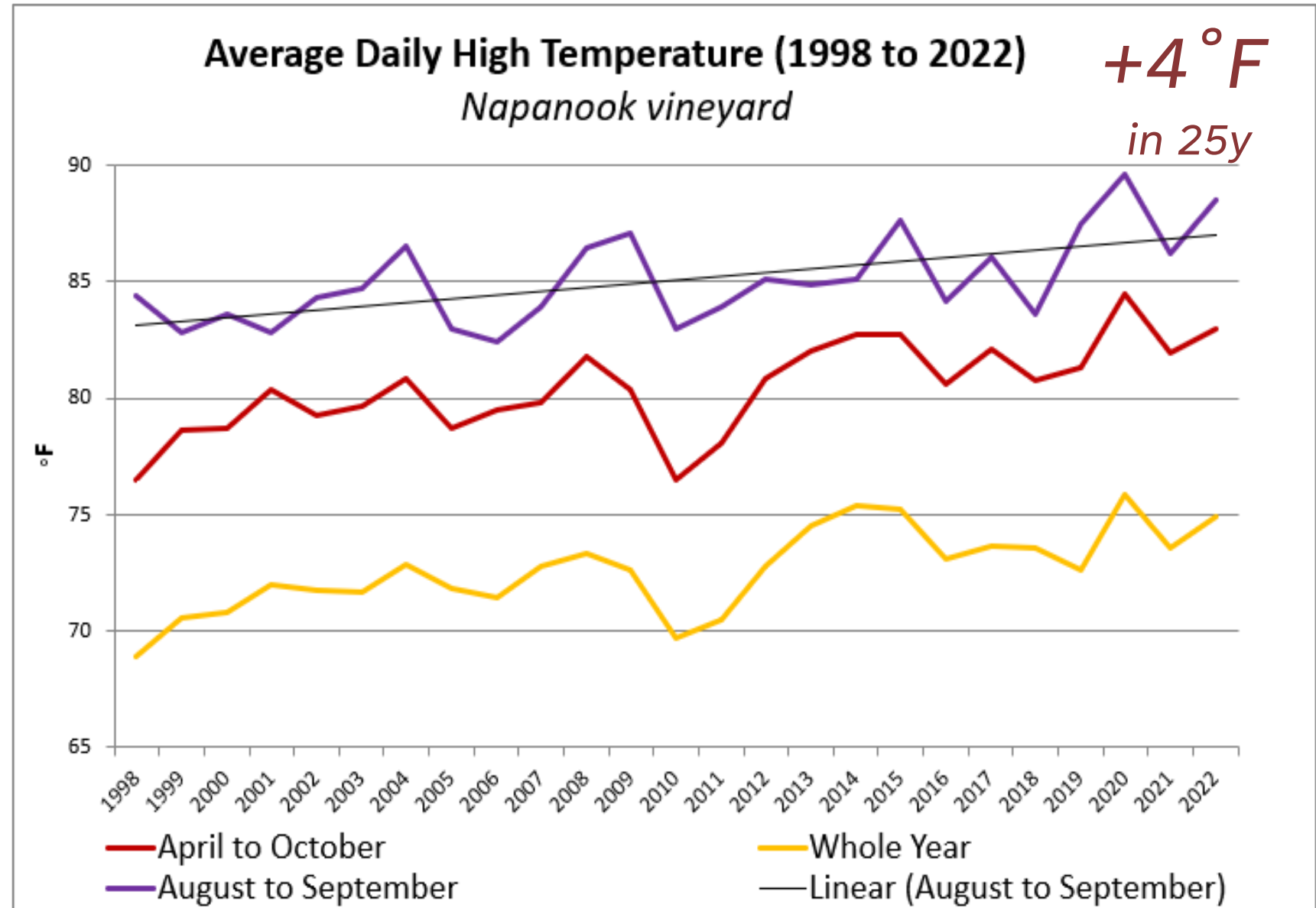


# ABUELITOS





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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<b>83</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b><i>25 years ago</i></b>
85	40	2.5	<i>warm &amp; pleasant</i>
<b>87</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b><i>today</i></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*

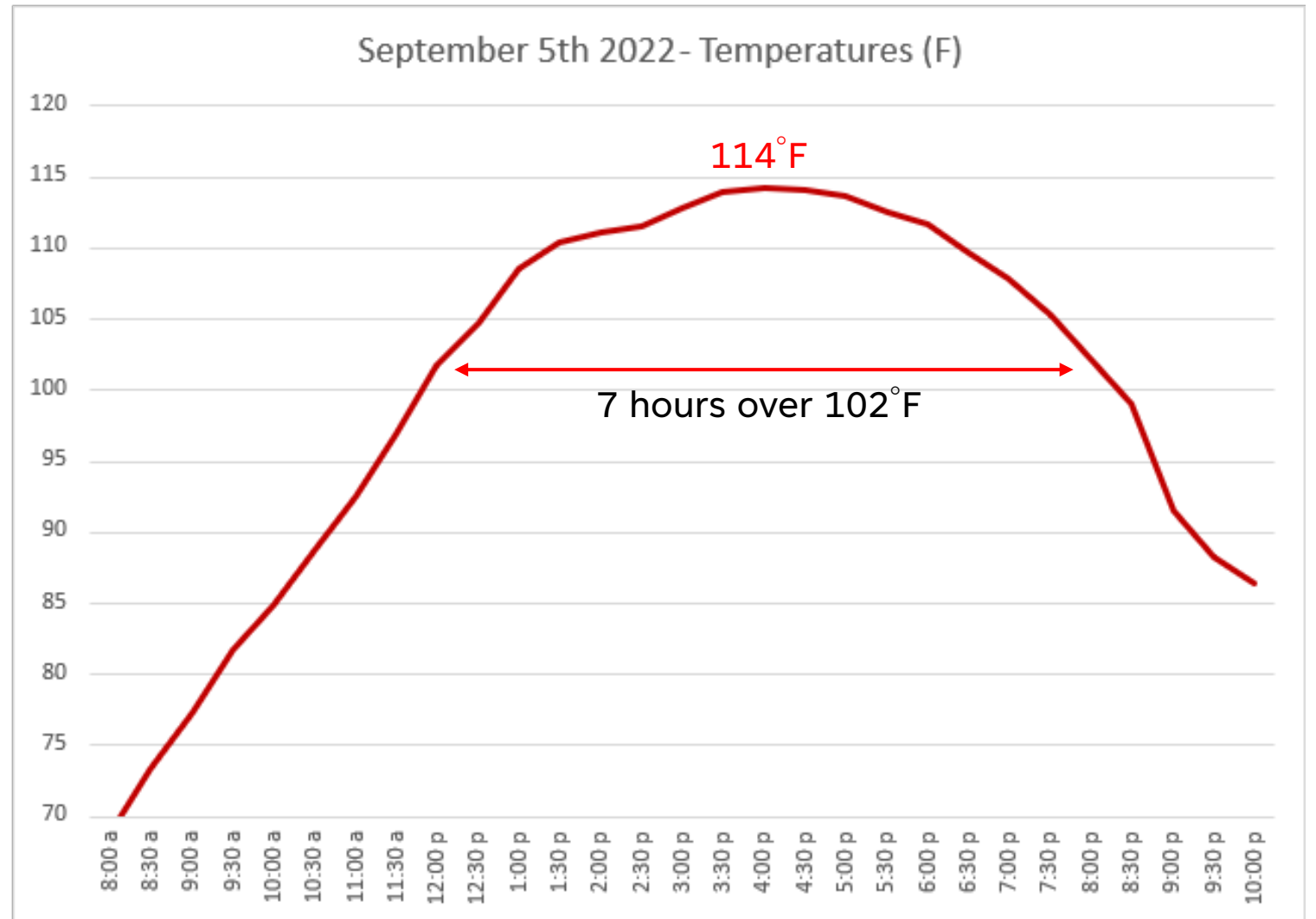




VINTAGE 2022

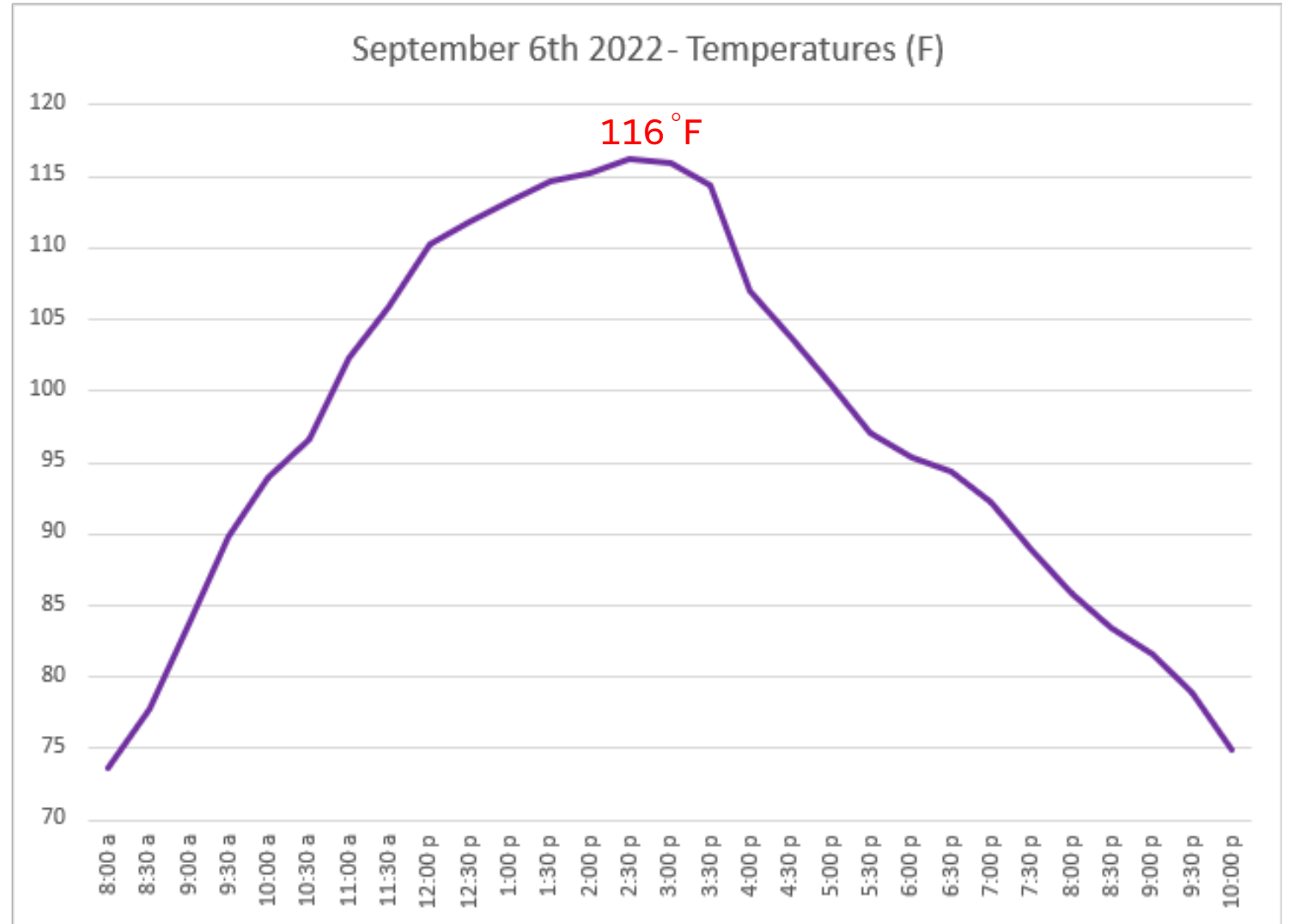


SEPTEMBER 5

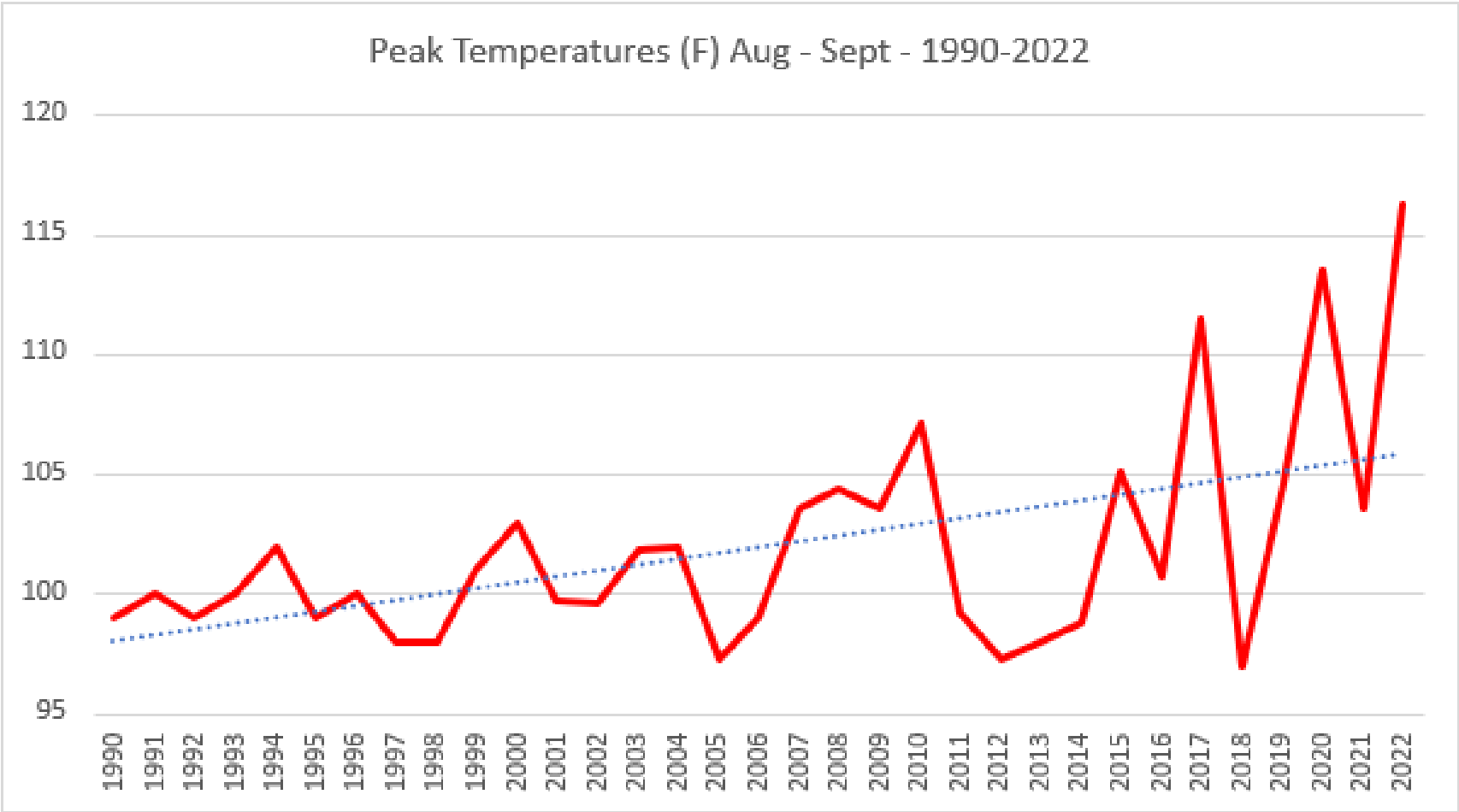




SEPTEMBER 6



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)

Temperature F	Humidity %	VPD kPa	What's it feel like?
60	80	0.5	cold & damp (foggy SF)
75	50	1.5	comfortable (spring Napa)
83	40	2.3	<b>25 years ago</b>
85	40	2.5	warm & pleasant
87	40	2.6	<b>today</b>
95	20	4.5	hot & dry (vines "shut down")
100	15	5.5	very hot & very dry
105	15	6.5	scorching (death valley)
112	11	8.3	2017 (50% crop lost)
114	11	8.8	2020 (70% crop lost)
116	13	9.1	2022 (100% loss)

## 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

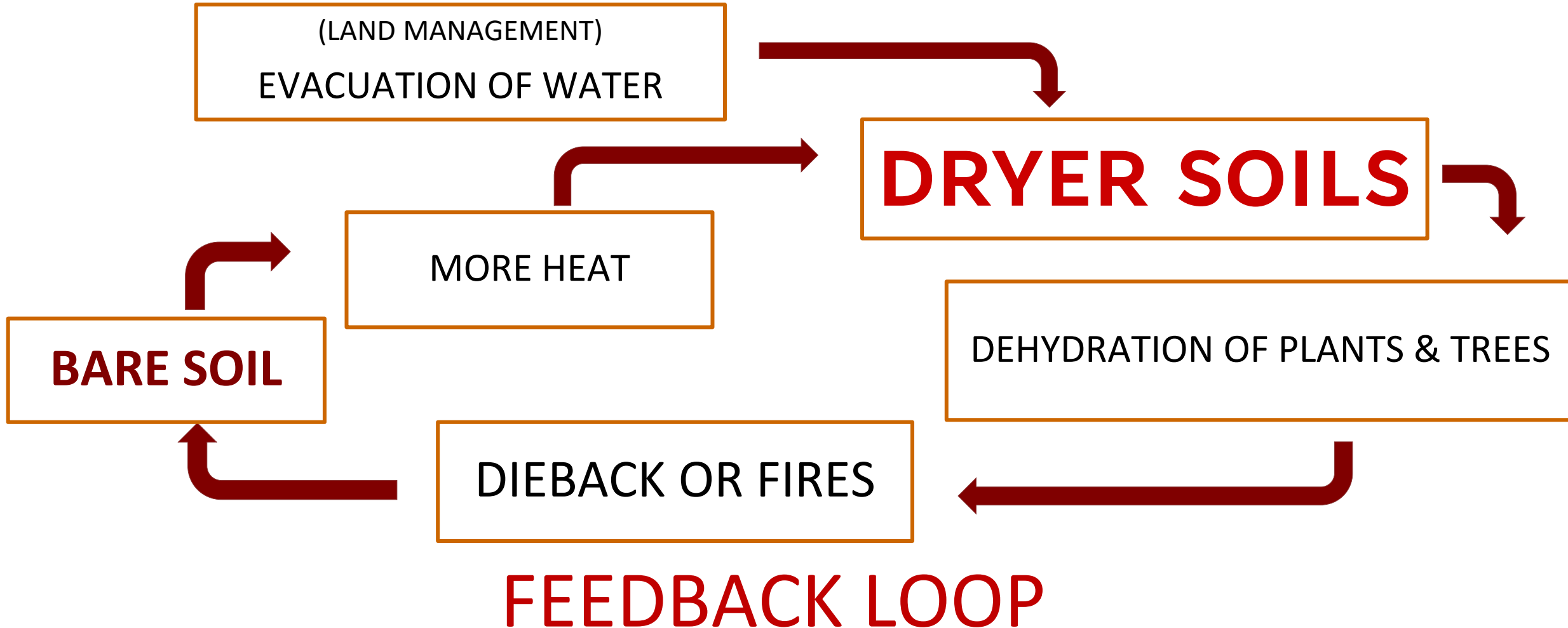
Difference in VPD **+0.3**

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.



# BARE SOIL

DUSTY

Why does DUST  
matter?

HOT

175°F

DRY

2" of RAIN  
per foot



# DUST

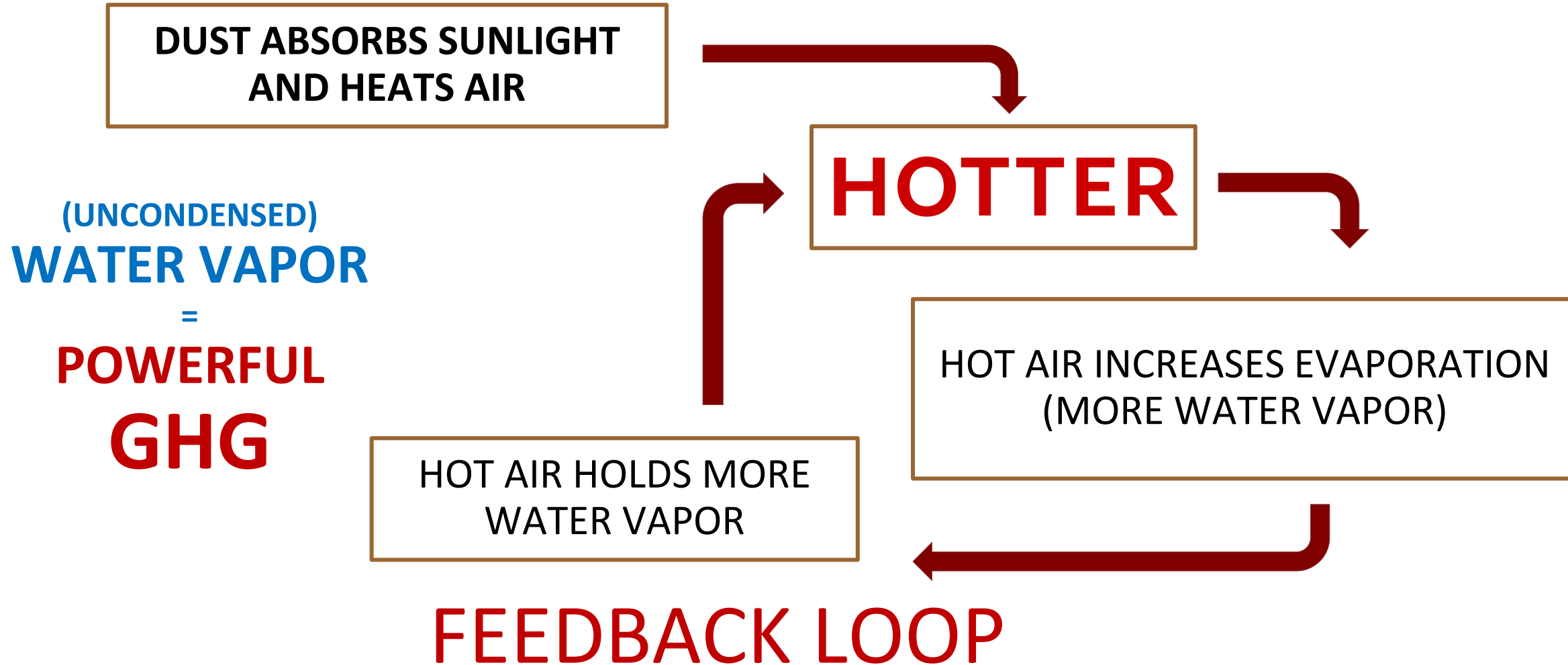
**DUST ABSORBS SUNLIGHT  
AND HEATS AIR**





# 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

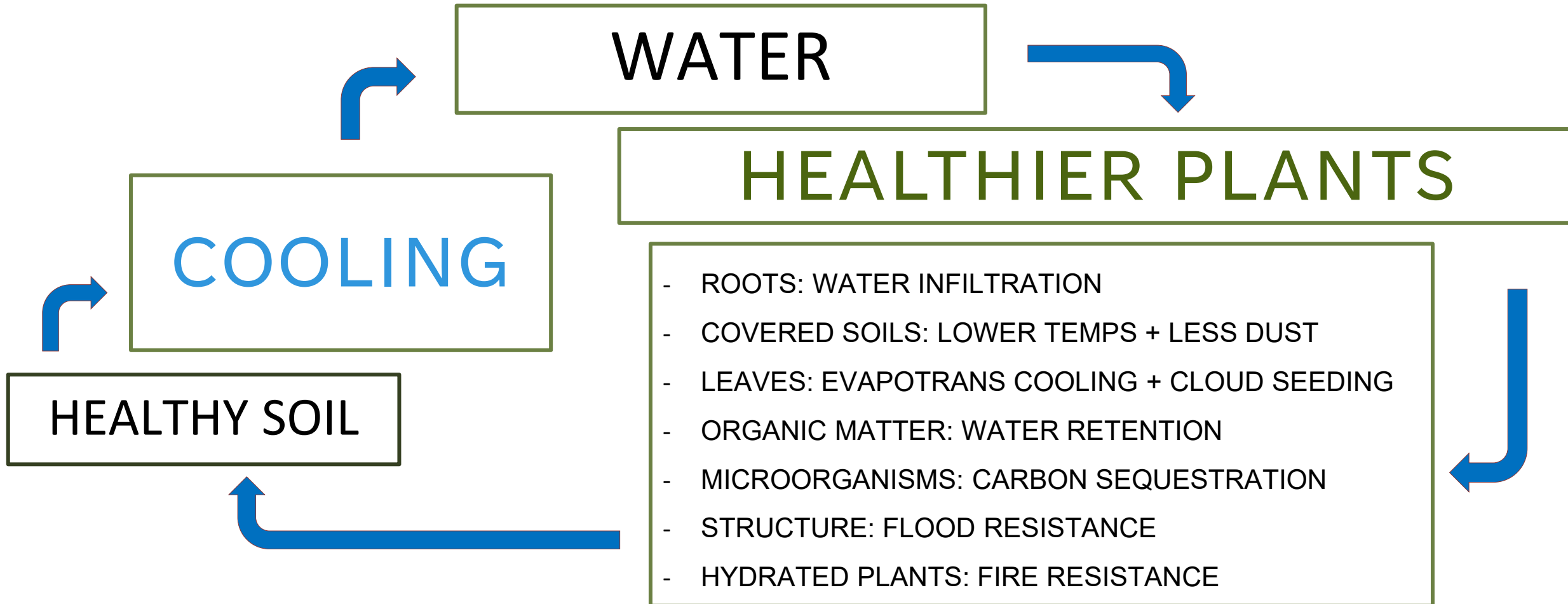
20" of RAIN

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

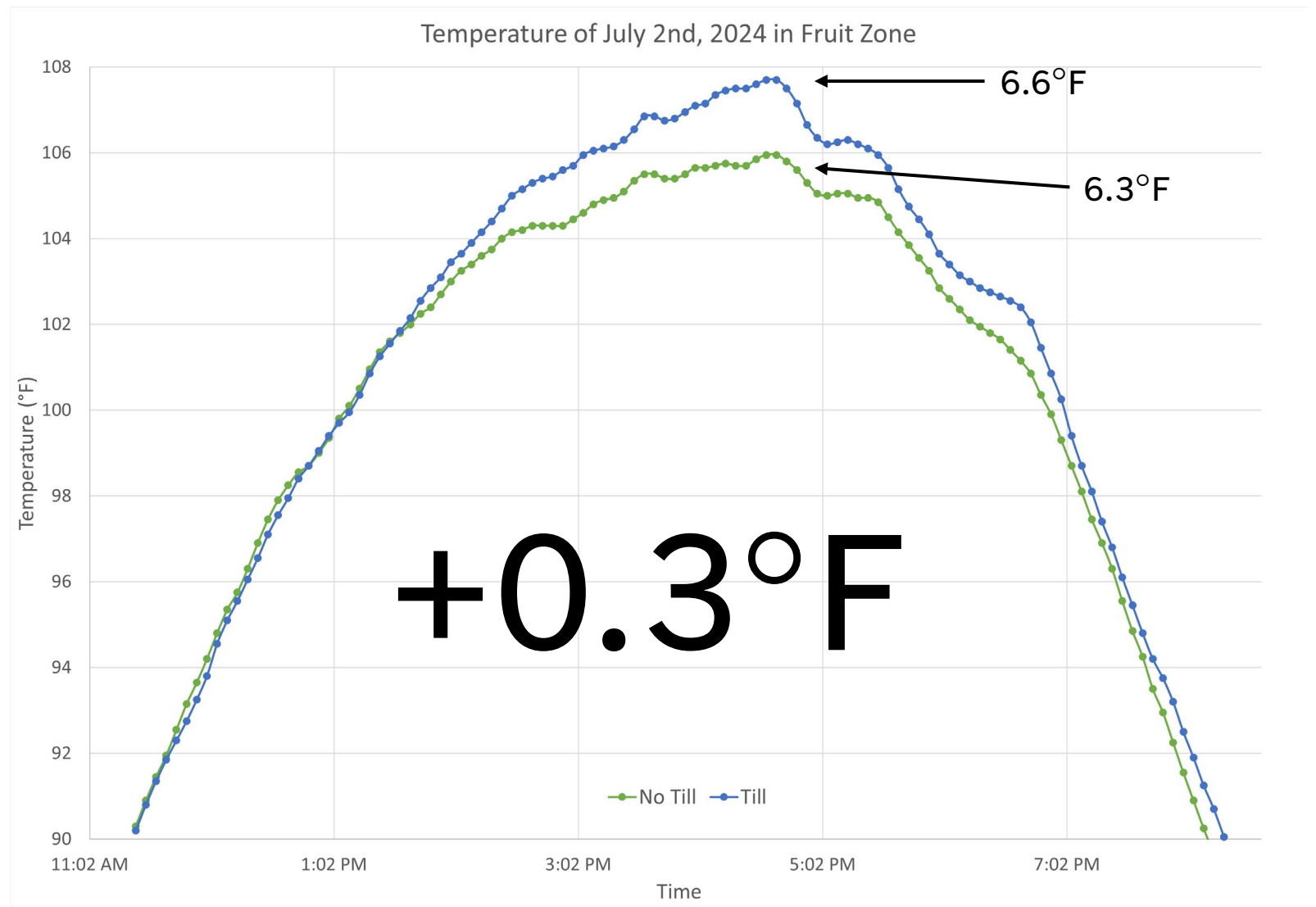
VS

GROUND COVER





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

