

# MONITORING ONION PESTS ACROSS THE TREASURE VALLEY

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## Introduction

Onion growers continue to be challenged by how to manage thrips and iris yellow spot virus (IYSV) that thrips vector. The Idaho-Eastern Oregon region has a range of different subregions, and thrips and virus pressure varies across those subregions. A number of growers have asked for assistance in monitoring pest pressure within their particular districts so they can make better informed management decisions.

My objective is to provide growers with regional assessments of pest abundance in commercial fields.

## Methods

Six commercial fields in each of six growing districts were monitored for thrips and IYSV on a weekly basis. Averages of adult and immature thrips, and IYSV incidence for each district were reported to growers, crop advisors, and others each week from April to August.

## Results and Conclusions

Adult thrips were first detected in fields by May 3, with immature thrips first found the following week. The highest early season populations were in transplanted onions. IYSV was first found by June 2 (although it was found in volunteer onions before then).

Thrips populations varied across the growing regions and fluctuated depending on insecticide applications (Fig. 1). Fields on the Oregon Slope tended to have the fewest thrips and lowest incidence of IYSV (Figs. 1 and 2). Fields in Nyssa and Ontario, Oregon, and Fruitland and Parma, Idaho, had the highest incidence of IYSV, with the earliest outbreaks occurring in Fruitland/Parma.

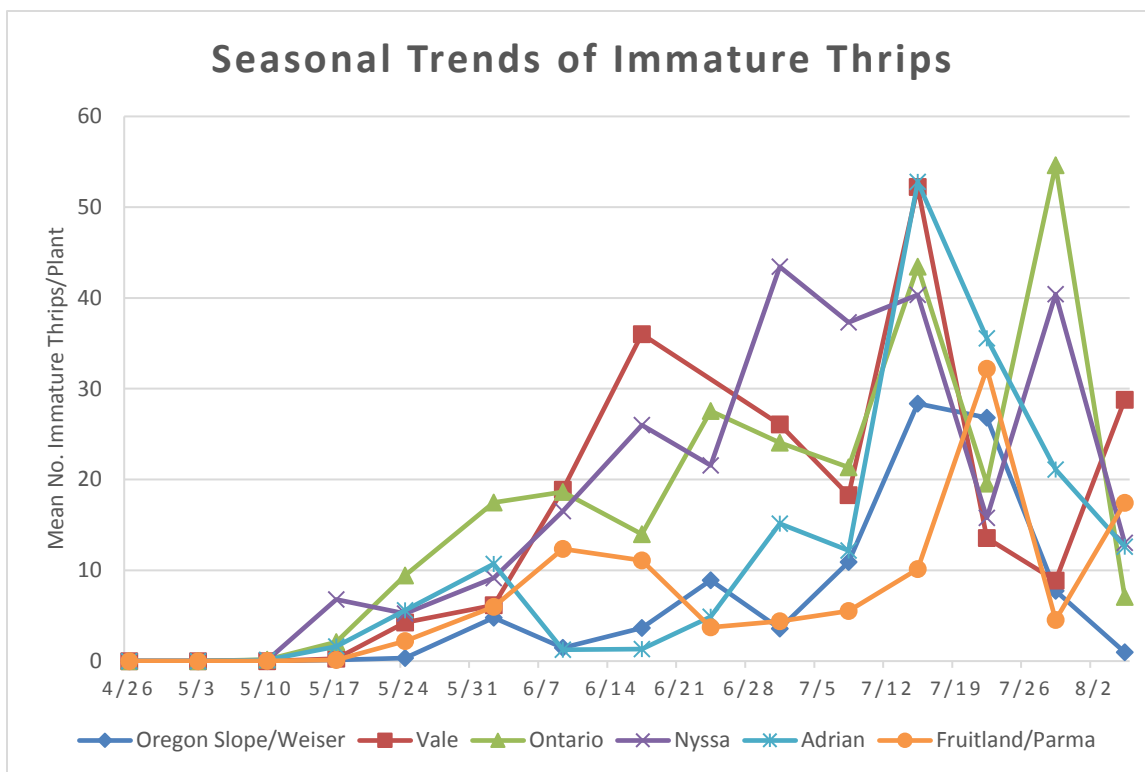
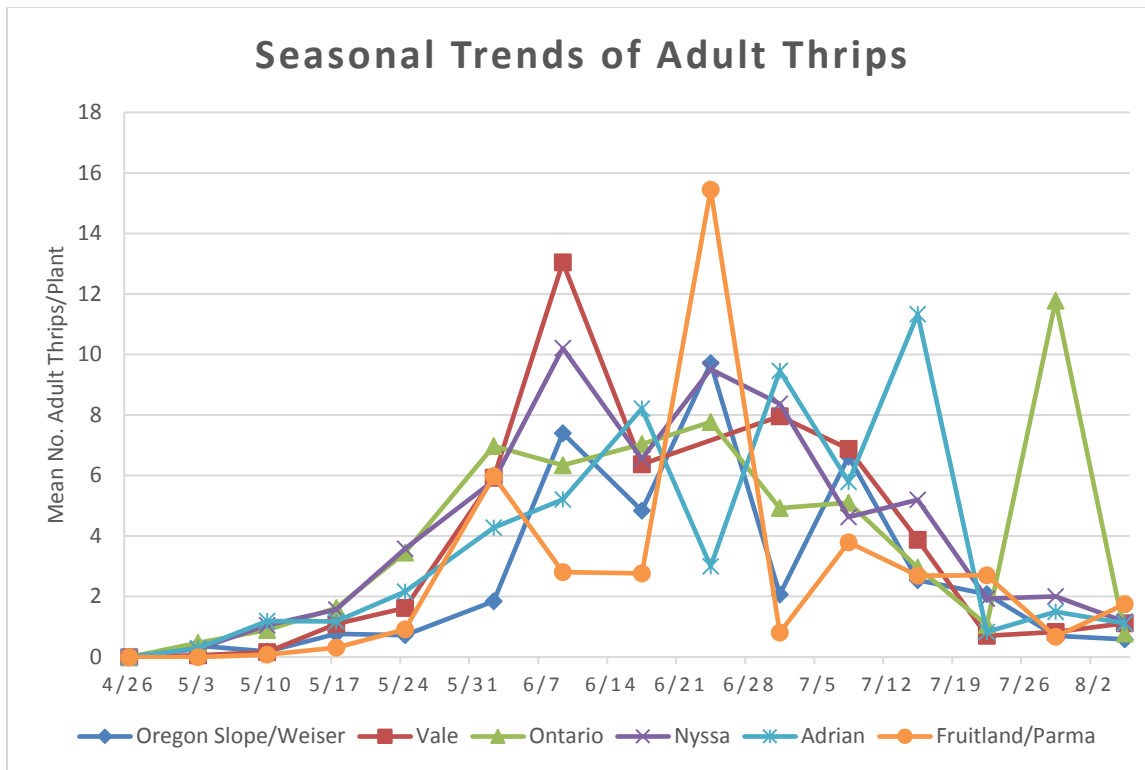


Figure 1. Seasonal trends for adult (top) and immature thrips (bottom) from commercial onion fields across different growing areas of the Treasure Valley. Values are the mean number of thrips per plant for each area.

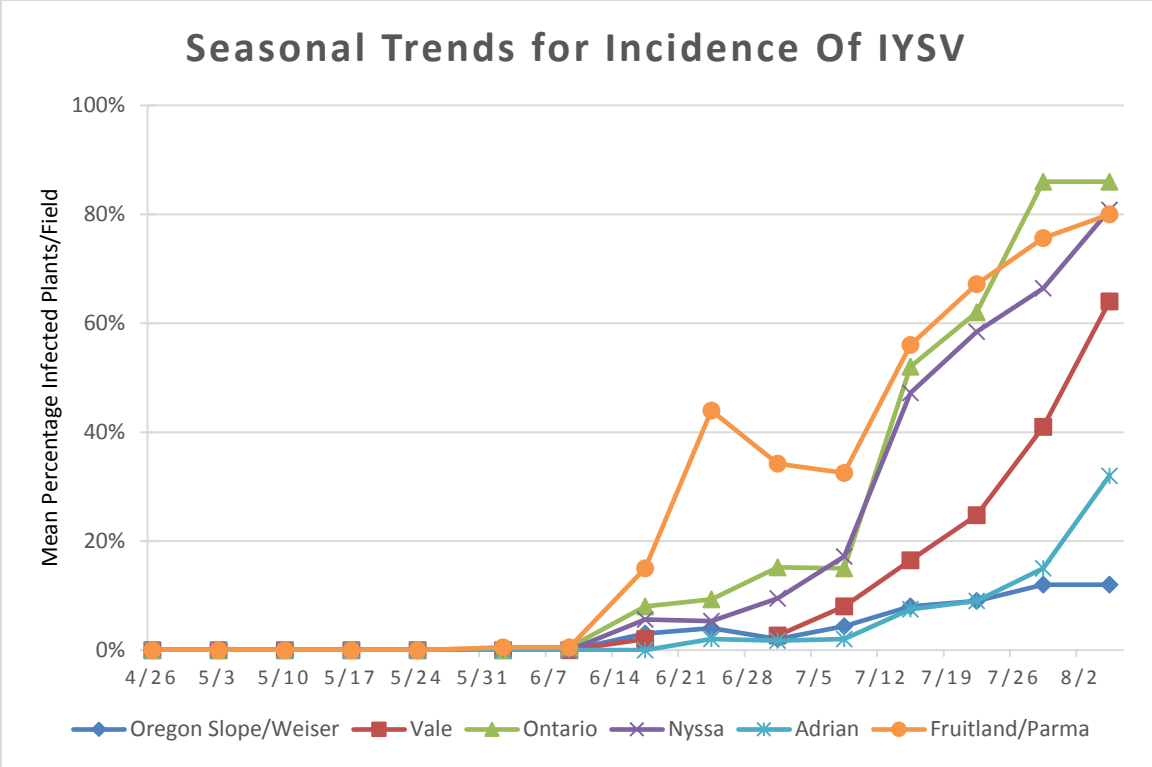


Figure 2 Seasonal trends for Iris yellow spot virus from commercial onion fields across different growing areas of the Treasure Valley. Values are the mean percentage of infected plants per field for each area.