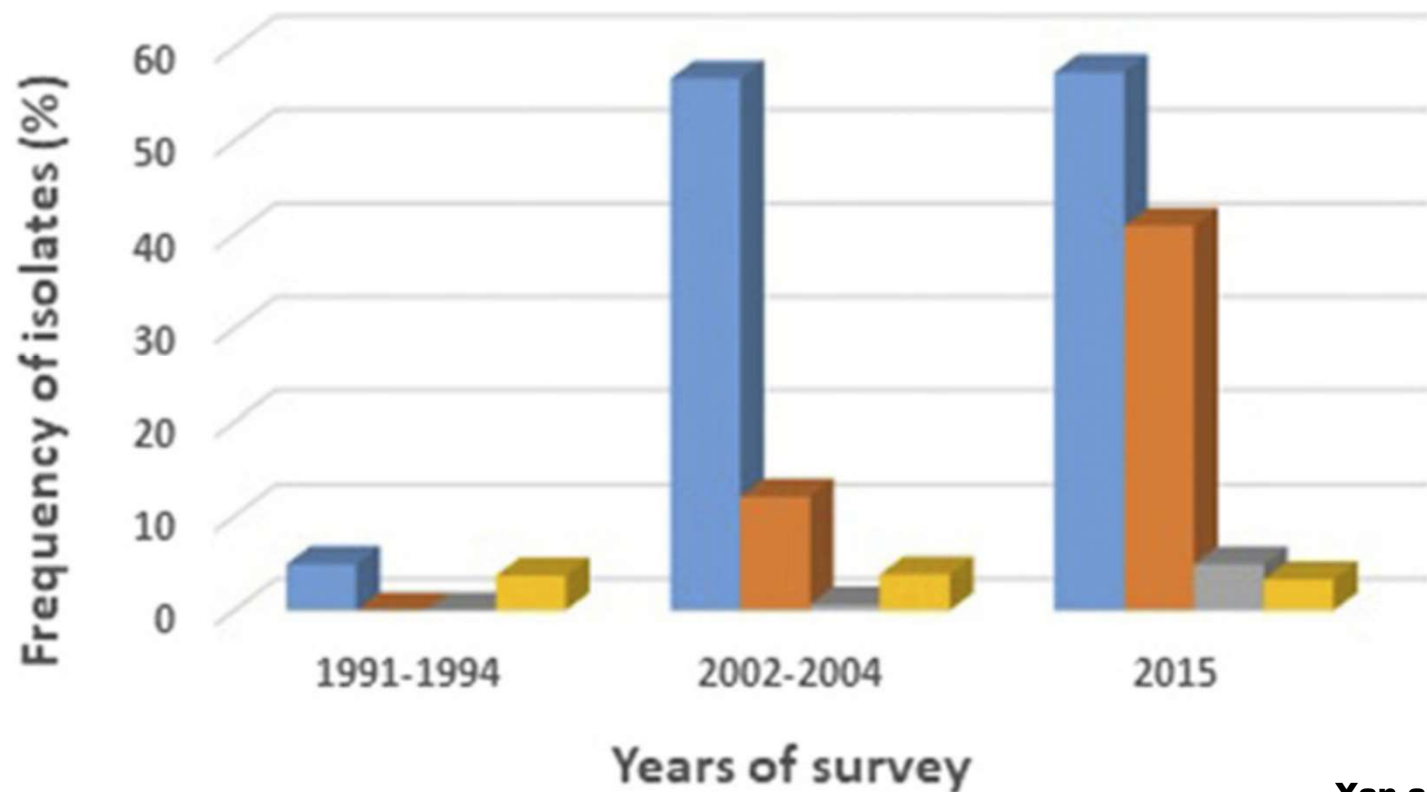
Efficacy of Rps Genes against *P. sojae* in 11 Midwestern States. 2012-2013



Effectiveness of Rps Genes in North Dakota

As of 2015,
Rps1c and Rps1k
are relatively
ineffective

Rps3a and Rps6
are still effective

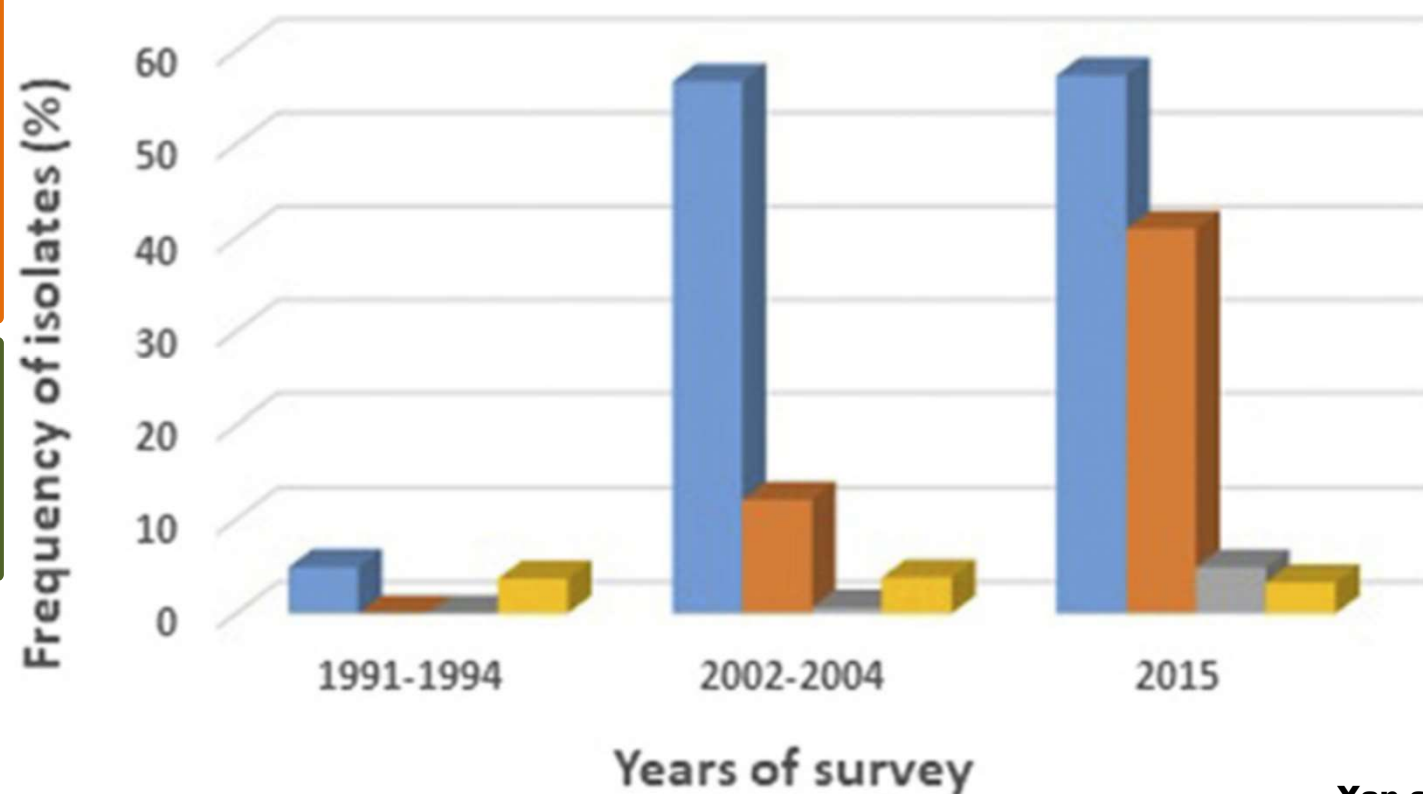


Yan and

Effectiveness of Rps Genes in North Dakota

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Yan and

North Dakota Phytophthora Survey – Update

Last ND Phytophthora survey was performed in 2015 (only in Red River Valley)



North Dakota Phytophthora Survey – Update

Last ND Phytophthora survey was performed in 2015 (only in Red River Valley)

In 2023, collected from 142 fields across ND

Will continue to collect samples and screen for Rps gene effectiveness through 2025



Sending Samples to NDSU

Seeing suspected *Phytophthora* issues in 2024, send samples to Wade Webster - NDSU Soybean Pathologist and Extension Specialist

richard.webster@ndsu.edu

701-231-8363

402 Albrecht Blvd.

Walster Hall 306

Fargo, ND 58108



MN Phytophthora Survey

We are collecting soil and plant samples from Minnesota fields and to identify *P. sojae* pathotypes and variants

If you would like to send soil or tissue samples, please contact:

Kat Markham

markat@umn.edu

Megan McCaghey

mmccaghe@umn.edu



A photograph of a soybean field. The plants are green and dense, filling the foreground and middle ground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with scattered white clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A semi-transparent grey box with rounded corners is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the text.

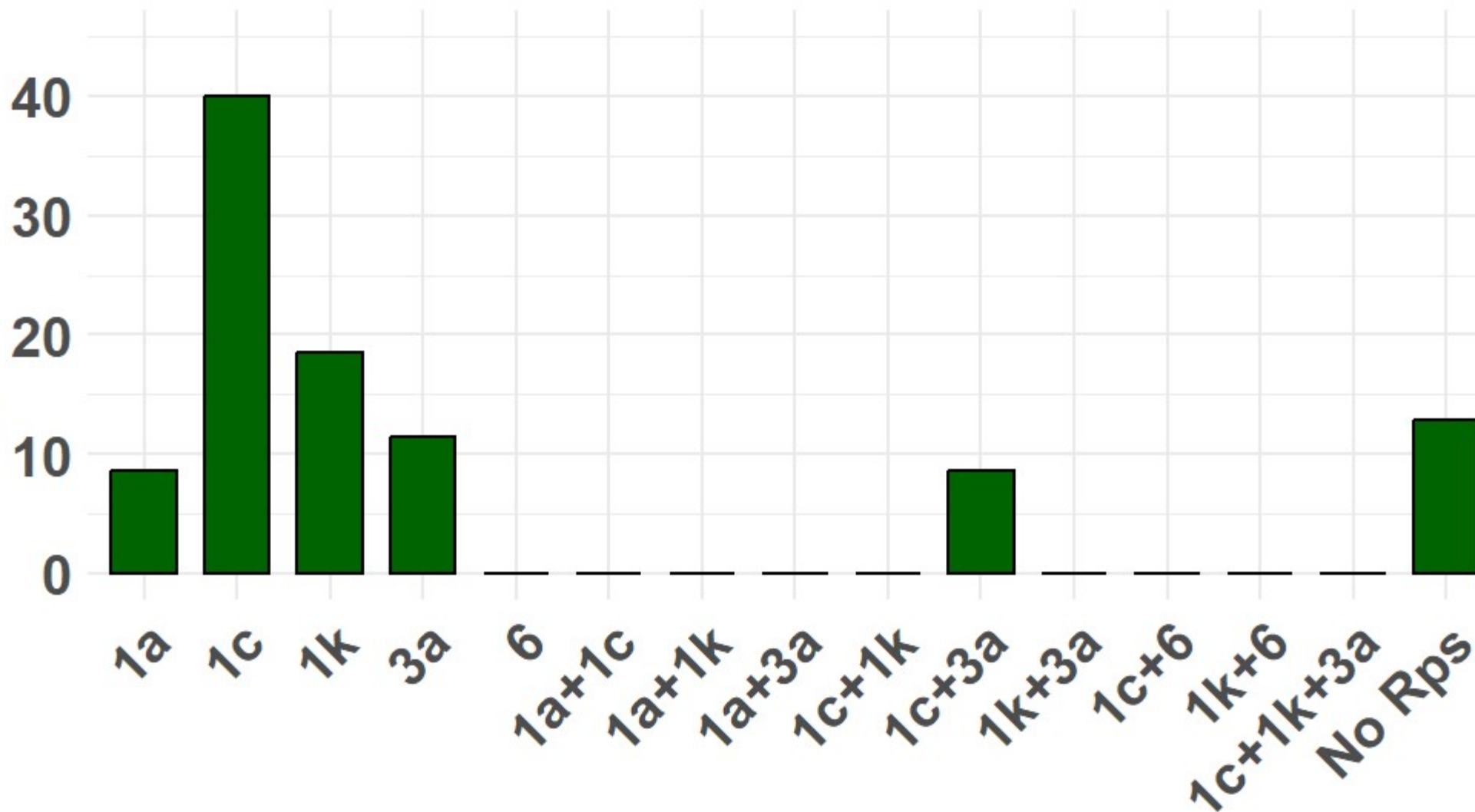
What Options Do We Have?

Photo: Soybean Research Informatio

Phytophthora Rps Genes 2024 - MG 00

n = 70 varieties

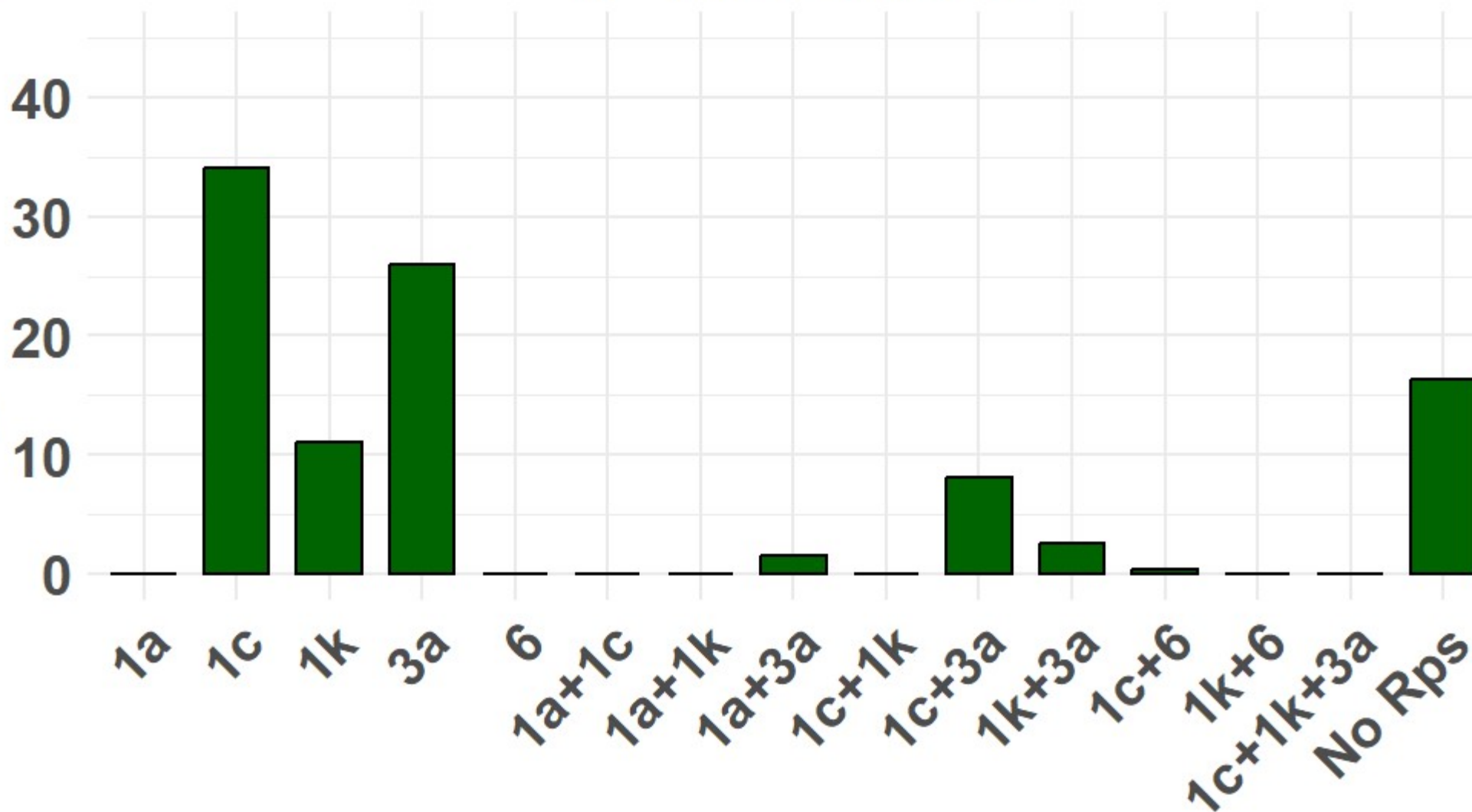
Percentage of Varieties (%)



Phytophthora Rps Genes 2024 - MG 0

n = 270 varieties

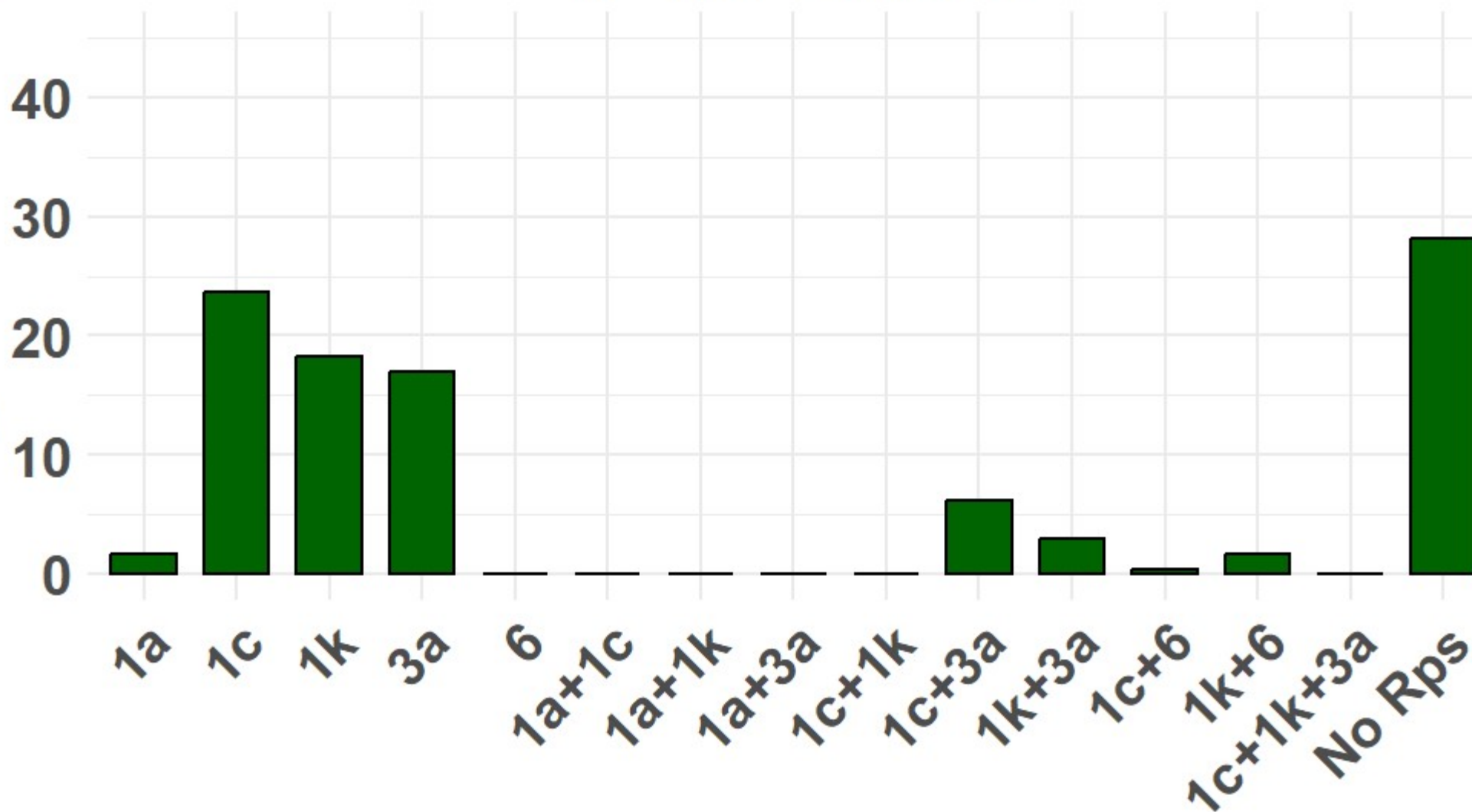
Percentage of Varieties (%)



Phytophthora Rps Genes 2024 - MG 1

n = 241 varieties

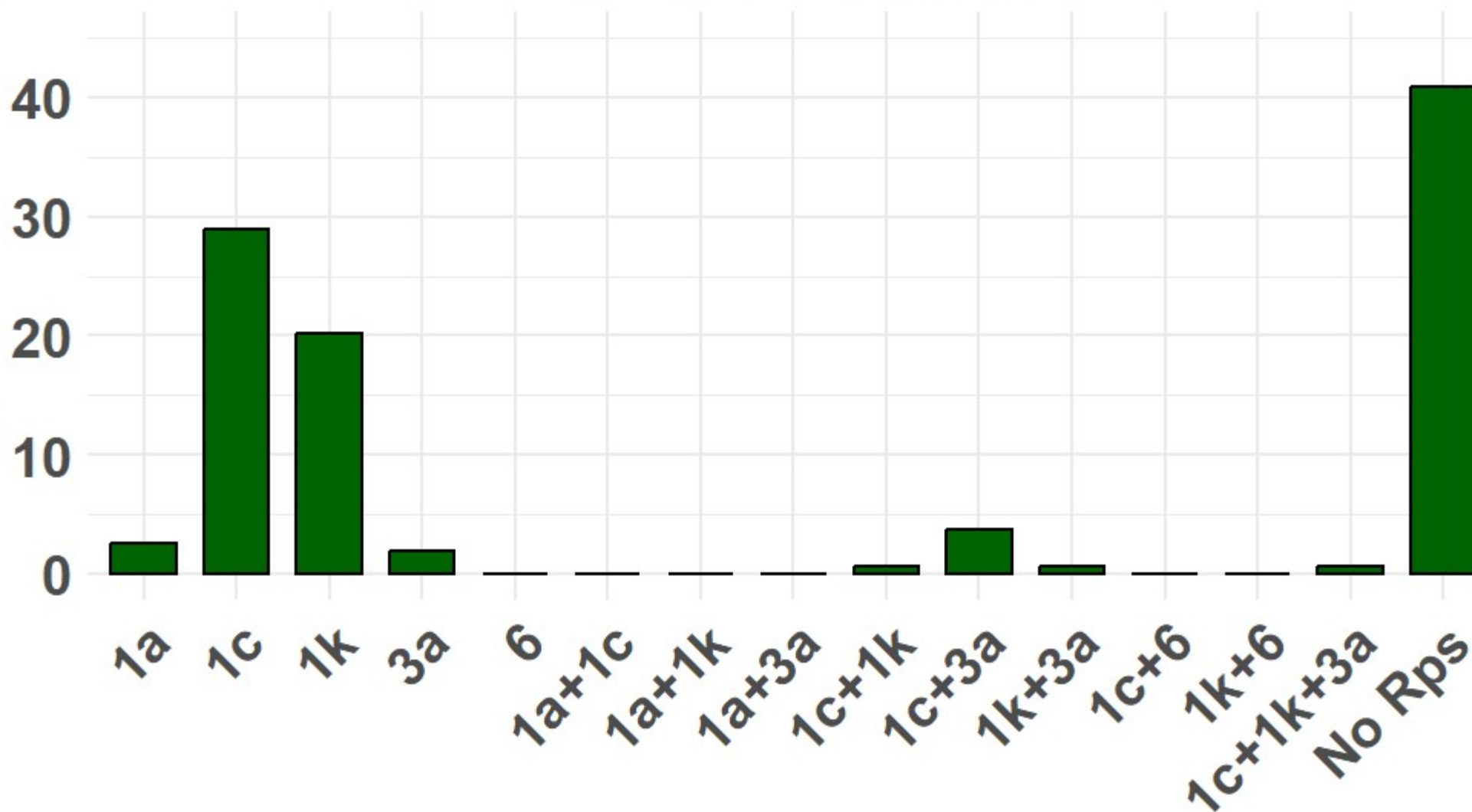
Percentage of Varieties (%)



Phytophthora Rps Genes 2024 - MG 3

n = 159 varieties

Percentage of Varieties (%)



Phytophthora rot of soybean management with partial resistance (“tolerance”)

At least partially effective against all pathotypes of *P. sojae*
Partially resistant (tolerance) varieties may be necessary
where pathotypes (races) defeat available Rps genes
Limited root rot develops
Restricts fungal colonization of plant.

ield Tolerance



- **Slows the development of lesions**
- **Reduces the number of oospores produced**

Topics covered in this session

What is *Phytophthora root rot* and what causes it
Disease development, symptoms, and diagnosis
Established and new methods to detect and identify
Different pathotypes of *P. sojae*
Management of *Phytophthora root rot*

Questions or Comments

Dean Malvick, University of Minnesota

Wade Webster, North Dakota State University



Acknowledgments

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North Central Soybean Research Program

