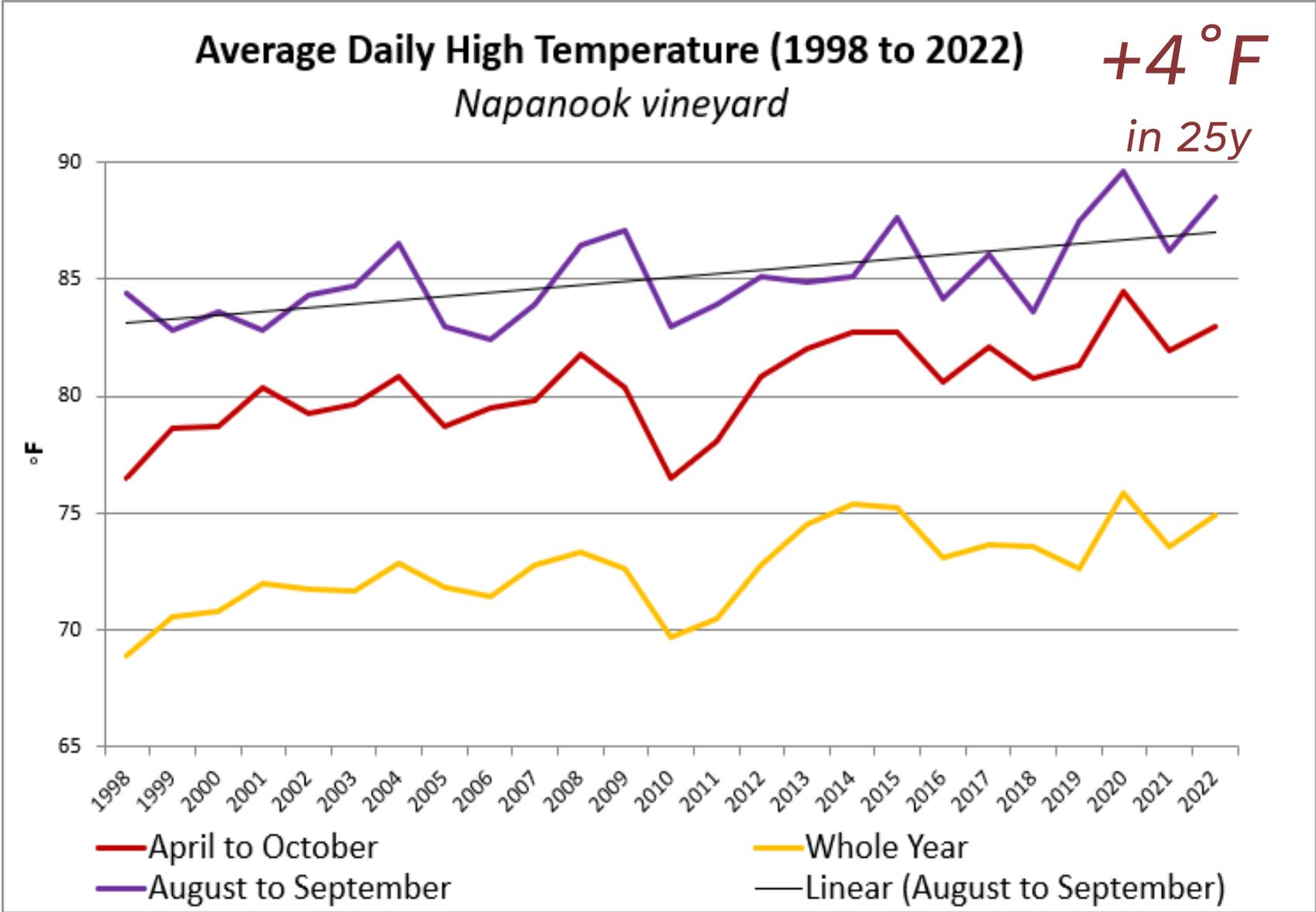


# ABUELITOS



DAILY HIGHS  
AUGUST - SEPT



## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

The Moisture-Sucking capacity of the air.

*It gets higher when it is hotter.*

## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

Temperature	Humidity	VPD	What's it feel like?
F	%	kPa	
60	80	0.5	<i>cold &amp; damp (foggy SF)</i>
75	50	1.5	<i>comfortable (spring Napa)</i>
85	40	2.5	<i>warm &amp; pleasant</i>
95	20	4.5	<i>hot &amp; dry (vines "shut down")</i>
100	15	5.5	<i>very hot &amp; very dry</i>
105	15	6.5	<i>scorching (Death Valley)</i>

## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

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60	80	0.5	<i>cold &amp; damp (foggy SF)</i>
75	50	1.5	<i>comfortable (spring Napa)</i>
<b>83</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>25 years ago</b>
85	40	2.5	<i>warm &amp; pleasant</i>
<b>87</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>today</b>

Difference in VPD

# +0.3

The rise in VPD (Aug-Sept) in the last 25 years is 0.3.

## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

"Growing VPD accounted for nearly all the growth in forest fires in California from 1972-2018."

Columbia University, American Geophysical Union,  
Earth's Future Journal, July 2019

# SHADE STRATEGIES (ADAPTIVE)

LOWER TEMPERATURES  
& RAISE HUMIDITY

## ORIENTATION

Rows parallel to the sun's rays  
at the hottest time of the day.

## TRELLISING

Trellises that increase  
overhead shading.

## CANOPY

Laterals trimmed to  
protect clusters.



2022

# ABUELITOS

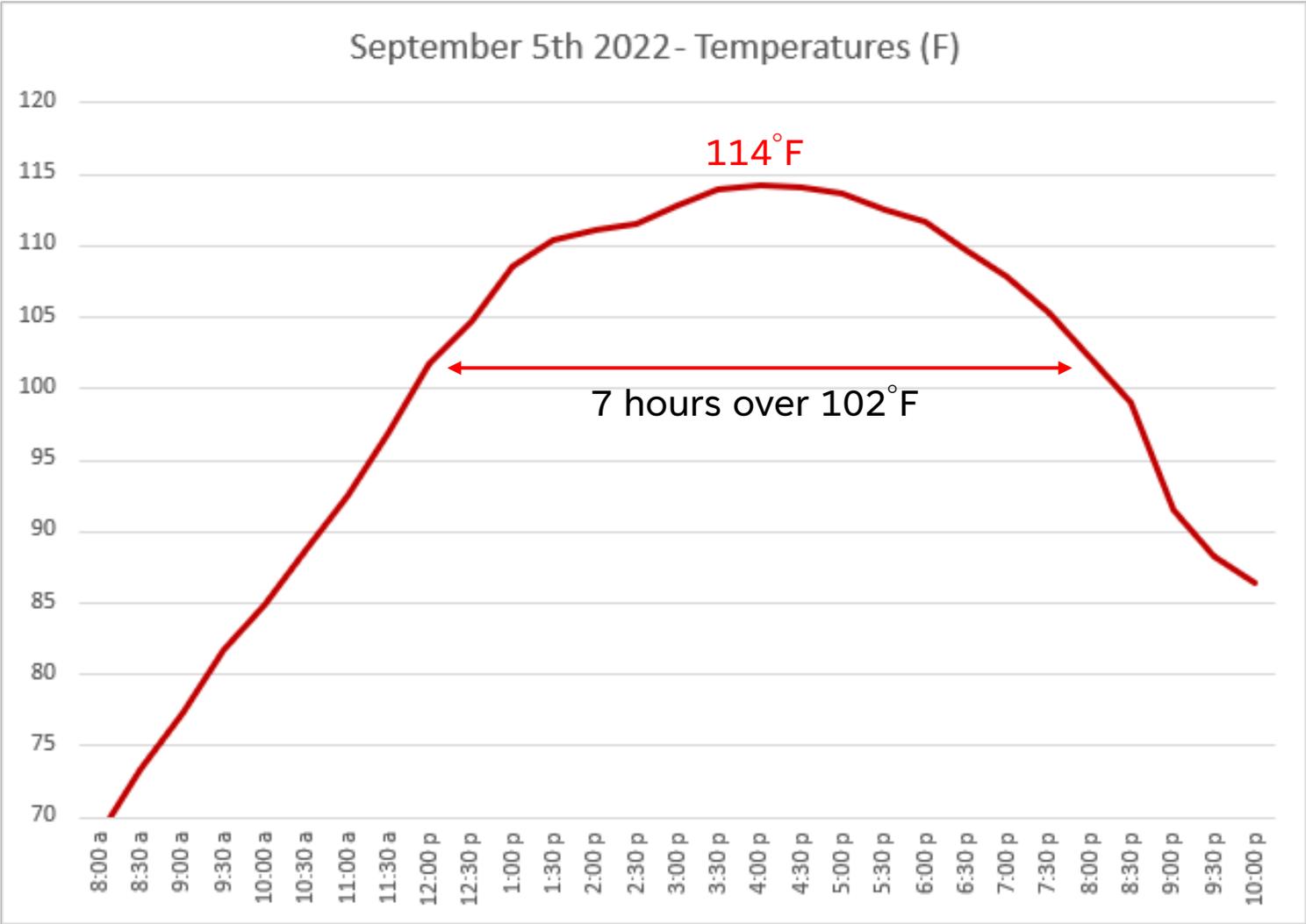
*Every farm a vital ecosystem*



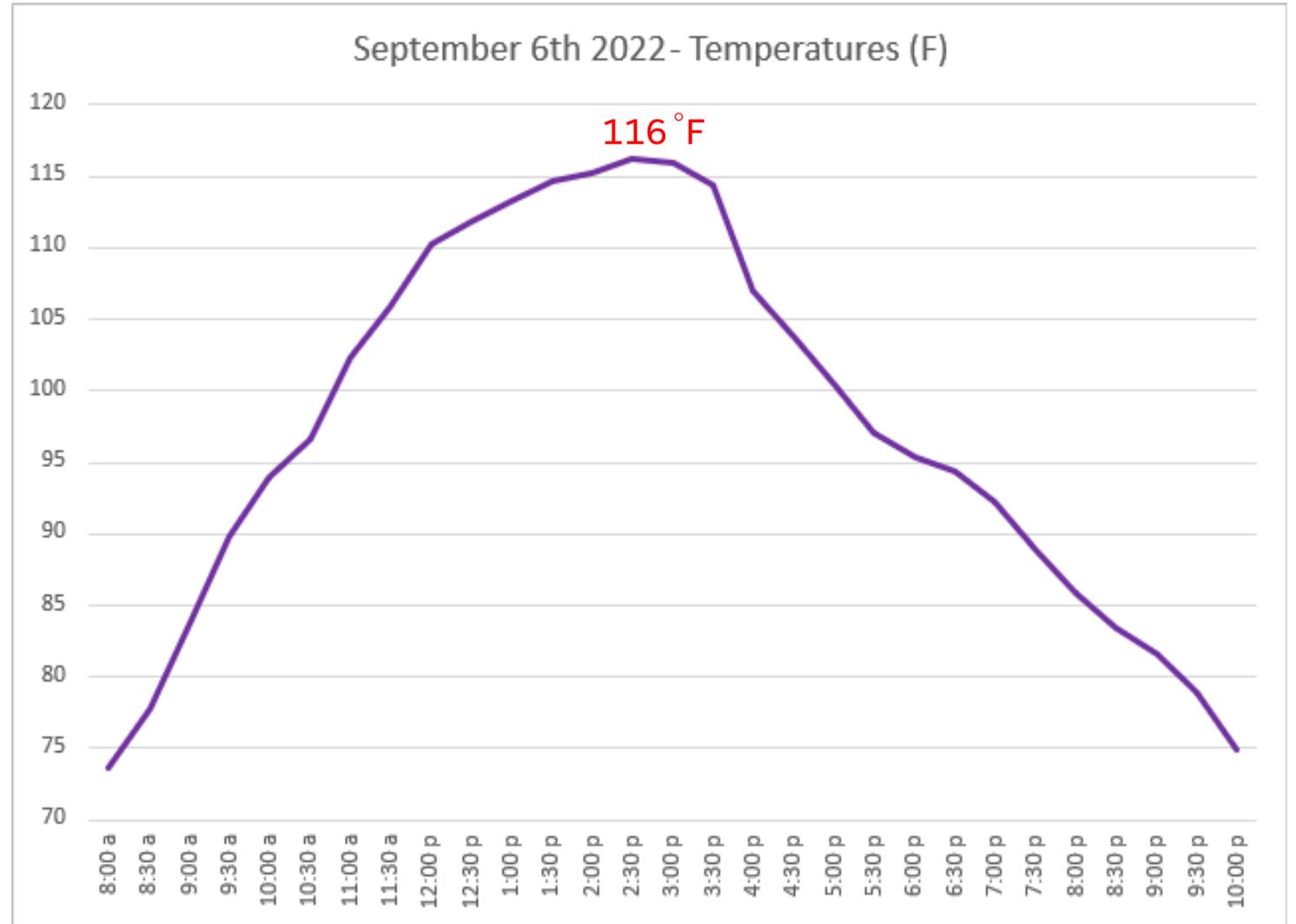
VINTAGE 2022



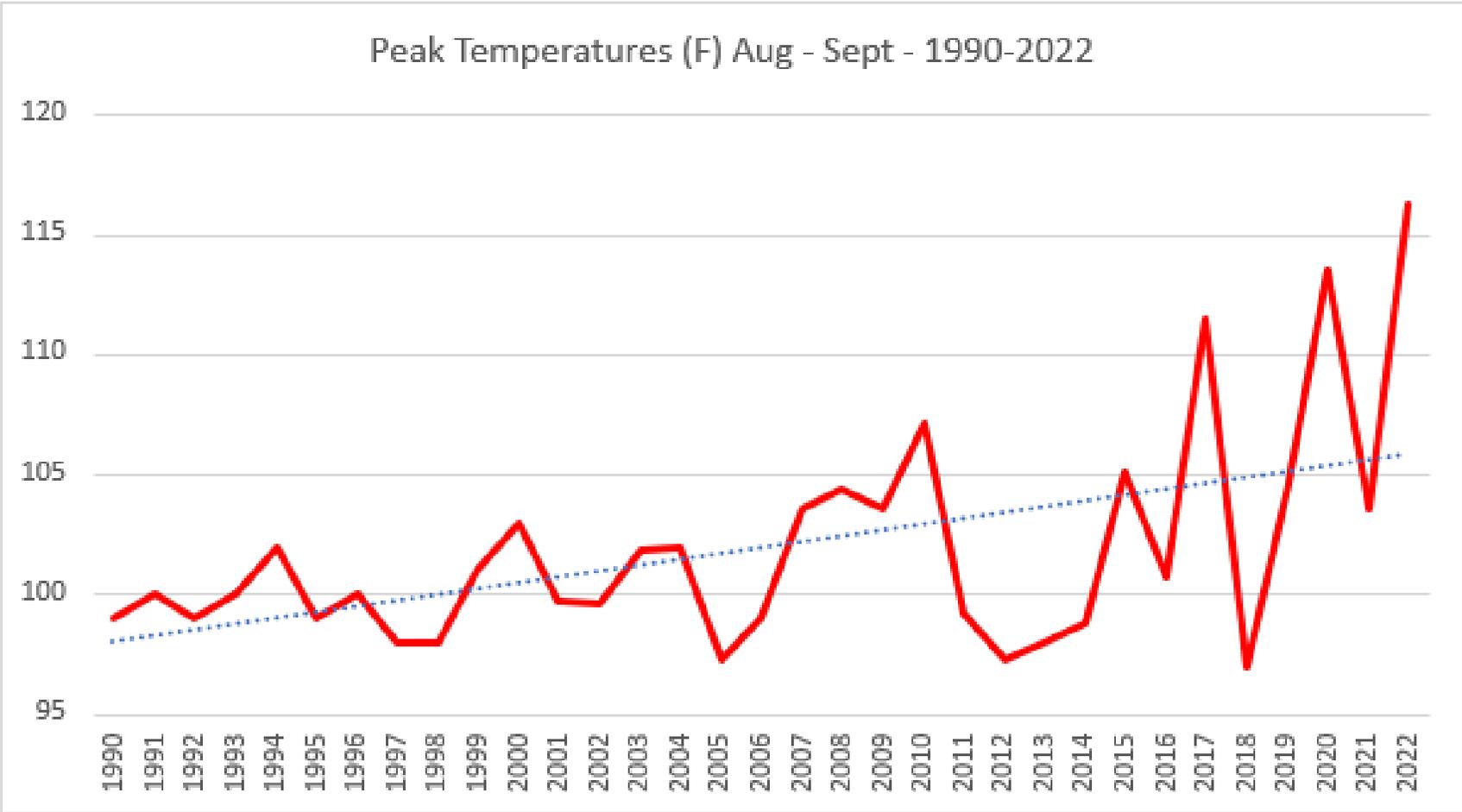
SEPTEMBER 5



SEPTEMBER 6



PEAK TEMPS  
1990-2022



## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

### Napa Valley

Record-breaking temperature spikes

*Note: Previous record in 2010 (107°F)*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Temp</u>	<u>Fruit Loss</u>
2017	112°F	50%
2020	114°F	70%
2022	116°F	100%

- Dominus Estate, Napa Valley
- Temperature peaks in Aug-Sept

# VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

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100	15	5.5	<i>very hot &amp; very dry</i>
105	15	6.5	<i>scorching (death valley)</i>
112	11	8.3	<i>2017 (50% crop lost)</i>
114	11	8.8	<i>2020 (70% crop lost)</i>
116	13	9.1	<i>2022 (100% loss)</i>

## VAPOR PRESSURE DEFICIT (VPD)

Temperature	Humidity	VPD	<i>What's it feel like?</i>	
F	%	kPa		
114	11	<b>8.8</b>	2020	70% loss
116	13	<b>9.1</b>	2022	No crop

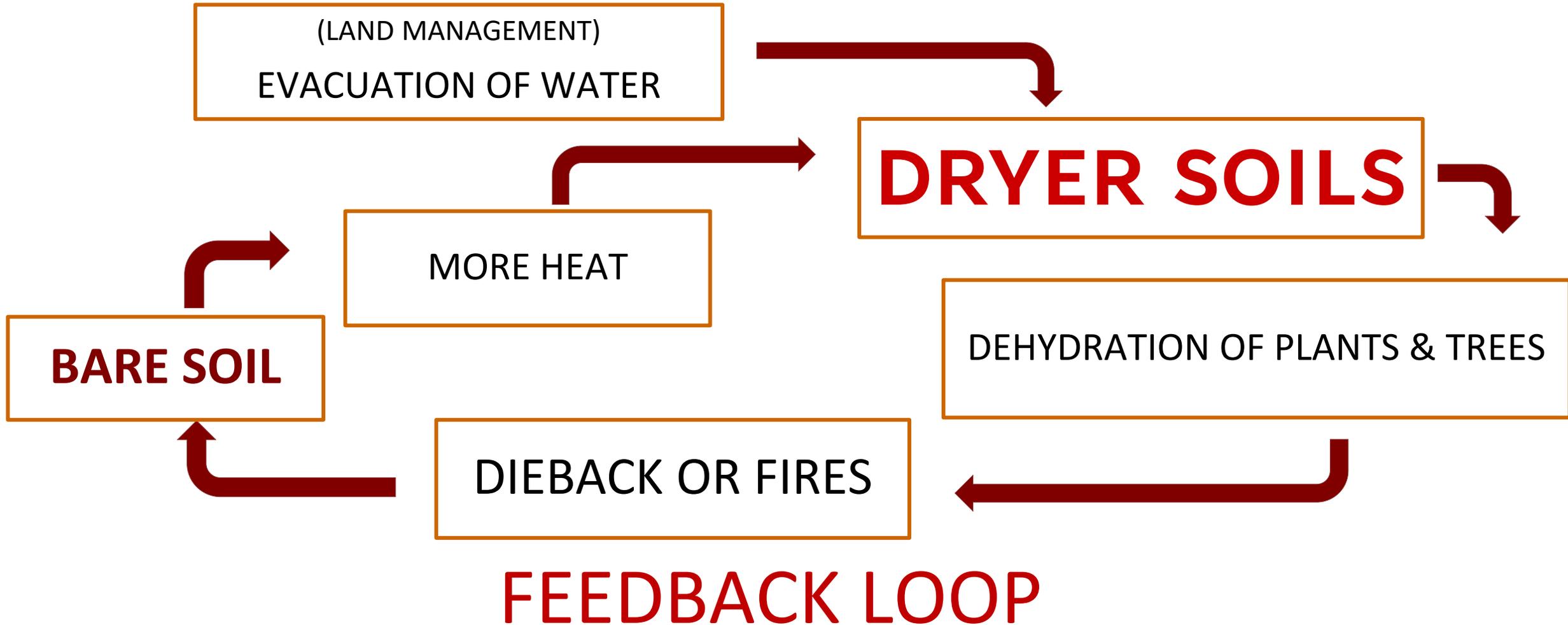
Difference in VPD

**+0.3**

The difference between a crop and no crop is a VPD of 0.3.

# DESERTIFICATION

Dry soils lead to **MORE HEAT**, which leads to more drying.



**FEEDBACK LOOP**

# BARE SOIL

DUSTY

Why does DUST  
matter?

HOT

175°F

DRY

2" of RAIN  
per foot



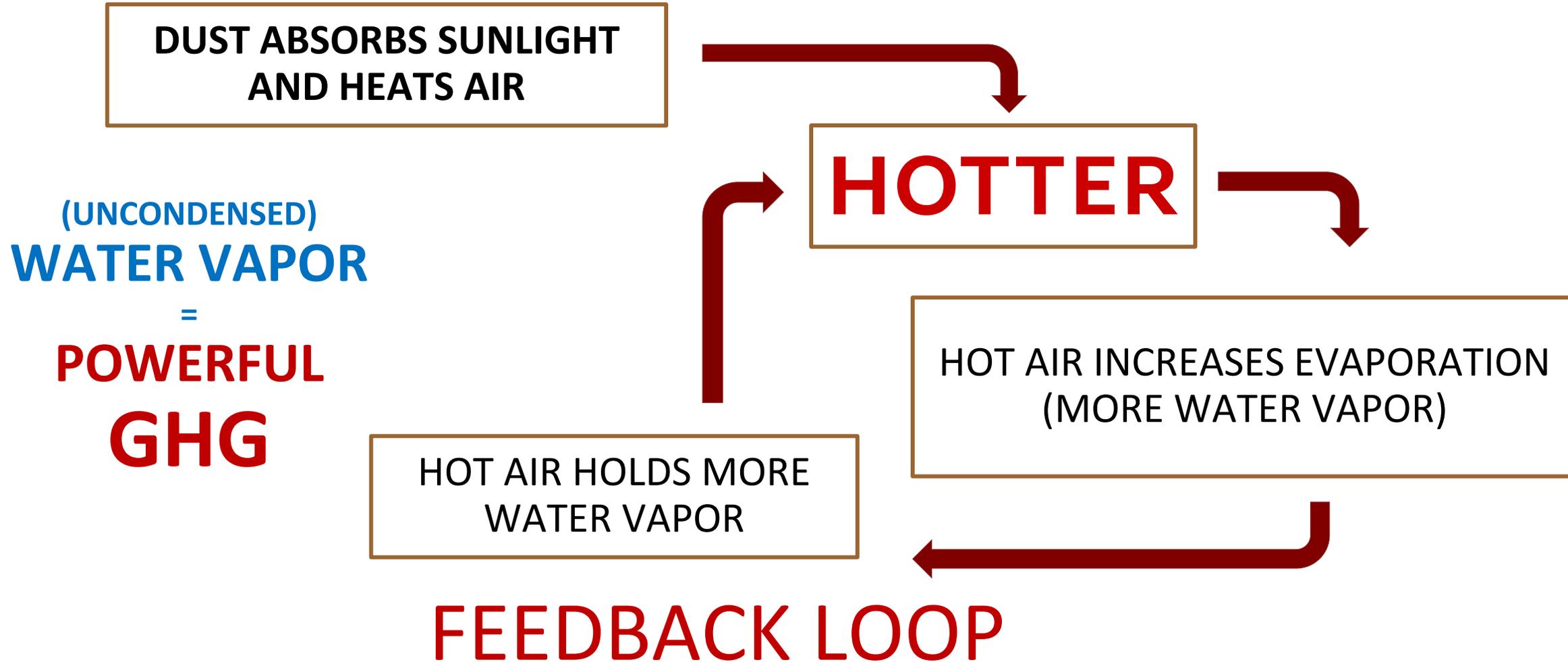
# DUST

**DUST ABSORBS SUNLIGHT  
AND HEATS AIR**



# DUST

Dust leads to more **WATER VAPOR**, which leads to more warming.



# ABUELITOS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO REDUCE CLIMATE EXTREMES WITH ECOSYSTEMS?



# ABUELITOS

IS IT POSSIBLE TO COOL OUR VALLEY LOCALLY?

H2O VAPOR =  
GHG

Uncondensed water vapor is a  
POWERFUL GHG.  
(DUST INCREASES H2O VAPOR)

BARE SOIL IS HOT

175°F

75°-100°F (with groundcover)

SOIL HOLDS 2"  
H2O/FT DEPTH

10' ROOTS =  
20" H2O infiltration



# PLANTED

VEGETATED

Why do PLANTS  
matter?

COOLER

75°-100°F

HYDRATED

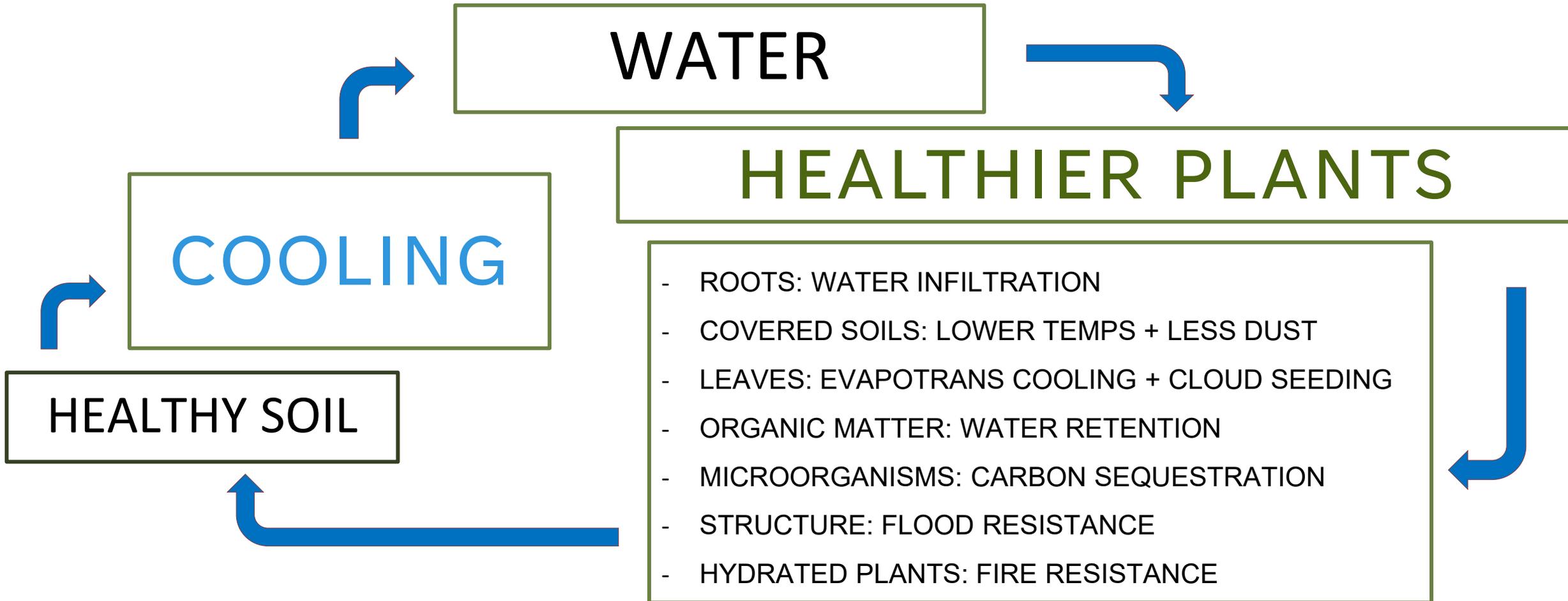
20" of RAIN

With 10-foot deep roots



# RESTORATION

Hydrated soils lead to **LESS HEAT**, which leads to more hydration.



## FEEDBACK LOOP

# ABUELITOS

COMPLEXITY

BALANCE

VITALITY

Ecosystems regulate the climate.



# ABUELITOS

COMPLEXITY

BALANCE

VITALITY

How do we build ecosystems?



# ABUELITOS

BUILDS ECOSYSTEMS

(NATIVE)  
GROUNDCOVER

HABITATS  
BORDERS  
CORRIDORS & ISLANDS

SLOW FLOW  
OF H<sub>2</sub>O



# ABUELITOS

HOW WE ARE LEADING THIS WORK:

**EDUCATION**  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**PILOT PROJECTS**  
CREATING A MODEL

**IMPLEMENTATION**  
**SUPPORT**  
WIDESPREAD ADOPTION



# ABUELITOS

## FOUNDATION

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

GINNA BEHARRY

VICHHEKA HANG

ERIK OLSON

NICHOLAS CARSON

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

GRETCHEN HAYES



# ABUELITOS

## NAPA WATERSHED COALITION

### CORE GROUP LEADERS

MICHAEL SILACCI  
MARY MAHER  
MOLLY WILLIAMS  
KIMBERLEE MARINELLI  
ANNA BRITTAIN  
MIMI CASTEEL

### PARTNERS

GRAPEGROWERS  
LANDOWNERS  
OAKVILLE WINEGROWERS  
NAPA RCD  
NAPA COUNTY  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
LAND TRUST  
REGULATORY AGENCIES  
NAPA FIREWISE  
NAPA GREEN  
FLOWWEST  
& OTHERS



# CREATING ECOSYSTEMS

Step by step

GROUND-  
WATER  
RECHARGE

- Water: Conditions for Plant Life
- Hydrated Soils: Cooler Soils
- Hydrated Vegetation: Fire Resilience

PLANT  
LIFE

- Roots: Water Infiltration
- Covered Soils: Lower Temps + Less Dust
- Leaves: ET Cooling + Cloud Seeding

SOIL  
HEALTH

- Organic Matter: Water Retention
- Microorganisms: Carbon Sequestration
- Structure: Flood Resistance



# CAN ECOSYSTEMS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

ABUELITOS conducts studies  
to answer this question.

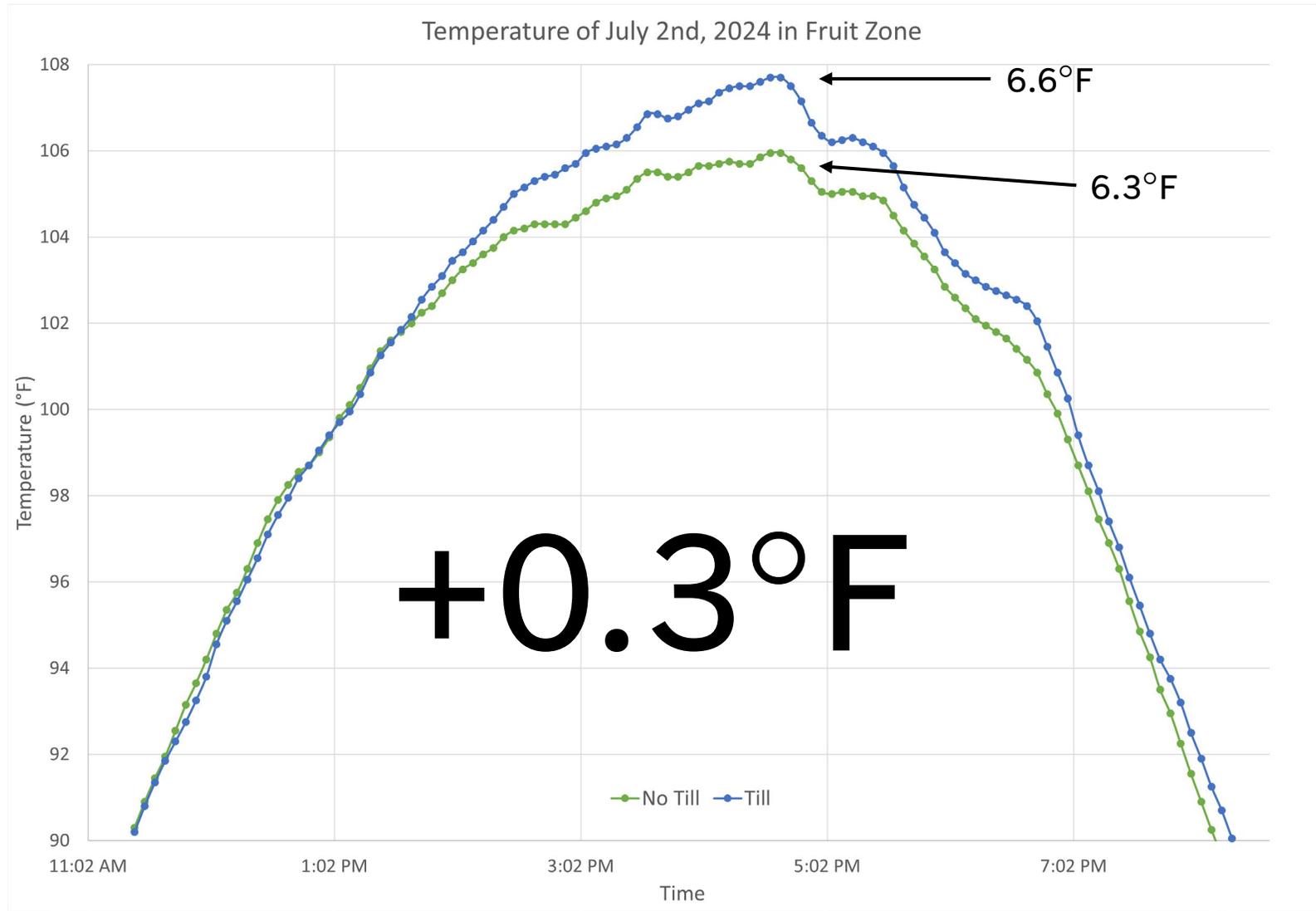
BARE SOIL

VS

GROUNDCOVER



JULY 2, 2024



# PERENNIAL GROUNDCOVER

One thing anyone can do.

GROUND-  
WATER  
RECHARGE

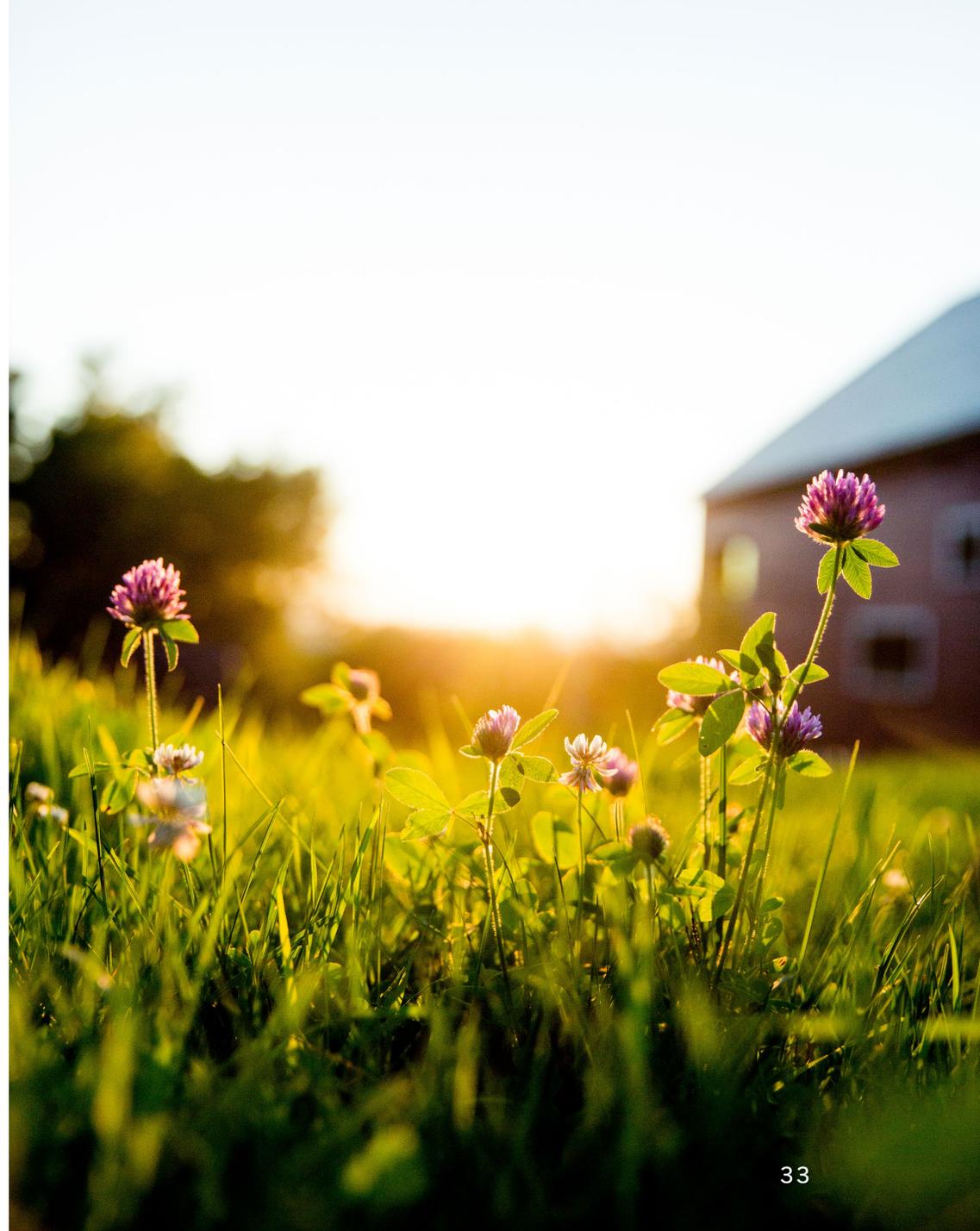
- Water: Conditions for Plant Life
- Hydrated Soils: Cooler Soils
- Hydrated Vegetation: Fire Resilience

PLANT  
LIFE

- Roots: Water Infiltration
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SOIL  
HEALTH

- Organic Matter: Water Retention
- Microorganisms: Carbon Sequestration
- Structure: Flood Resistance



# ABUELITOS FOUNDATION NEWS

## INITIATIVES

- Summer Vegetation Study
- Hopper Creek Climate Action Plan
- Napa Watershed Coalitions

## LEADERSHIP

- Gretchen Hayes, Executive Director
- Leadership Napa Valley Practicum

## WEBSITE

- Coming December 2024



ABUELITOSFOUNDATION.ORG

Info@AbuelitosFoundation.org

