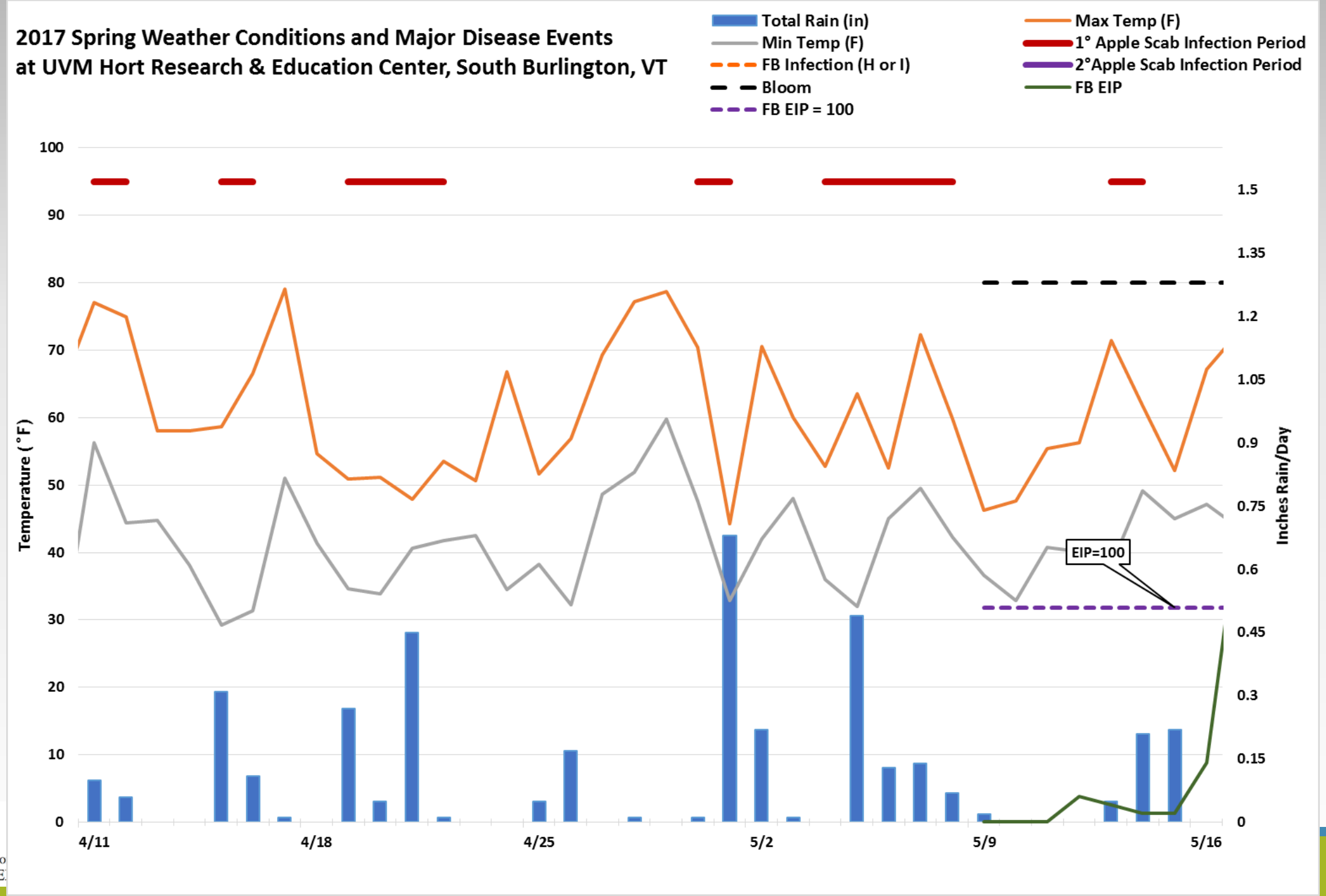
RECAP OF THE 2017 SEASON

TERENCE BRADSHAW
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

122ND ANNUAL VTFGA & UVM APPLE PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2018

2017: Year of averages


2017 Spring Weather Conditions and Major Disease Events
at UVM Hort Research & Education Center, South Burlington, VT
Total Rain (in)
Min Temp (F)
FB Infection (H or I)
Bloom
FB EIP = 100
Max Temp (F)
1° Apple Scab Infection Period
2°Apple Scab Infection Period
FB EIP
Temperature (°F)
Inches Rain/Day
EIP=100
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
1.5
1.35
1.2
1.05
0.9
0.75
0.6
0.45
0.3
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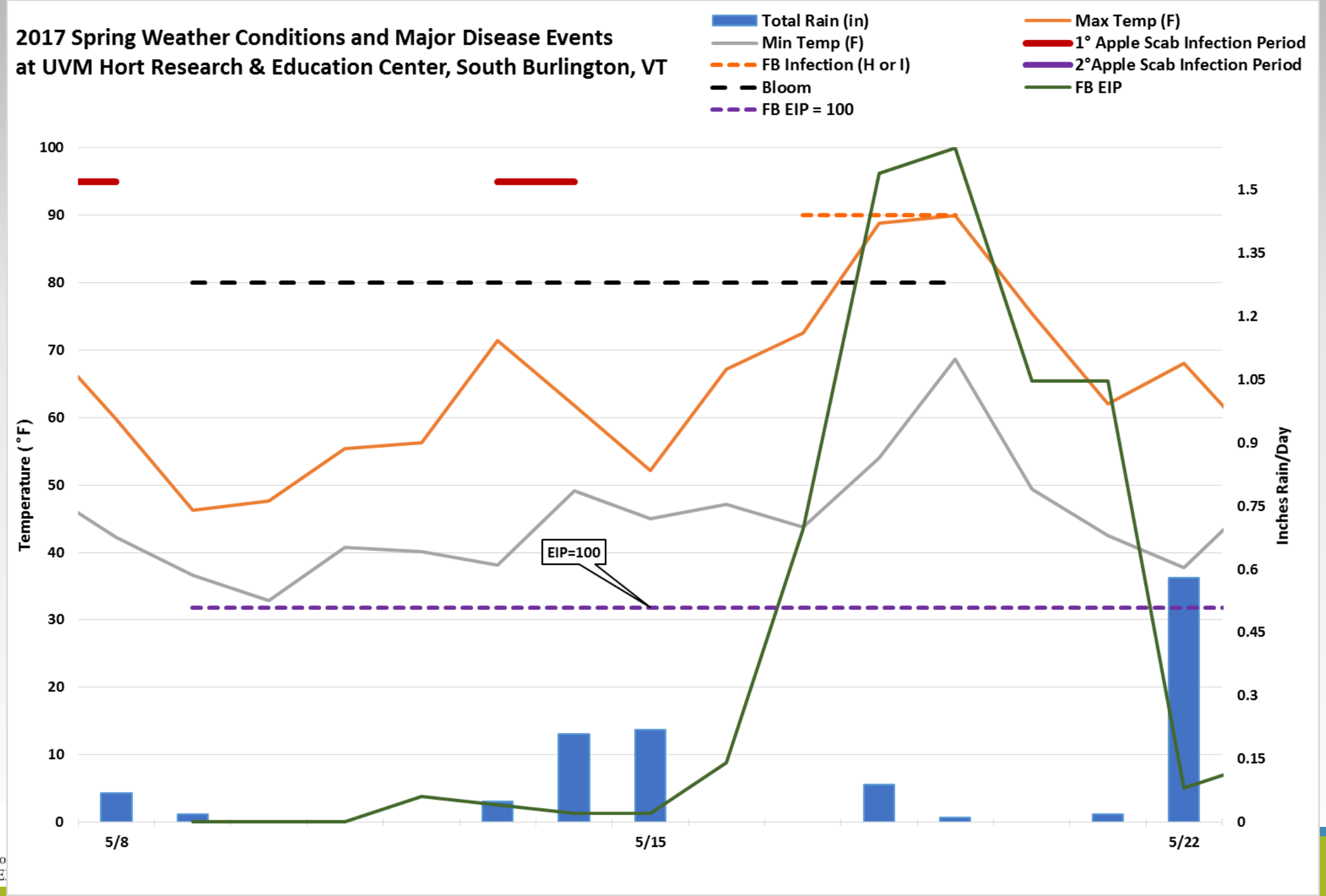
0
4/11
4/18
4/25
5/2
5/9
5/16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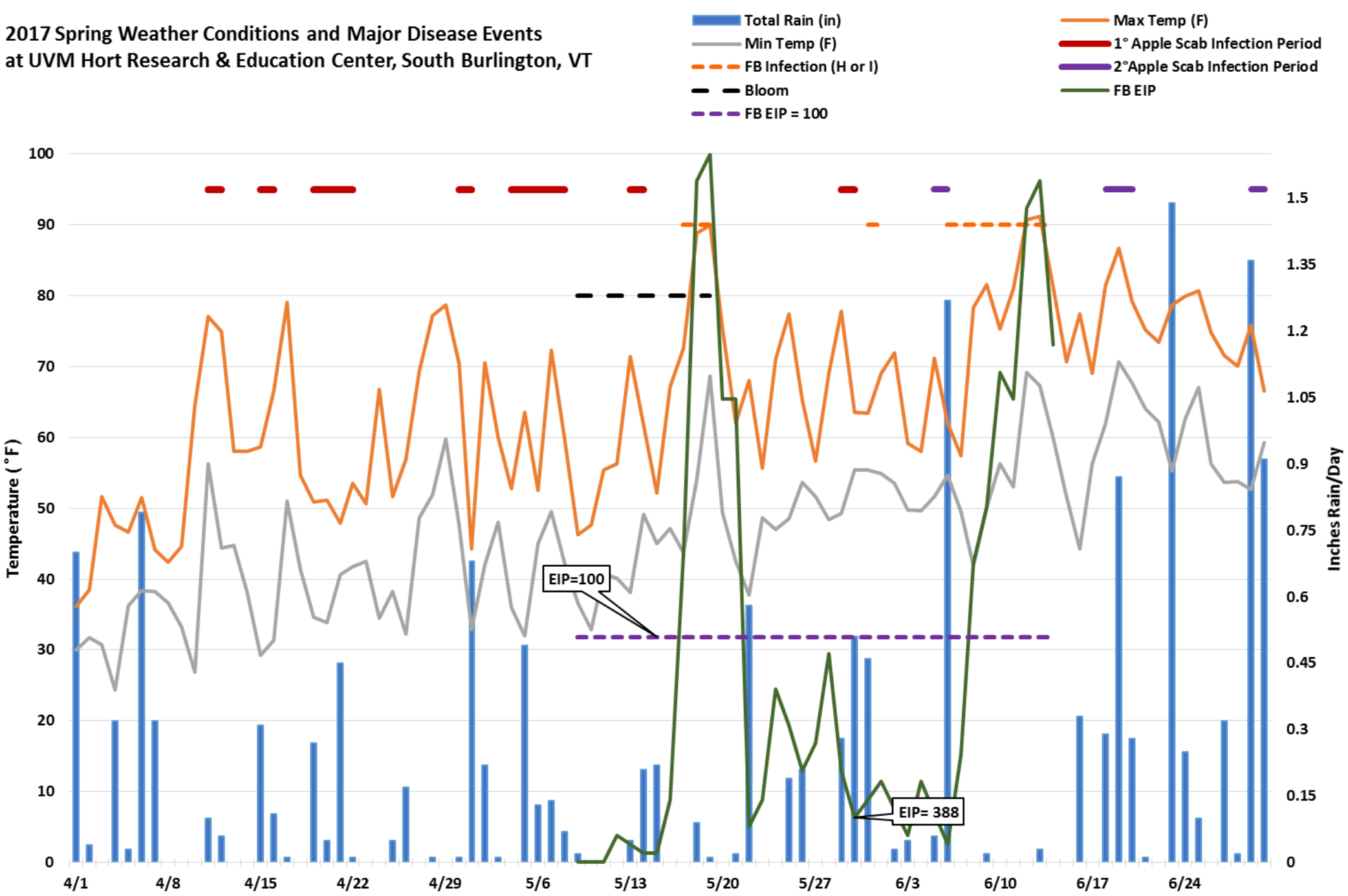
5/8
5/15
5/22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4/1
4/8
4/15
4/22
4/29
5/6
5/13
5/20
5/27
6/3
6/10
6/17
6/24

2017 apple scab

- Difficulty getting on wet ground
- Scab was relatively easy to mange if you could get our there
  - A good bit of scab in low-spray orchards
  - Decimating if unsprayed
- 2018: Be ready to cover early if scab inoculum carried over
- Keep an eye out for black rot, rust, etc as well

2017 Fire blight

Largely a non-issue

- Weather just wasn't conducive during bloom
- Some infection on later blooming cultivars
- Keep your eyes out during pruning
- Be ready in 2018- FB is the New Normal in VT

2017 Insects

- Considerable focus in 2017, 2018
- Continued scouting program
- Focus on pollinators

H.688: An act relating to pollinator protection

2017 VT Apple Grower IPM Survey

Table 5. Practices employed to improve crop pollination or reduce impacts on pollinators in respondent's orchards

	Yes	No	Unsure
Use of migratory honey bees during bloom	54.5%	36.4%	9.1%
Keeping honey bees on the orchard property year-round	9.1%	90.9%	0.0%
Use of purchased bumble bees in the orchard	20.0%	80.0%	0.0%
Reliance on wild bees for pollination	54.5%	45.5%	0.0%
Use of nest boxes to encourage wild bee populations	9.1%	81.8%	9.1%
Minimum tillage to improve ground bee habitat	72.7%	18.2%	9.1%
Not spraying insecticides during apple bloom	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Not spraying insecticides when any plants are blooming in the orchard	45.5%	45.5%	9.1%
Mowing to reduce flowering weeds prior to spraying	72.7%	27.3%	0.0%
Herbicides to reduce flowering weeds prior to spraying	9.1%	72.7%	18.2%
Maintaining flowering habitat within the orchard to encourage pollinators	27.3%	63.6%	9.1%
Maintaining flowering habitat outside but near the orchard to encourage pollinators	81.8%	9.1%	9.1%
Avoiding use of neonicotinoid insecticides	63.6%	36.4%	0.0%
Avoiding use of neonicotinoid insecticides before bloom	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Avoiding use of pesticides rated highly toxic to bees	81.8%	18.2%	0.0%
Avoiding use of demethylase/sterol inhibitor fungicides during bloom	90.9%	9.1%	0.0%

2018 (?) Farm Bill

Items to keep watch of:

- Specialty Crops
  - (Research Initiative , Block Grants)
- Foundation for Food & Agriculture (pollinator program)
- Section 32 Produce purchases
- Fresh Fruit & Veg Program
- Crop Insurance

2018 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide

Available now in reduced form:

NETREEFRUIT.ORG

Material migrating over as we speak

Printed guide available by spring

Thank you

- UVM Apple Program
- Crop Production Services, Addison, VT
- Vermont Agriculture Experiment Station
- USDA NIFA CPPM #VTN29202
- UVM Agricultural Risk Management and Crop Insurance Education Program
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