



UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



2026 End of Season Data Summary

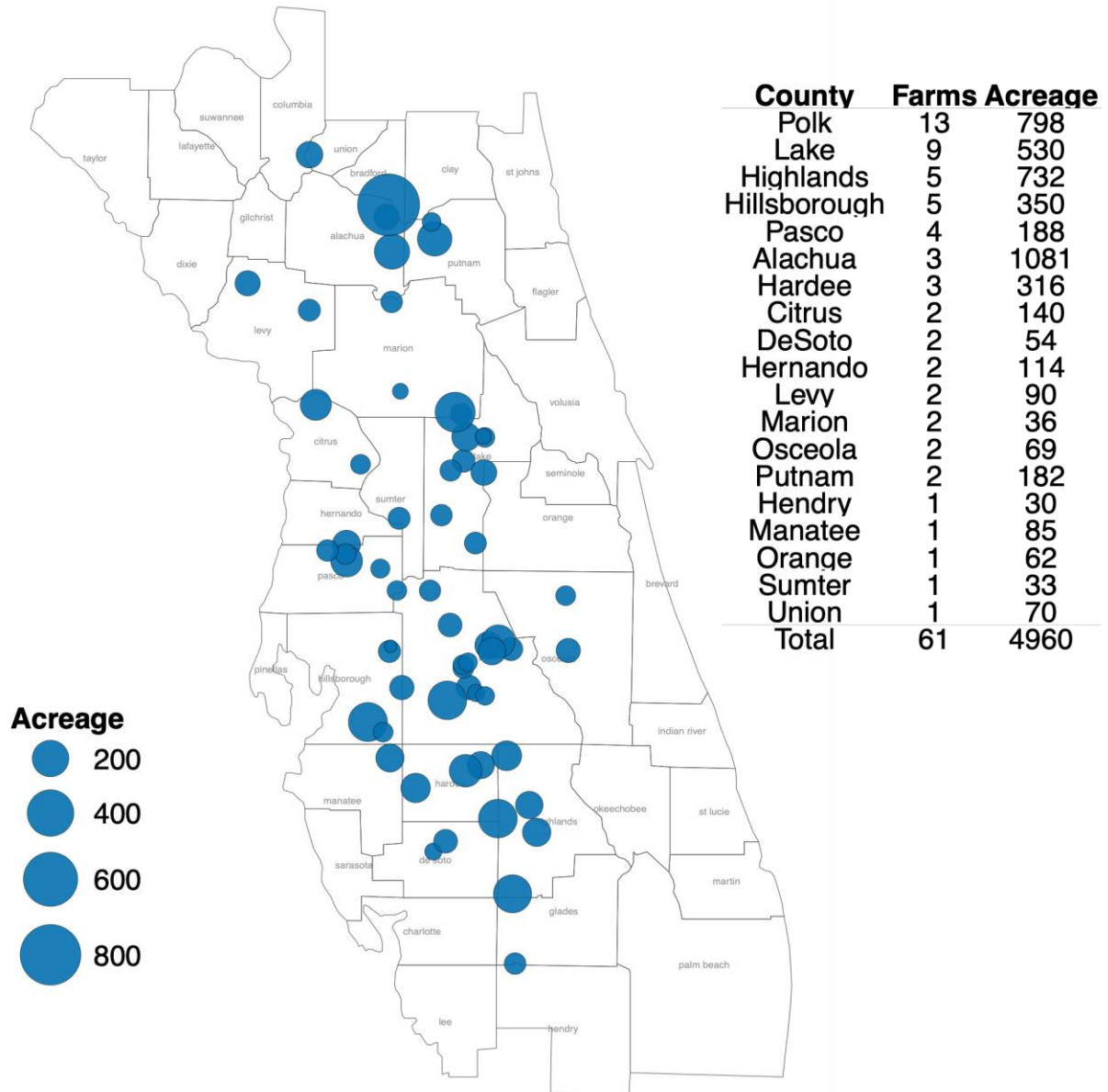
FBGA Fall Meeting

Doug Phillips

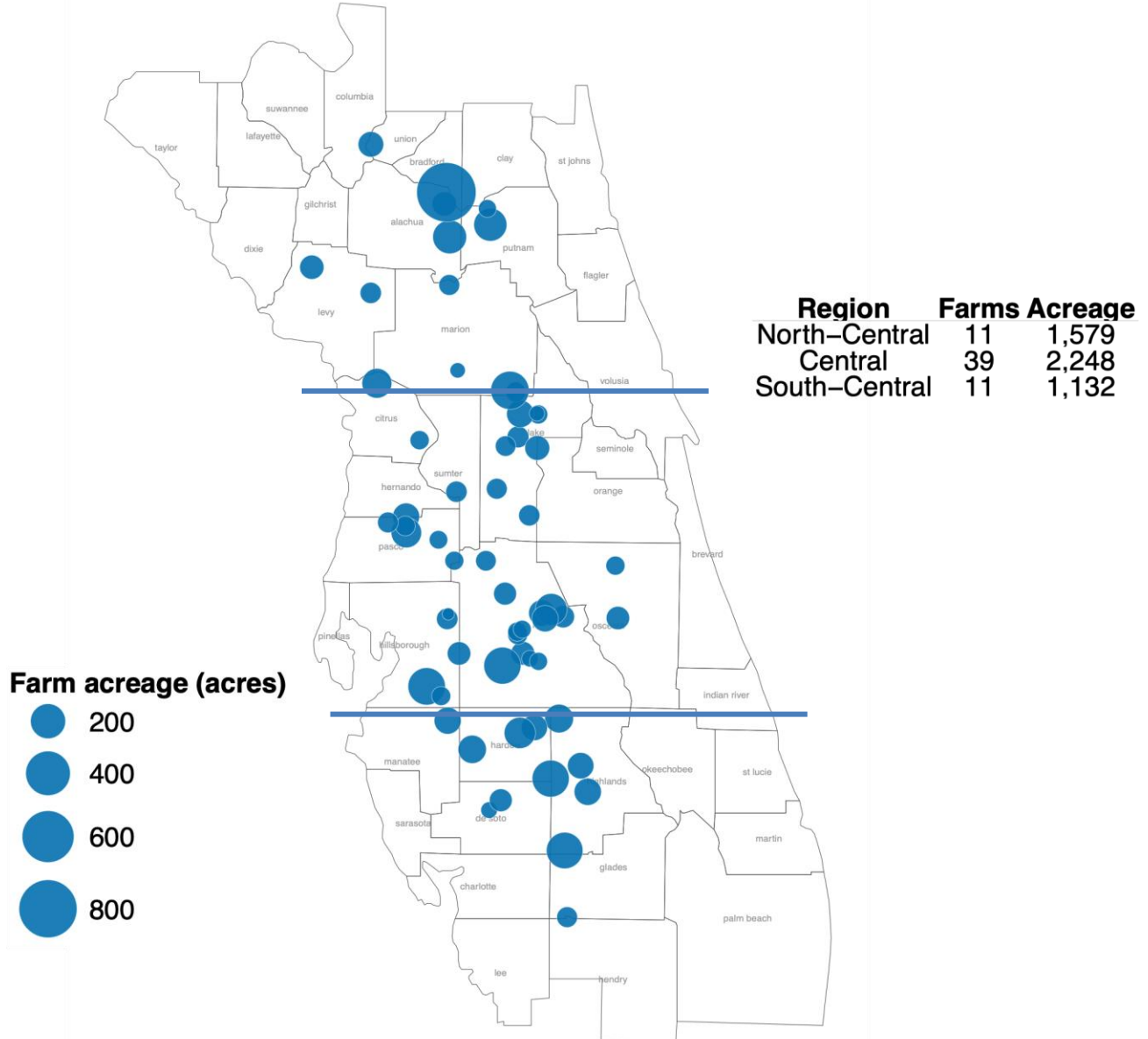
UF/IFAS Blueberry Extension Coordinator

October 15, 2026

Florida Blueberry Farms Surveyed 2026 Season



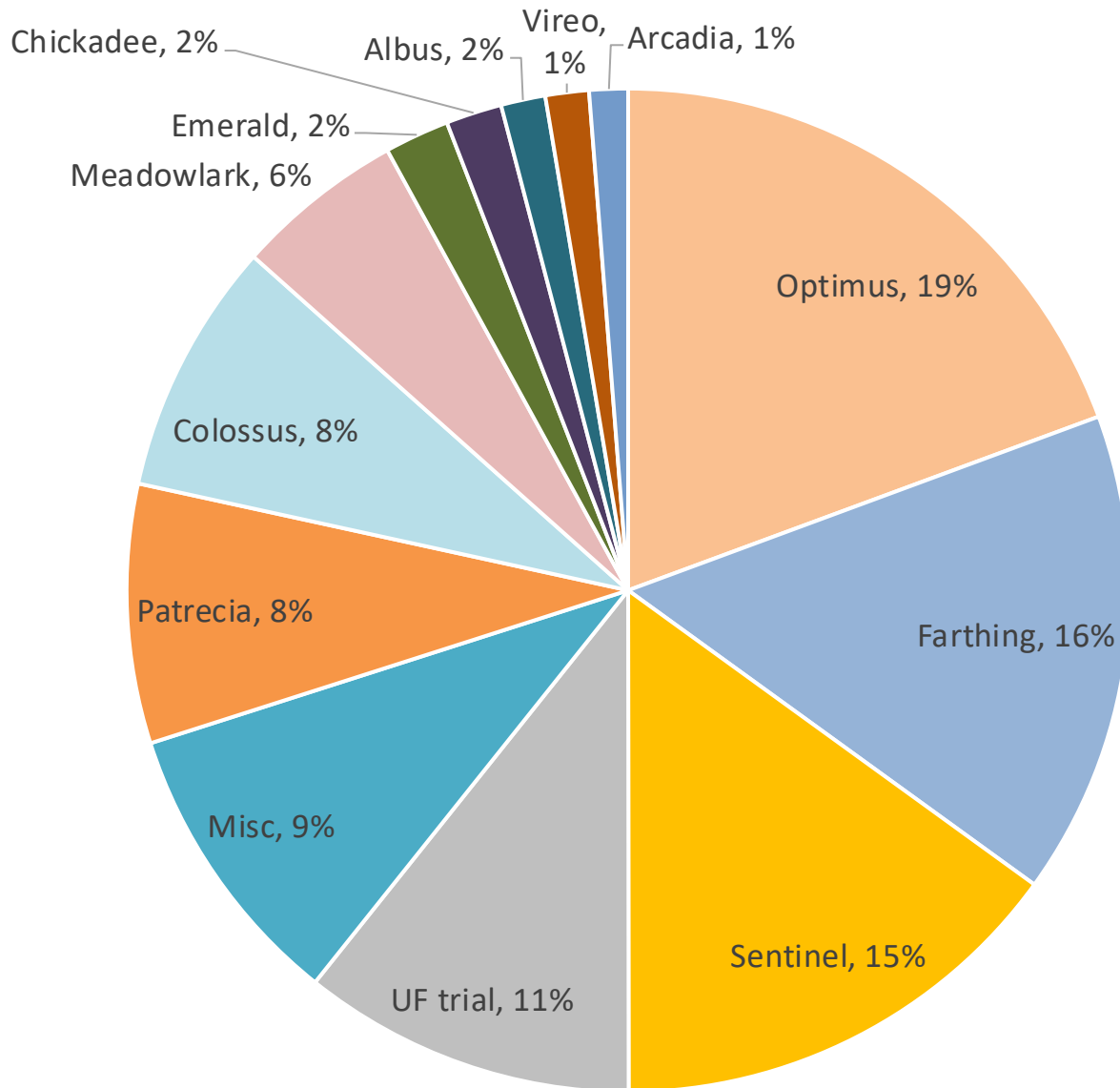
Florida Blueberry Farms Surveyed 2026 Season



Surveyed Acreage 2026 vs 2025

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
North	1,579	1,410
Central	2,248	2,232
South	<u>1,132</u>	<u>847</u>
Total	4,960	4,488

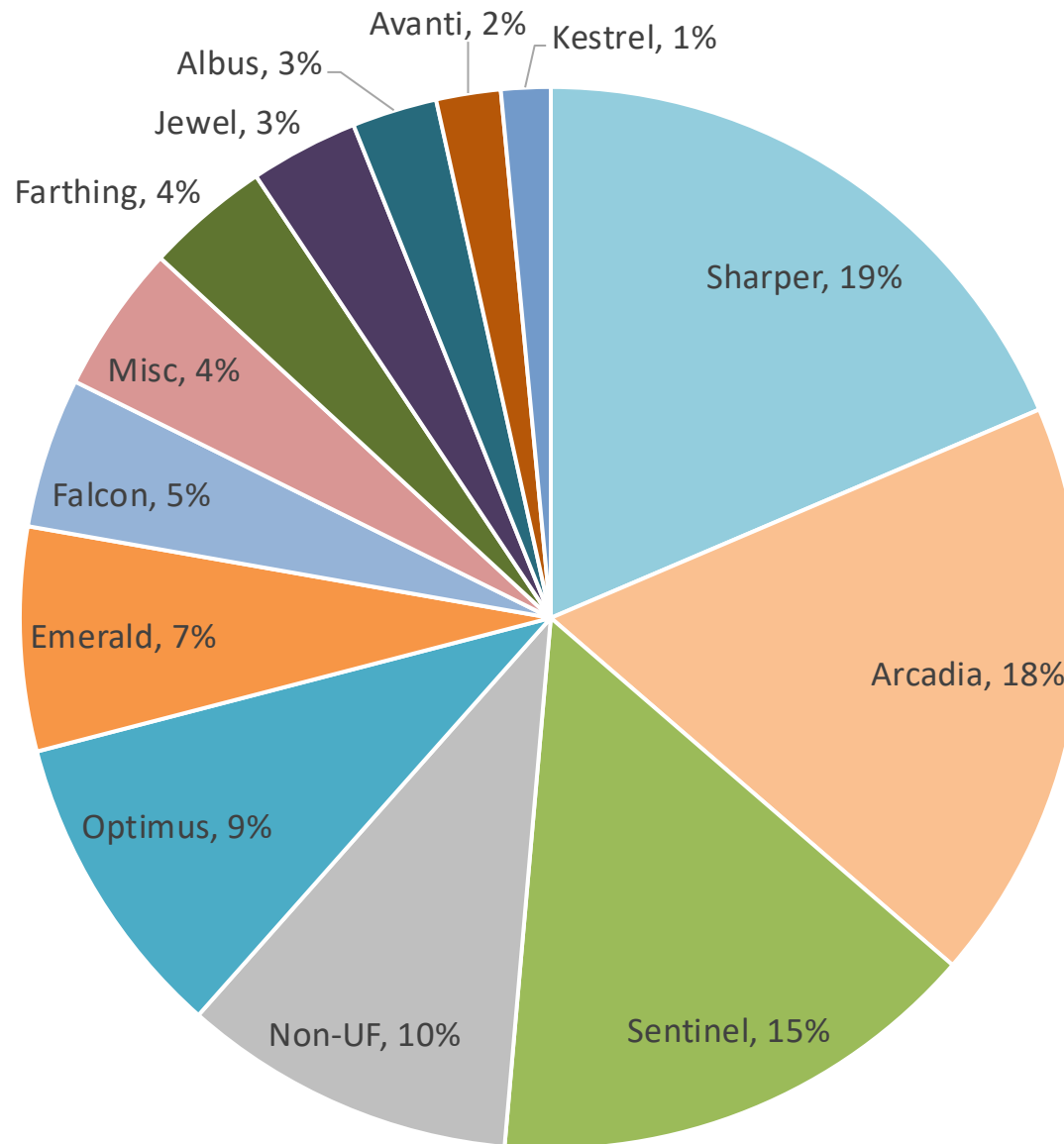
North Florida Varieties by Acreage



North Florida 2026 vs 2025

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Optimus	19%	15%
Sentinel	15%	13%
Farthing	16%	17%

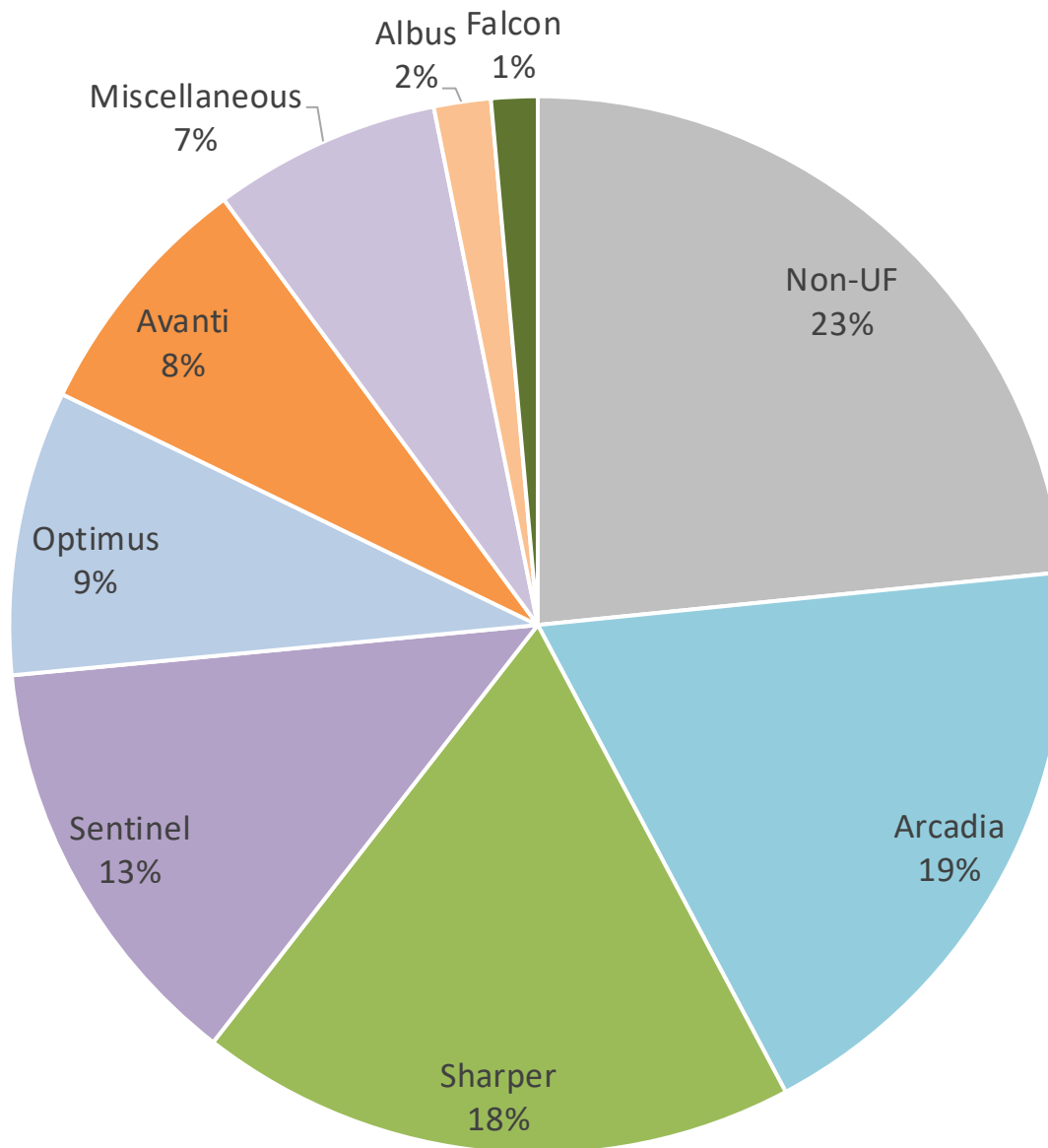
Central Florida Varieties by Acreage



Central Florida 2026 vs 2025

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Sharper	19%	5%
Falcon	5%	2%
Sentinel	15%	12%
Arcadia	18%	19%

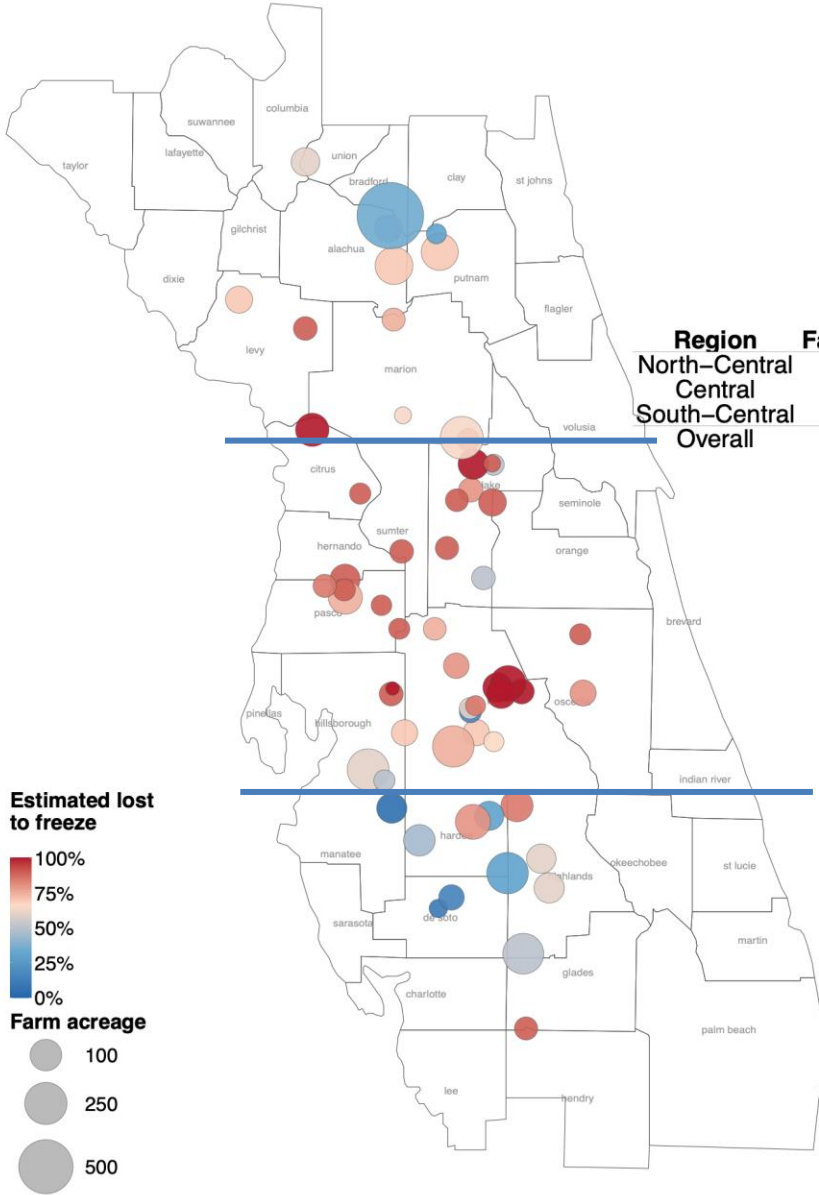
South Florida Varieties by Acreage



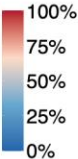
South Florida 2026 vs 2025

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Sharper	18%	12%
Sentinel	13%	17%
Arcadia	19%	22%

Losses from February 2026 Freeze



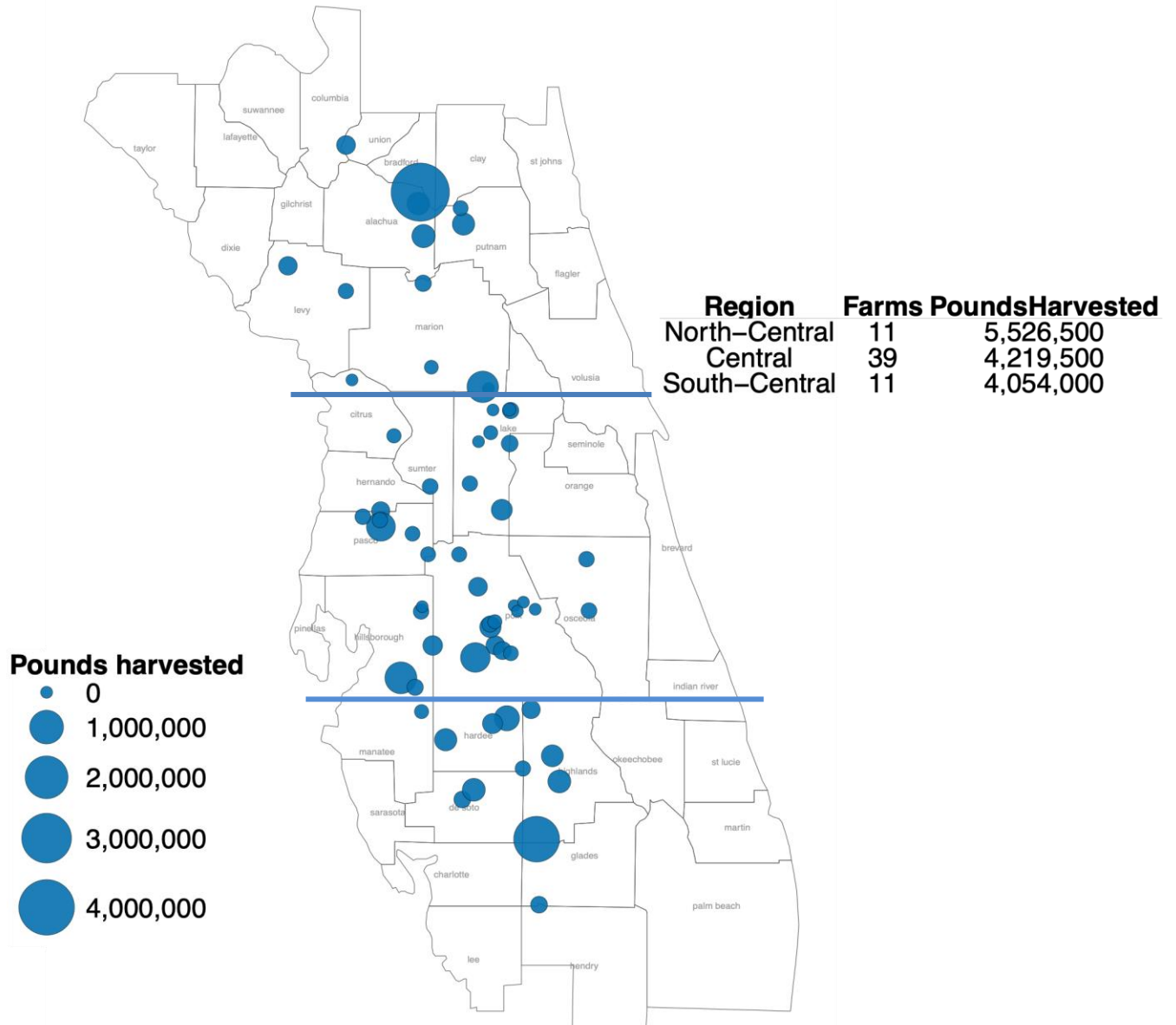
Estimated lost to freeze



Farm acreage



Pounds Harvested per Growers



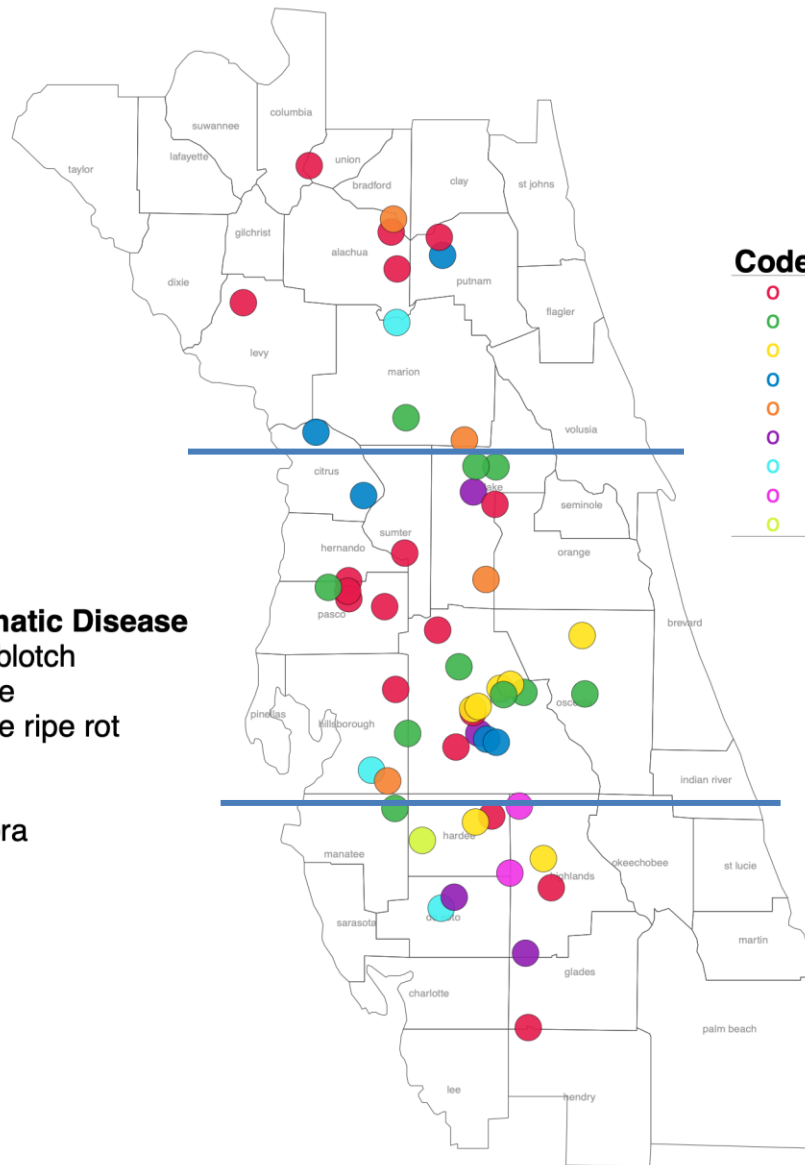
2026 Pounds Harvested per Growers

• North-Central	5,530,000 lbs
• Central	4,220,000 lbs
• South-Central	4,050,000 lbs
Total	13,800,000 lbs

Most Problematic Diseases Reported by Growers

Most Problematic Disease

- algal stem blotch
- anthracnose
- anthracnose ripe rot
- leaf rust
- none
- Phytophthora
- Ralstonia
- stem blight
- target spot



Code	Disease	Freq
○	Phytophthora	18
○	none	10
○	Ralstonia	7
○	algal stem blotch	5
○	anthracnose ripe rot	4
○	stem blight	4
○	leaf rust	3
○	target spot	2
○	anthracnose	1

Significant Diseases by Region

North

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Phytophthora	5	45%
Algal stem blotch	2	18%

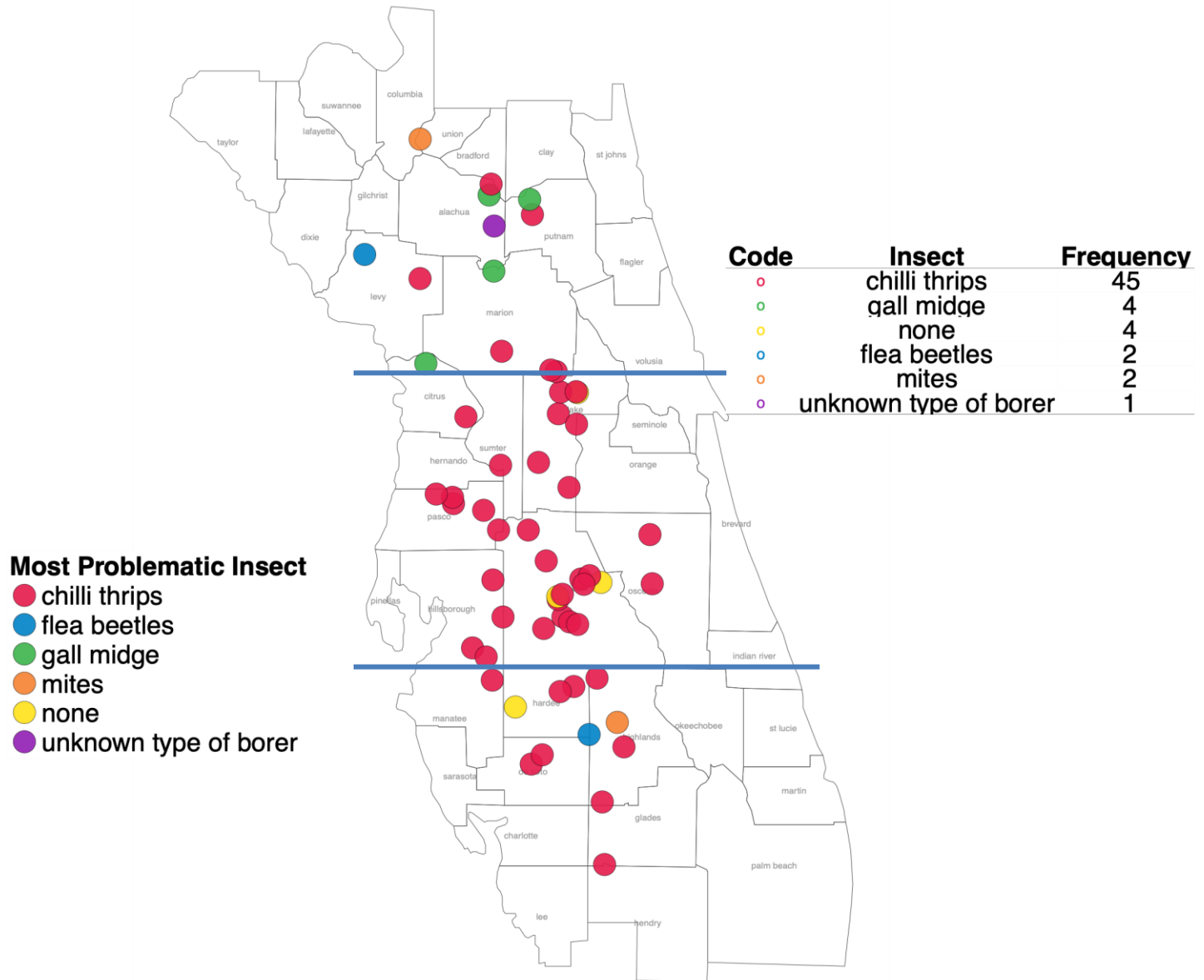
Central

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Phytophthora	10	26%
Ralstonia	5	13%
Algal stem blotch	3	8%
Anthracnose Fruit Rot	3	8%
Stem blight	2	5%

South

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Phytophthora	3	27%
Ralstonia	2	18%
Stem blight	2	18%
Target spot	2	18%

Most Problematic Insect Pests Reported by Growers



Significant Insect Pests by Region

North-Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	4	36%
Gall Midge	4	36%

Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	33	85%

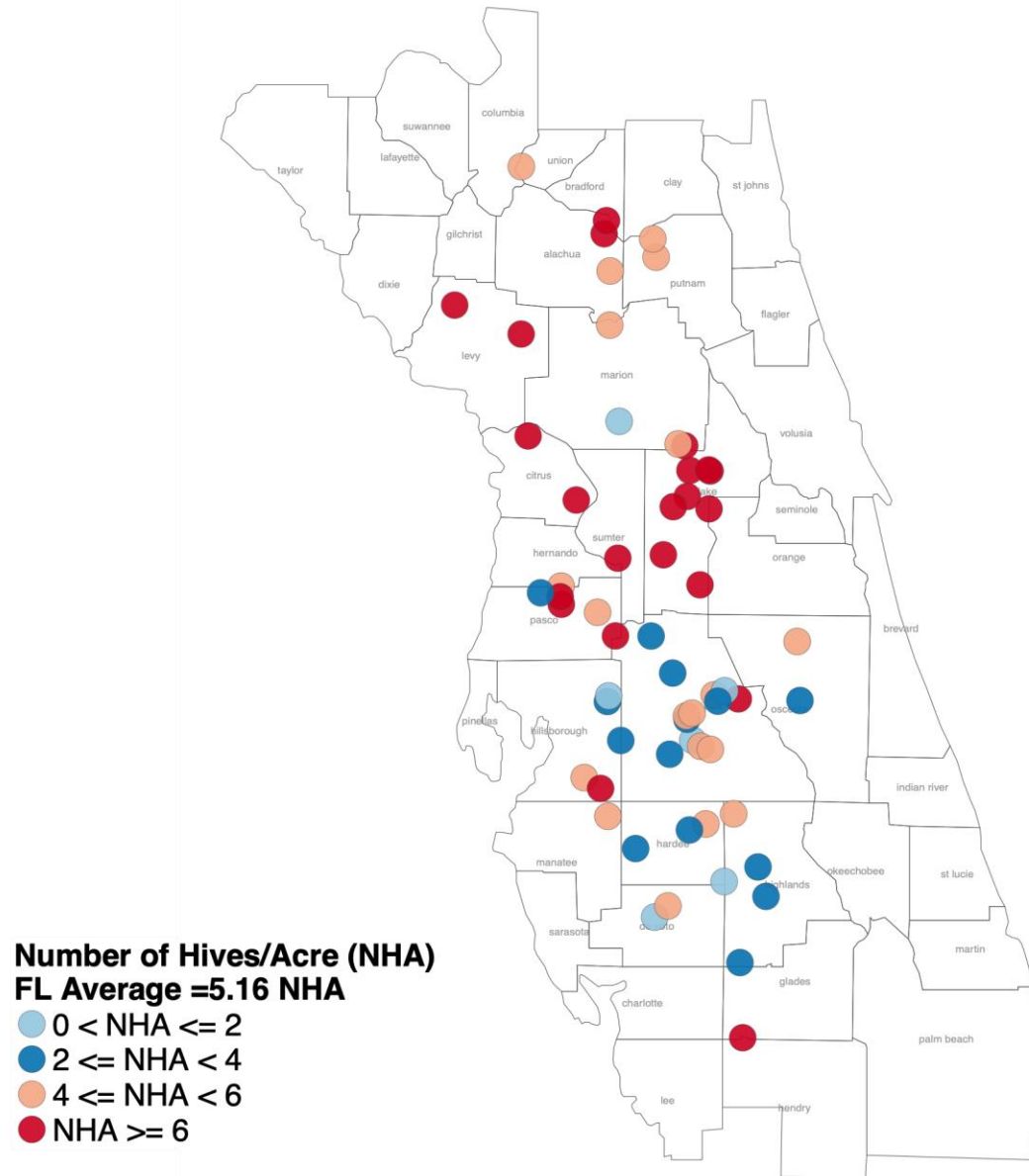
South-Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	8	73%

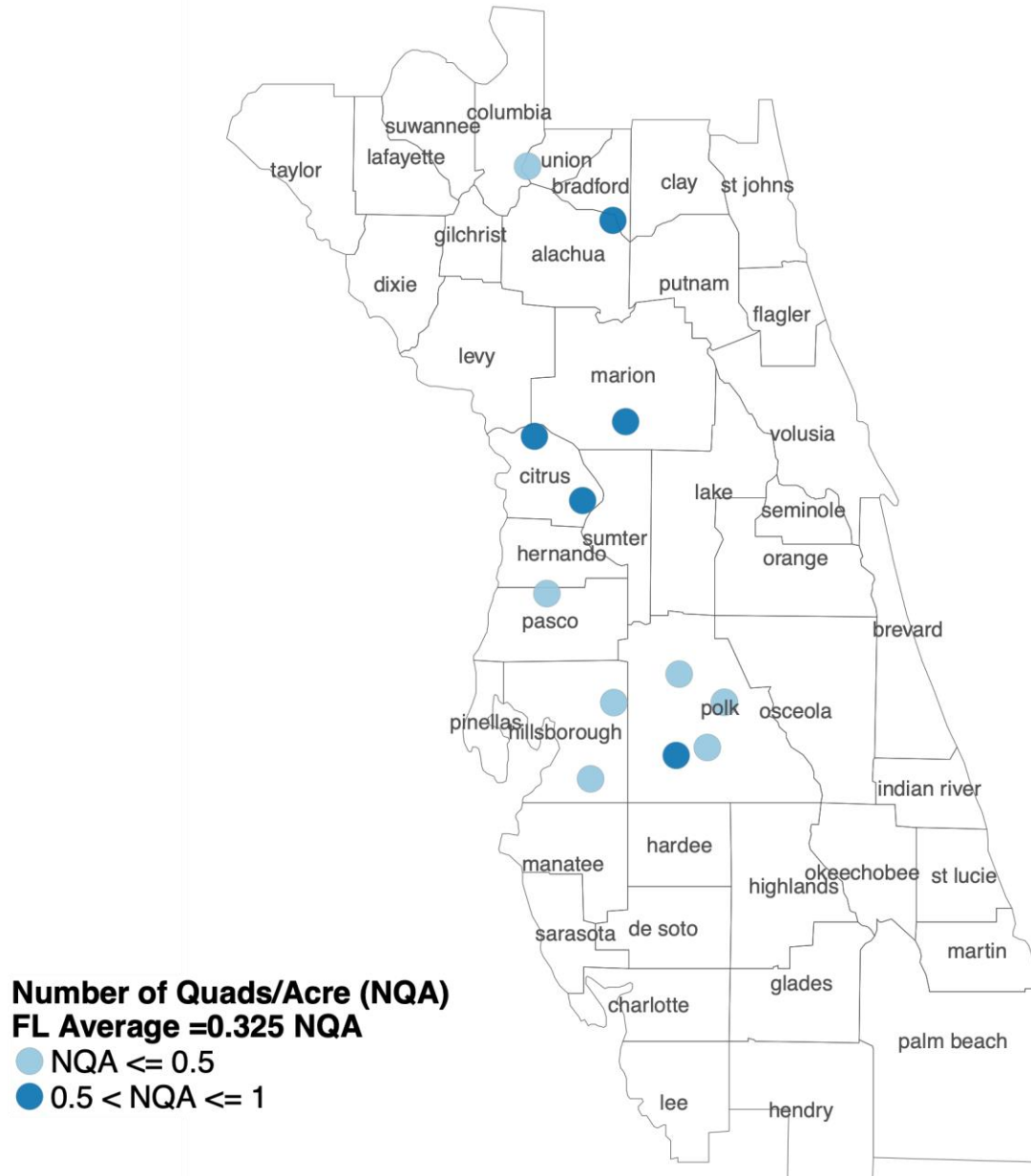
2026 – 2025 Comparison

	2026	2025
Diseases	Phytophthora	Anthracnose Fruit Rot
Insect Pests	Chilli Thrips	Chilli Thrips

Honeybee Hives per Acre Reported by Growers



Bumble Bee Quads per Acre Reported by Growers

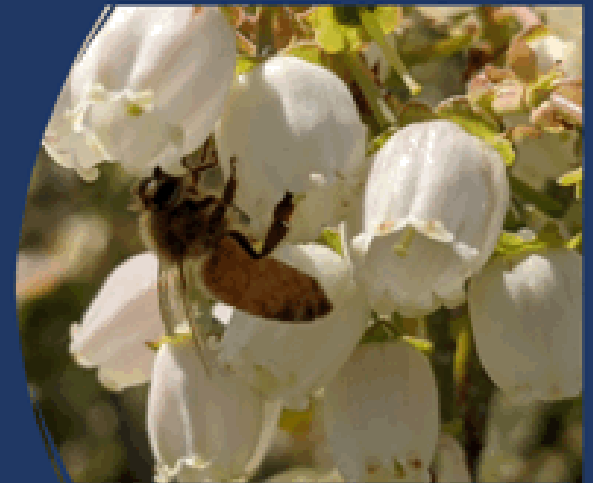


Super El Niño Projected Weather

- We are in a Super El Niño weather pattern.
- The projected impact for the southeastern US, including Florida, is for a cooler and wetter winter.
- This could have various impacts on production, disease, insect pests, and pollination. UF presenters will briefly address these impacts in their presentations.

How might predicted weather affect pollination?

- Honey bees not very active below 60-62 degrees F or in rain
- Honey bee activity can also be reduced by overcast weather
- BUT individual flowers last longer (up to 16 days) in cooler weather (60s F)



How might predicted weather affect pollination?

- Overlap in bloom time among cultivars may be increased, increasing chances for cross-pollination in mixed blocks
- Potentially fewer freezes before, during, and after bloom

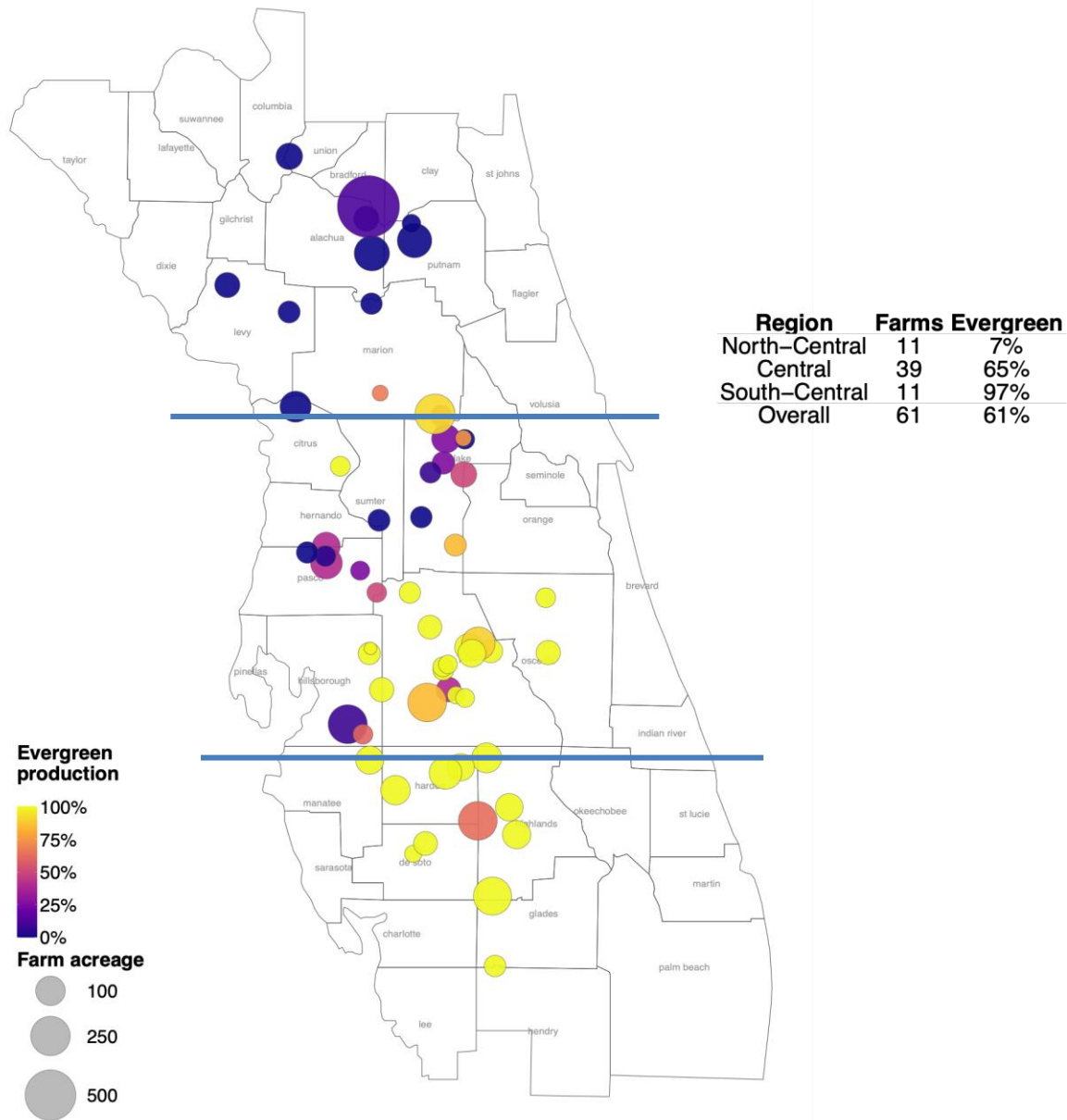


Ways to increase pollination

- Bumble bees forage more in cool, cloudy, and even wet weather
 - Consider adding managed bumble bees
- Increase honey bee stocking density
- Bloom time may be extended for many cultivars
 - Consider having bees on farm for longer

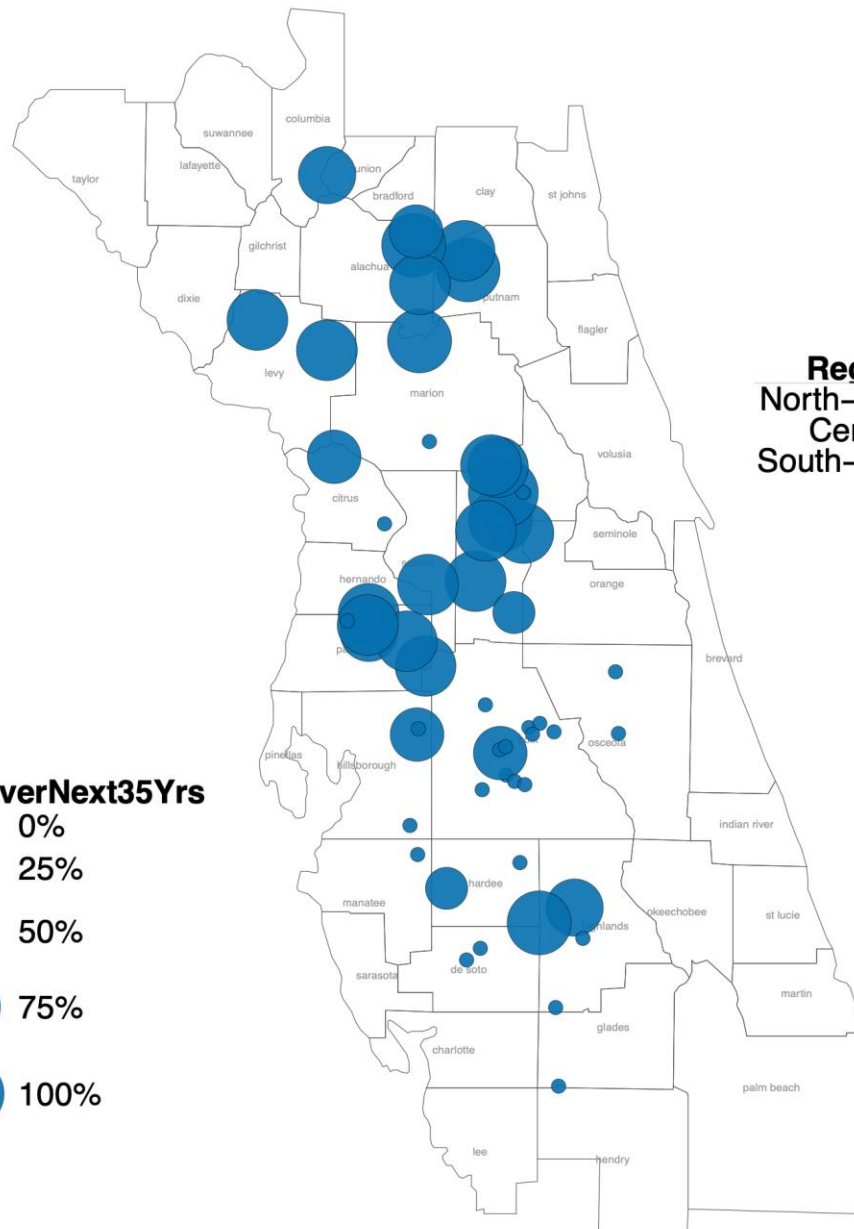
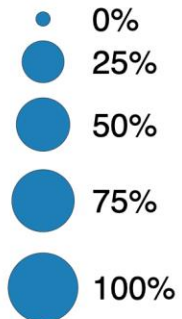


Evergreen Production Reported by Growers



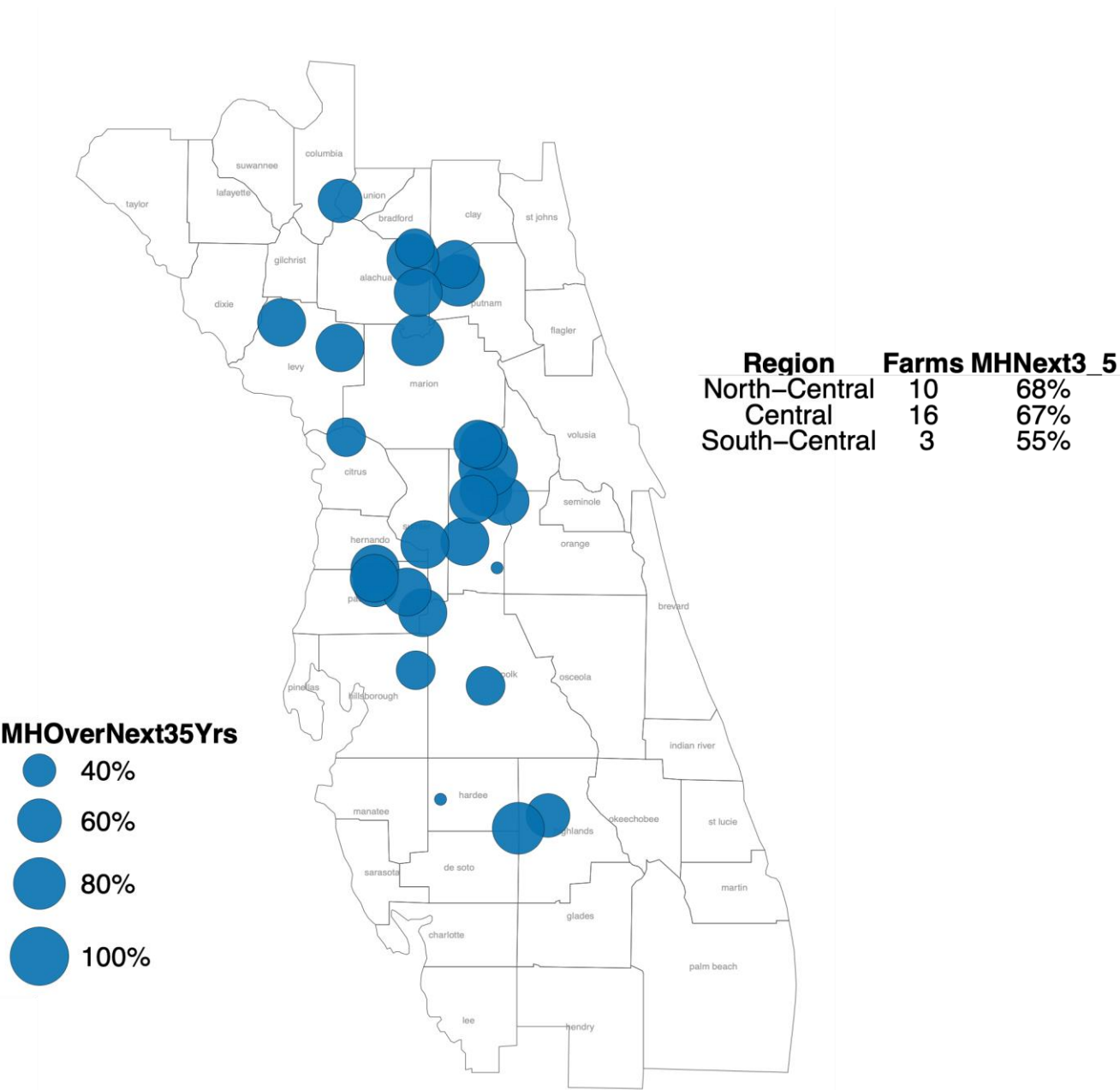
Expected % Machine Harvesting in Next 3-5 Years

MHOverNext35Yrs



Region	Farms	MHNext3_5
North-Central	11	62%
Central	36	30%
South-Central	9	18%

Expected % Machine Harvesting in Next 3-5 Years (Excluding 0%)



Notable Items

- 12 farms plan on adding new acreage over the next year.
- 17 farms expected to be larger over the next 3-5 years
- 42 farms expected to be the same size
- Any questions you would like to see added to the survey for next season?

Grower App Resources

UF/IFAS Blueberry Growers Guide

- Scouting Guide
- Management calendar
- Cultivars
- Pesticides (adding pollinator toxicity)
- English & Spanish



UF Blueberry Breeding Website

2026 season data maps will be available on the UF blueberry breeding website –

www.blueberrybreeding.com/blog

You can also access –

- information and data on UF blueberry cultivars
- all UF EDIS blueberry extension publications

Acknowledgements

- Participating blueberry growers
- Paul Adunola – map development
- UF Blueberry Breeding Program for funding this research





Questions?

Doug Phillips

dal64372@ufl.edu

Facebook - @BlueberryUF

X/Twitter - @blueberry_fl

Blog – www.blueberrybreeding.com/blog