# XylPhi-PD®

Bactericide for use in grapevines.

For *biologically based* reduction of Pierce's Disease (PD) in grapevines.

Fully registered and available for commercial sale in certain US states.







Jean Rodriguez-Ramos, Ph.D.
Research Scientist
jrodriguez@inphatec.com

### Today's Talk

Pierce's Disease ("PD") Overview

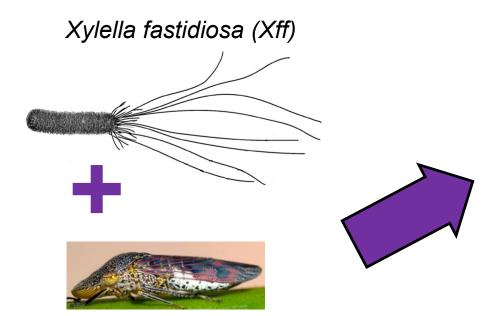
Bacteriophage Overview – XylPhi-PD®

Xyleject – how to apply

Efficacy of XylPhi-PD®

### Biology of Pierce's Disease

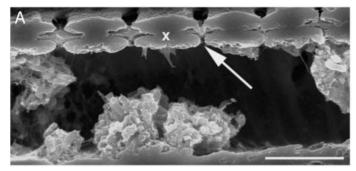
**1.** *Xff* colonizes the gut of sharpshooters.

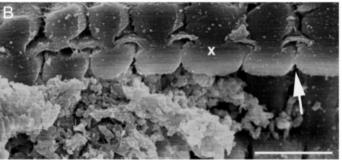


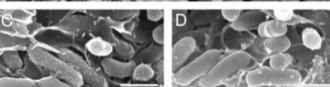
Glassy-winged sharpshooter



Blue-green sharpshooter

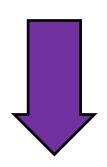








**2.** Xff forms biofilms in the xylem tissue of grapevines.



3. Early symptoms of Pierce's Disease mimic water stress.

### Management Practices for Pierce's Disease

### **Physical Control**

Vineyard inspections and testing

Pruning-out diseased shoots

Rogueing entire diseased vines

Replanting, less susceptible varieties

### **Vector Control**

Trapping and monitoring

Insecticide treatments

Inspection and certification of bulk grape shipments

Insect parasitoids

### **Additional Measures**

Situating vineyards away from pathogen and vector sources

Removal of alternative host plants

**Transgenic & PD-resistant vines** 

Bacterial endophytes-competitive exclusion,

peptides

**Bacteriophages** 

### **Classic approaches**

University of California IPM

publishes management guidelines and updates on R&D related to classical approaches.

### Recent or potential approaches

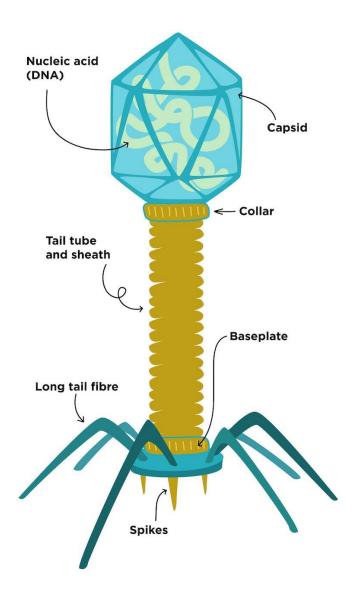
For recent approaches,  $XyIPhi-PD^{TM}$  is the only EPA-approved treatment. PD-resistant vines are available, but these vines are still capable of harboring Xff.<sup>1</sup>

1. UC Davis Foundation Plant Services



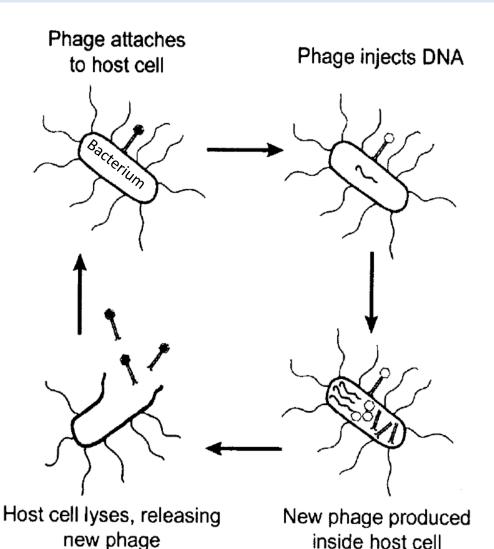
## The hero: Bacteriophage or 'Phage' A very selective virus that infects and replicates in bacteria

### **BACTERIOPHAGE**



### Bacteriophage: An Old Approach to a Current Problem

#### **Bacteriophage Cycle Overview**



Bacteriophage (phage) were first discovered over 100 years ago.

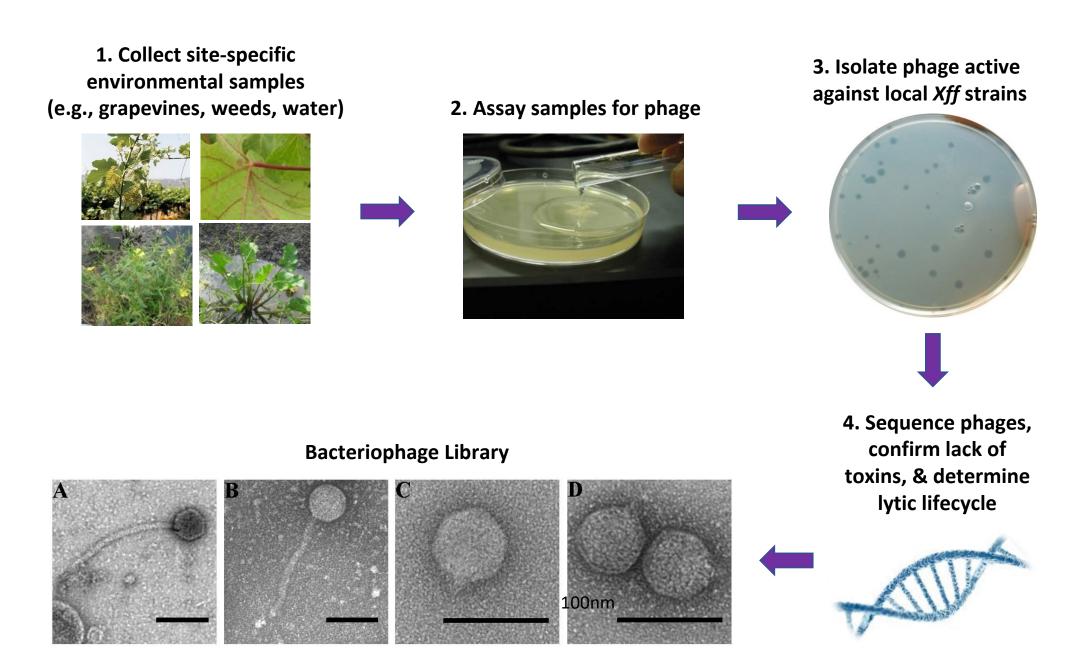
Phages are *bacterium-specific* and harmless to plants, people, and beneficial microflora.

The use of phage as biocontrol agents offers a *novel alternative* approach for the control of Pierce's Disease.

Analogous approaches are being pursued as an alternative to antibiotics for control of human pathogens.



# Texas A&M Discovery Process The first lytic phages to target *X. fastidiosa* subsp *fastidiosa*

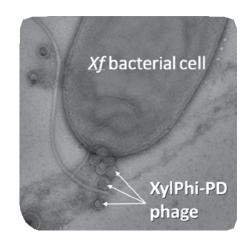


Ahern SJ, Das M, Bhowmick TS, Young R, Gonzalez CF. Characterization of novel virulent broad-host-range phages of *Xylella fastidiosa* and *Xanthomonas*. *J Bacteriology* 2014; 196(2):459-471.

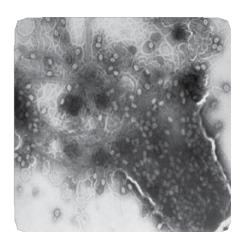
### How it works



- A cocktail of viral *bacteriophages* (phages) that enter, attack, and kill *Xylella fastidiosa (Xf)* bacteria, the cause of PD.
- Uses the selective biological activity of phages to destroy targeted bacteria in treated grapevines.
- Apply as a treatment
   when early stage
   disease symptoms
   appear, or as a
   preventative to
   protect growing vines.



Viral bacteriophage particles of XylPhi-PD® precisely targeting a bacterial host.



Death and rupture of a bacterial cell, releasing newly created phage particles to seek and destroy more *Xf* cells.

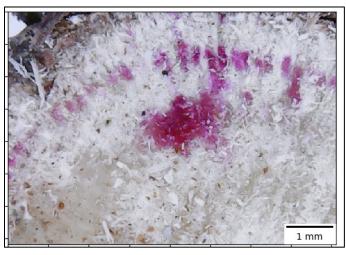
### How to apply

- XylPhi-PD<sup>®</sup> is applied by *injection* into the vascular system (xylem) of grapevines.
- The Pulse Xyleject<sup>™</sup> pressurized injection device (from Pulse Biotech)
- Training is available for vineyard staff.

Dye injection demonstrates movement up to a meter within minutes of injection

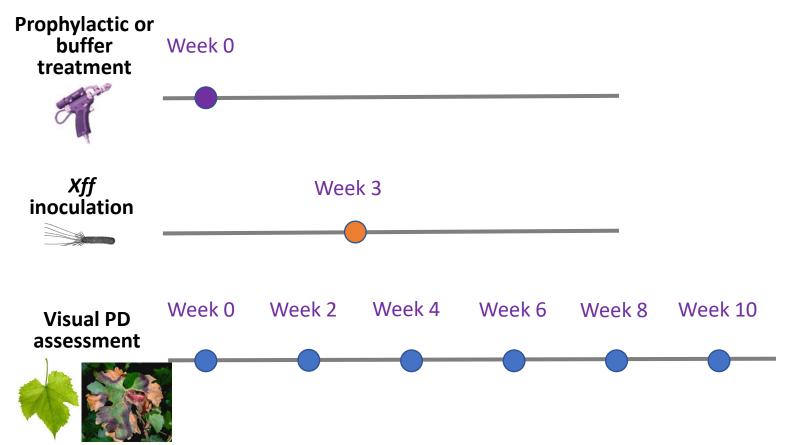






# Texas A&M 2015 Greenhouse Field Trial — *Preventive* Treatment

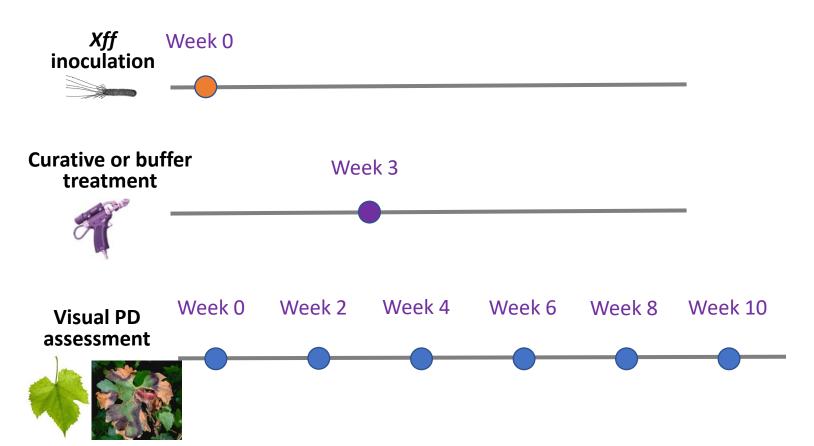




- Pierce's Disease with application of XylPhi-PD prior to Xff introduction
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1103 Paulson rootstock

# Texas A&M 2015 Greenhouse Field Trial — *Curative* Treatment





- Pierce's Disease with application of XylPhi-PD after Xff introduction
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1103 Paulson rootstock

# Texas A&M 2015 Greenhouse Trial — Visual Assessment Results



#### Phage only



Xff inoculation



Chlorosis, stunting, and leaf drop

### Xff inoculation then phage



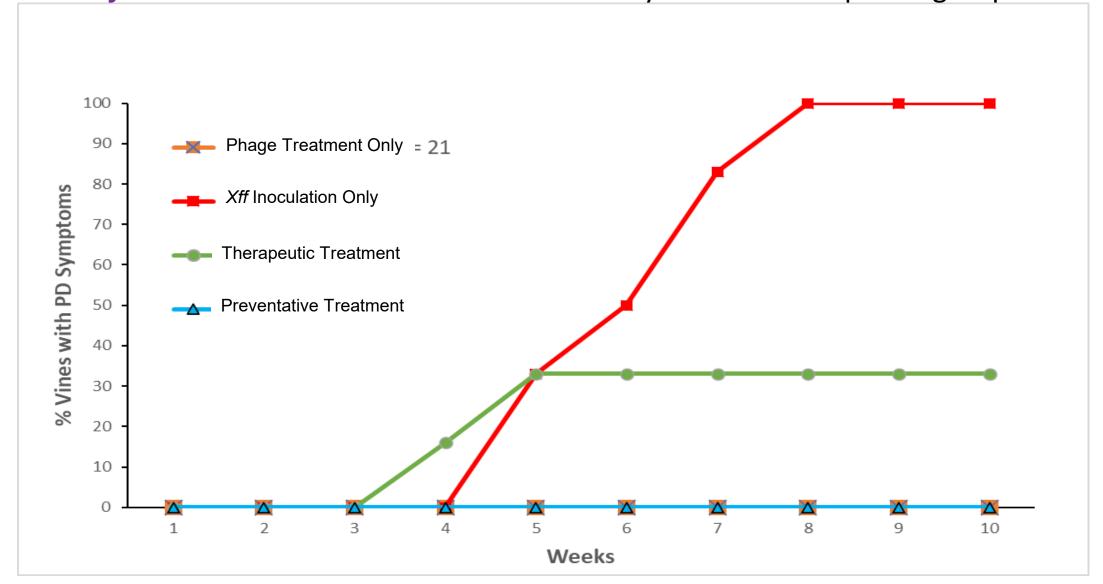
Phage treatment 3 weeks after Xff inoculation

Phage-treated vines appear healthier 10 weeks post-inoculation



# Texas A&M 2015 Greenhouse Trial — Preventive and curative efficacy with XylPhi-PD®

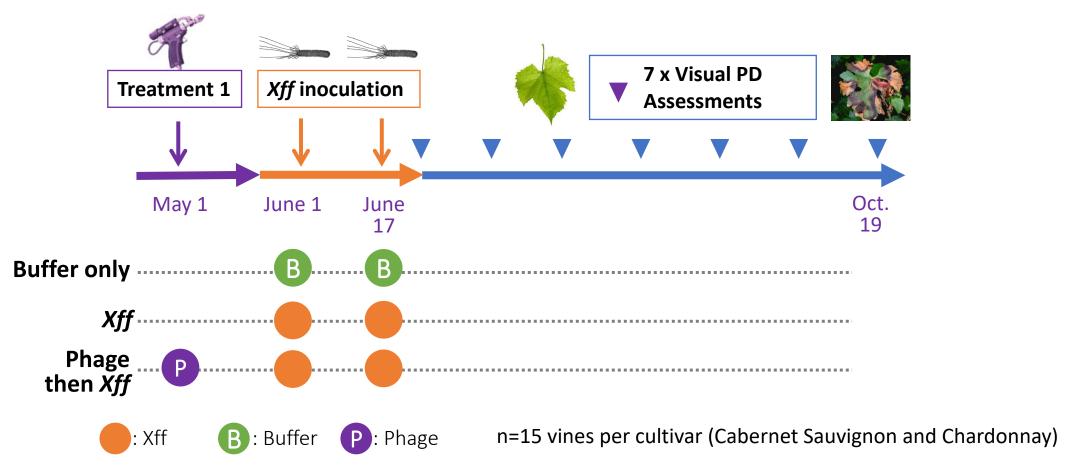
- No cases of PD were detected in the XylPhi-PD® preventative group
- 66% fewer cases of PD were detected in the XylPhi-PD® therapeutic group



Das M, Bhowmick TS, Ahern SJ, Young R, Gonzalez CF. Control of Pierce's disease by phage. PLoS One 2015; 10(6).

### California 2017 Field Trial — Preventive Treatment

Test prevention of Pierce's Disease with application of XylPhi-PD prior to Xff introduction

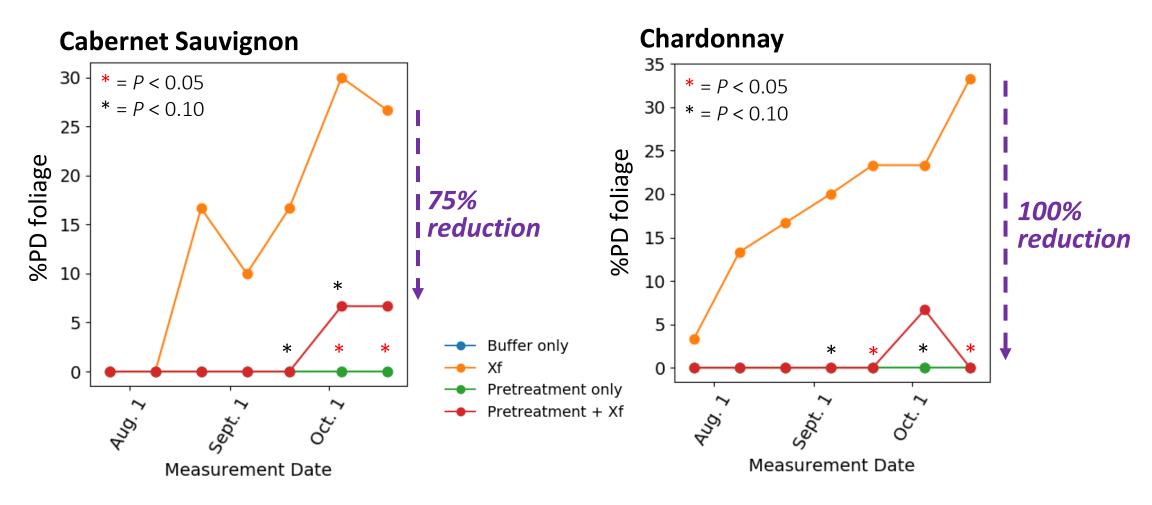


Treatment group	Xff inoculation	# Phage inoculations	# Cabernet Sauvignon vines	# Chardonnay vines	
Buffer treatment	No	0	15	15	
Xff inoculation only	Yes	0	30	30	
Phage treatment then <i>Xff</i> inoculation	Yes	1	15	15	



### California 2017 Field Trial Results — Preventive Treatment

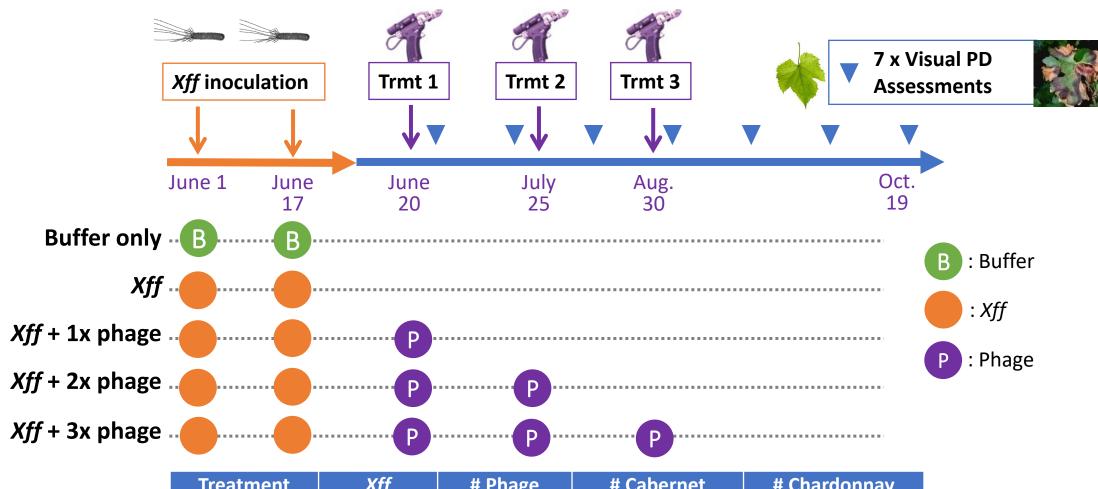
- Efficacy assessed at 20 weeks after Xff inoculation in varieties with different PD susceptibility.
- Incidence of PD symptoms significantly reduced by 75% in Cabernet Sauvignon vines and 100% in Chardonnay vines.





### California 2017 Field Trial — Curative Treatment

Test treatment of Pierce's Disease with application of XylPhi-PD after Xff introduction

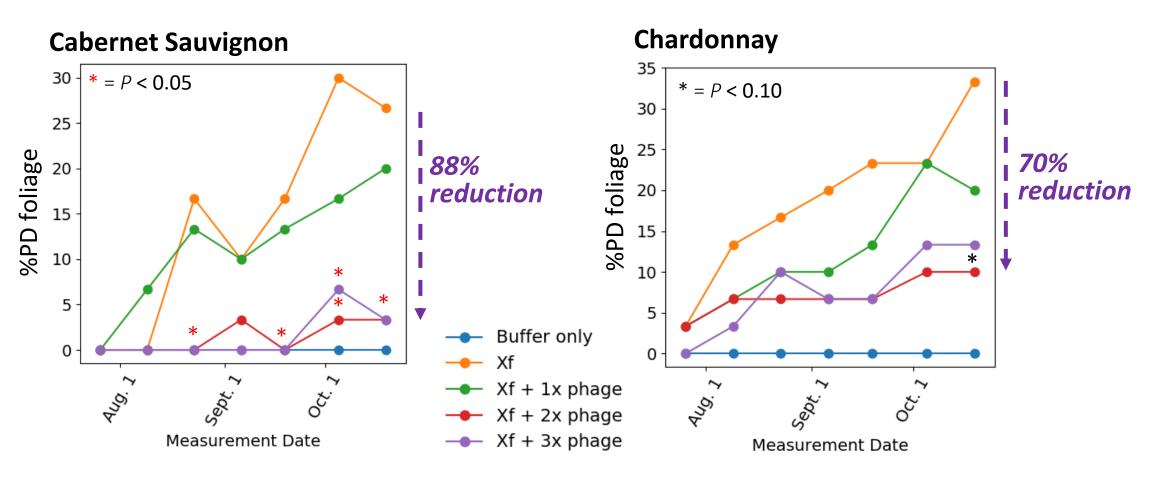


Treatment group	Xff inoculation	# Phage inoculations	# Cabernet Sauvignon vines	# Chardonnay vines
Buffer only	No	0	30	30
Xff inoculation	Yes	0	30	30
1x phage	Yes	1	30	30
2x phage	Yes	2	30	30
3x phage	Yes	3	30	30



### California 2017 Field Trial Results — Curative Treatment

- Efficacy assessed at 20 weeks after Xff inoculation in varieties with different PD susceptibility.
- The incidence of PD symptoms was significantly reduced by 88% in Cabernet Sauvignon vines and 70% in Chardonnay vines.
- Multiple phage treatments were significantly better than a single phage treatment for control of the incidence of PD-symptomatic vines.



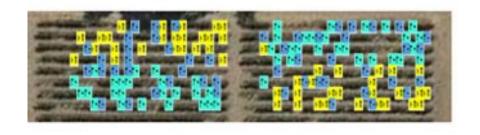
### CA 2019-2021 Wilbur-Ellis Field Trial —

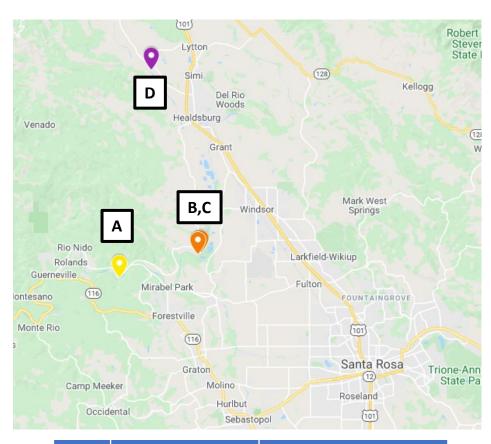
Inphatec

Design

- Sites with historical high PD pressure chosen in Napa/Sonoma counties
  - 4 sites used
  - 2 sites (B,C) were separate blocks in the same vineyard
- Trial locations near or adjacent to a riparian edge
- All sites commercial vineyards
- Each trial site divided into 4 treatment groups

2019, 2020 and 2021 (3-year) Treated
2020 and 2021 (2-year) Treated
Untreated





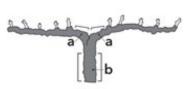
Site	Location	Cultivar		
Α	Russian River	Chardonnay		
В	Russian River	Pinot noir		
С	Russian River	Chardonnay		
D	Dry Creek	Chardonnay		

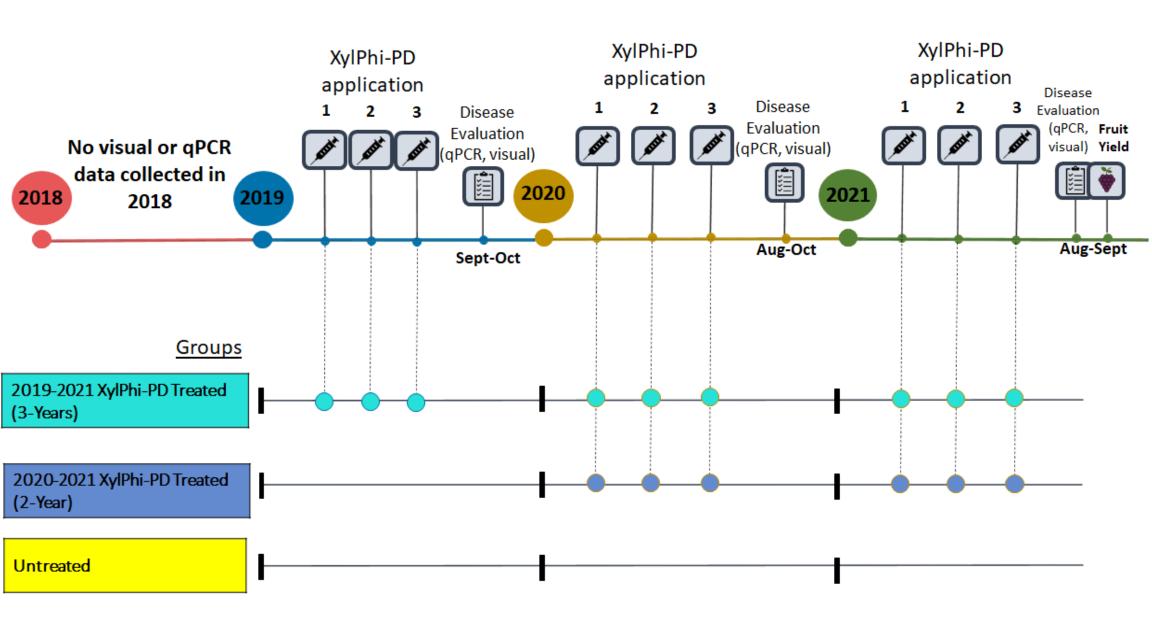
- 150 vines per site (600 vines total)
- All vines enrolled in the study are 8+ years old

# Wilbur Ellis 4-Site Study is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year



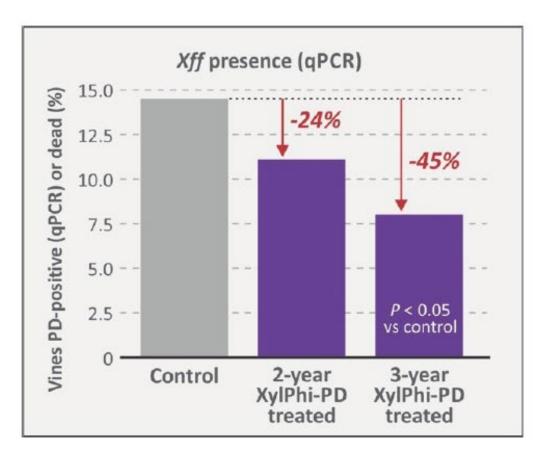
**Treatment:** 4 injections (80 μL each) of XylPhi-PD per vine

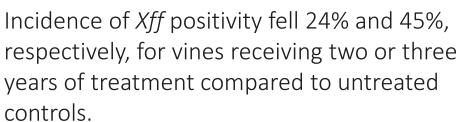


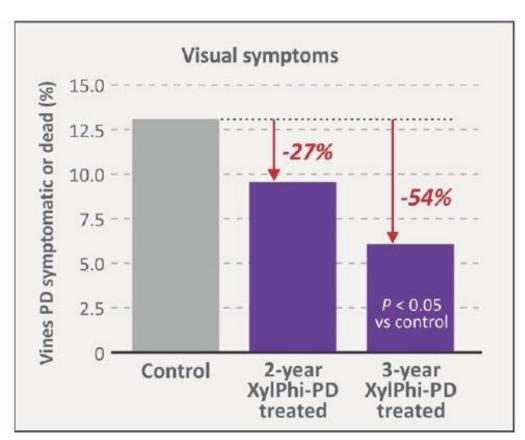




### Wilbur Ellis 4-Site 3-year Efficacy



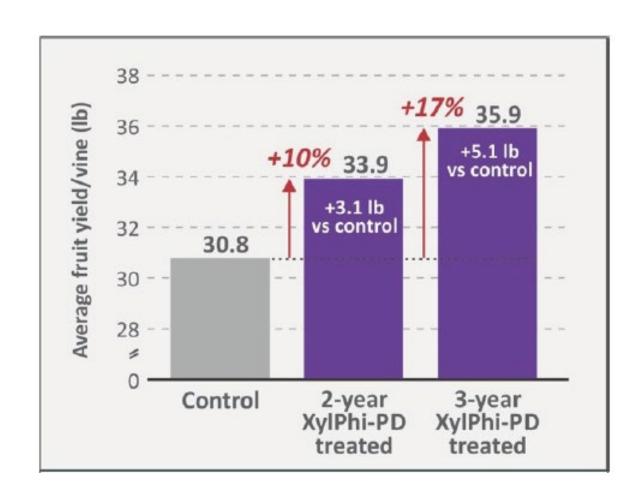




Number of vines displaying PD symptoms also fell 27% and 54%



### Wilbur-Ellis 4-Site Study: Yield



- Fruit yield per vine was measured on all 150 vines (50 vines/treatment group) at Site D in Fall 2021
- 10% and 17% more fruit in the 2-year treated and 3year treated vines, respectively



# **CA 2019-2020 Wilbur-Ellis Field Trial — Conclusions**

 In the 4-sites with ongoing, high PD pressure in 2020, vines treated with XylPhi-PD recovered much more often than untreated vines, both in visual symptomology and presence of Xff as measured by qPCR.

### PD visual diagnosis results:

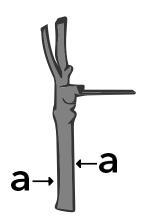
- 60% fewer vines in the '2019 & 2020 XylPhi-PD Treated' group displayed PD symptoms
- 35% fewer vines in the '2020 XylPhi-PD Treated' group displayed PD symptoms
- 25% fewer vines in the 'Untreated' group displayed PD symptoms
   Related to the lower PD pressure seen in 2020 through both low sharpshooter counts and some recovery from PD in the untreated group

### qPCR detection of Xff results:

- 57% drop in measurable Xff in the '2019 & 2020 XylPhi-PD Treated' group
- 14% fewer vines in the 'Untreated' group had measurable Xff

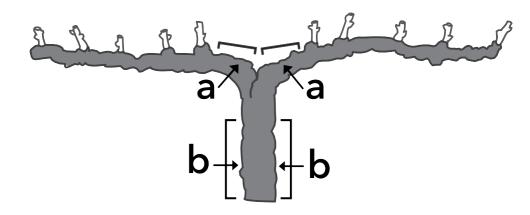
### Where to inject the vine

### Replants and young vines



• 2 injections in opposite sides of the trunk (a)

### Mature vines



- 1 injection in each cordon (a)
- 2 injections in the trunk (b)

Timing: Begin seasonal applications at flowering, then apply on a 4-6 week interval up to 3 times / season depending on pressure

### When to apply

Make 2 or 3 applications of XylPhi-PD® per season, at 4- to 6-week intervals.

4-6

#### Application #1



At or near flowering

### Application #2



 A total of 2 seasonal applications for areas with low/moderate PD pressure (less than 30% historical

infection rate) or vectors like the blue-green sharpshooter

Examples: Sonoma/Napa CA

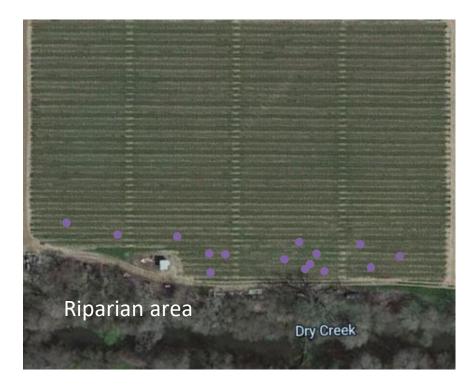
### Application #3



- 4-6 weeks later
- 3 applications recommended for 30% or higher historical PD incidence or presence of aggressive vectors like the glassy-winged sharpshooter
- Examples: Central coast, Santa Barbara, Temecula CA

### Targeted Treatment Program — Buffer Zone

#### Vines with Pierce's Disease symptoms



In areas with >2% of vines displaying PD symptoms, especially when BGSS are the insect vector

XylPhi-PD® suggested treatment area



Target treatment to areas with high PD activity, to create a buffer zone.

25

### **Precision Spot Treatment Program**

Vines with Pierce's Disease symptoms



In areas with a few symptomatic vines over a large area

XylPhi-PD® suggested treatment area



Precisely treat symptomatic vines and their surrounding neighbors.

### **Entire Block Treatment Program**

#### Vines with Pierce's Disease symptoms



In large areas with a significant number of symptomatic vines throughout, especially if in an area where GWSS are the vector

XylPhi-PD® suggested treatment area



Treat entire block to reduce PD pressure.

27

### How much to apply

2 ~600 replants/young vines mature vines

— Or

- A 100-mL vial of XylPhi-PD® treats about 600 replanted vines or 300 mature vines per application.
  - One *replant* vine application = two 0.08-mL injections/vine (0.16 mL total/application)
  - One *mature* vine application = four 0.08-mL injections/vine (0.32 mL total/application)
- Apply at least twice per season.

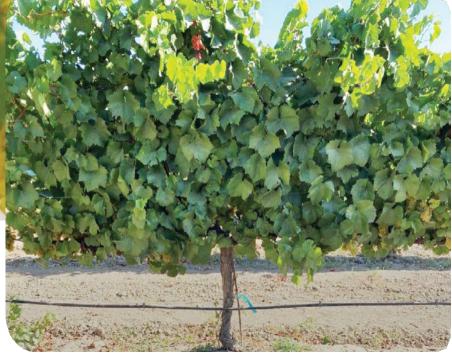
Volume used per application:	Trunk injections	Cordon injections	mL/ injection	mL/ app/vine	Vines/ vial/app
Replants / new vines	2		0.08	0.16	625
Mature vines	2	2	0.08	0.32	313

### Industry reception

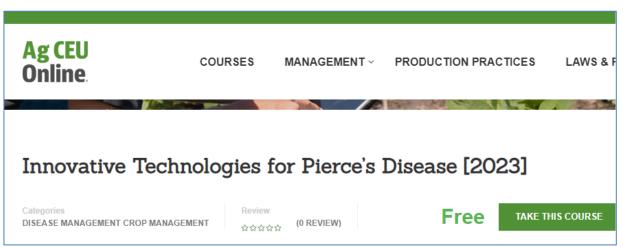


PD-infected vine

- Over 30 commercial sites currently using XylPhi-PD®
- Over 10 sites starting 4th year of use
- Growers have reported:
  - reductions in replants;
  - recovery of yields in mildly symptomatic vines;
  - reductions in visual symptoms of PD;
  - increased PD incidence in untreated areas.

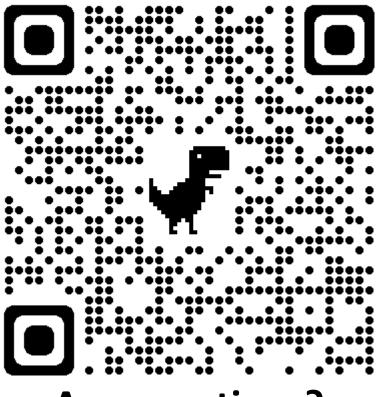


Vine protected by XylPhi-PD®





FREE
Continuing
Education
Hour



UC Davis Field Day

2022

Any questions?

Please contact techservices@inphatec.com for questions

### **Contacts**

Dr. Israel Luna
Technical Services Representative
707-494-7702
<a href="mailto:iluna@inphatec.com">iluna@inphatec.com</a>

Vincent Avila
Customer Support and Distribution Sales
650-313-6644
vavila@inphatec.com

Florida Distributor:
Helena Agri-Enterprises
John Baxter
baxterj@helenaagri.com





### Bactericide for use in grapevines.

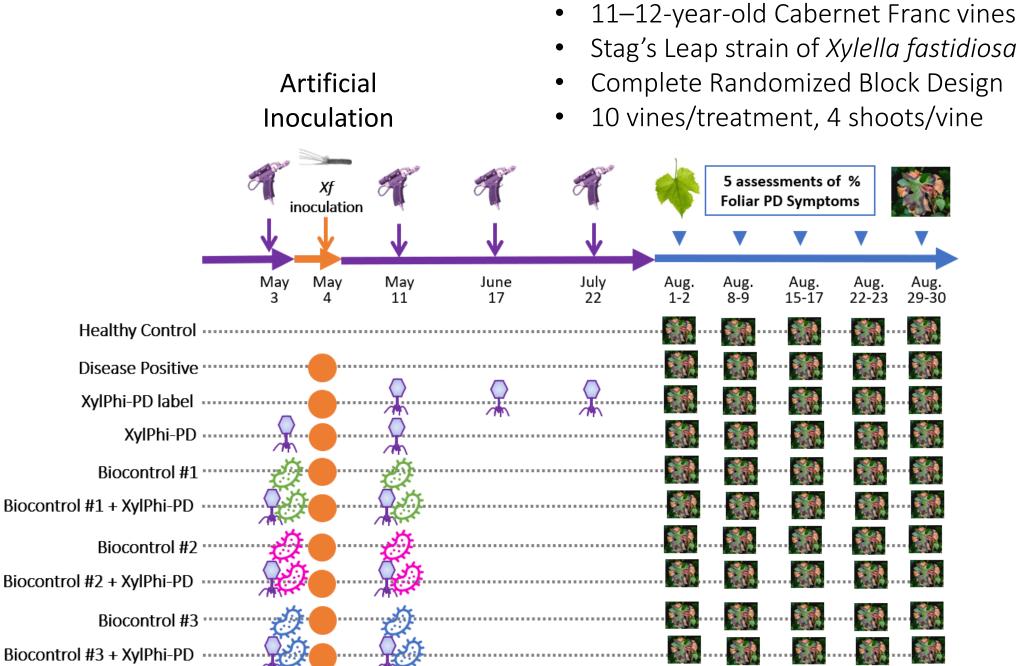
- The proven treatment and prevention for symptoms of Pierce's Disease.
- Alternative to costly rogueing and replacement of grapevines.
- Maintains production, efficiency, and uniformity in the block.

- Flexible application timing with durable injection system.
- No REI, minimal PPE.
- OMRI-listed for use in organic production.
- No phytotoxicity.

### **UC Davis Study Timeline**



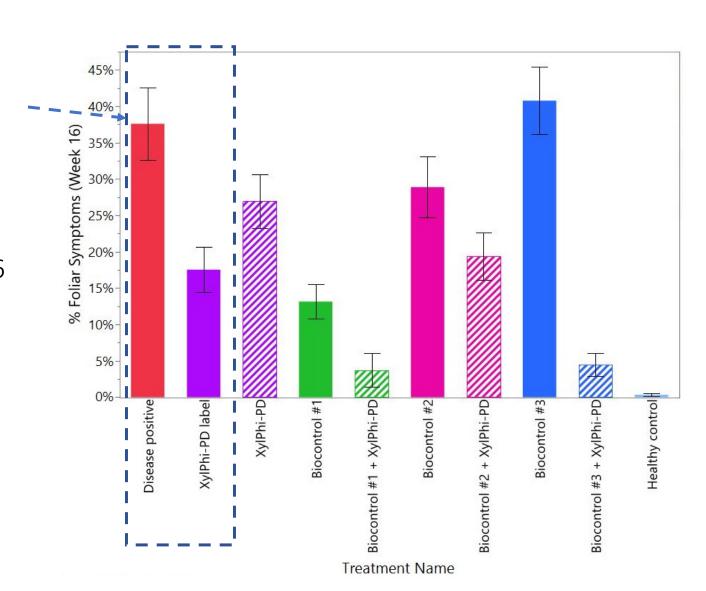
**UC Davis Armstrong Vineyard** 





### **Efficacy of XylPhi-PD<sup>TM</sup> - UC Davis**

- When XylPhi-PD<sup>™</sup> is used per label recommendations, efficacy demonstrated as reduction in foliar symptoms
- Most treatments reduced disease symptoms at Week 16
- Increased efficacy noted for combinations of biocontrol + XylPhi-PD<sup>TM</sup> as compared to biocontrol or XylPhi-PD<sup>TM</sup> alone.



FREE Field Day 1-hour course on agceuonline.com

### Effectiveness of XylPhi-PD®

□ Commercial Grower Results

**2022** — Russian River Valley, Guerneville, CA<sup>1</sup>

- ~4500 Chardonnay vines replanted in 2019 (3 yr old).
- Vines along riparian area treated for 3 years in a row.
- Treated on May 26 & July 1 (80 μL, 4 inject./vine/trt)

100%

of vines still **disease-free** by 2022 harvest **2022** — Dry Creek Valley, Healdsburg, CA<sup>1</sup>

- 400 Chardonnay 11-yearold vines (rootstock O3916)
   without symptoms of PD.
- Typical incoming infection pressure about 5% new infections/year (20/400).
- Treated on May 26 & July 25 (60 μL, 4 inject./vine/trt)

100%

of vines still **symptom free** by harvest

**2019-21** — North Coast, CA<sup>1</sup>

- 4 vineyards with high-PD hotspots.
- 200 vines treated for 3 years, and 200 treated for 2 years.

*55*%

reduction of **detectable Xf**for all vines (including chronic/advanced cases)

84%

prevention efficacy, with no new PD cases in the 3-year treated group, only 1 case in 2-year treated group

### Effectiveness of XylPhi-PD®

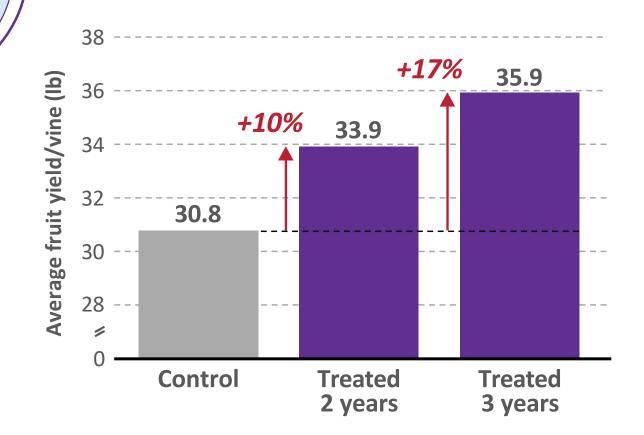
#### **□** Commercial Grower Results

**2021 Fruit Yield** — Sonoma County, CA<sup>1</sup>

- 8-10-year-old Chardonnay average fruit yield/vine measured.
- Vines treated for 2 or 3 years in a row.

*10-17%* 

average increase in **fruit yield/vine** for groups treated 2 years and 3 years



### Effectiveness of XylPhi-PD®

### □ University Research

**2015** — Texas A&M greenhouse study<sup>2</sup>

- Vines inoculated with Xf.
- Treated vines compared to non-treated controls.

**87%** 

reduction in symptoms of PD

**2017** — California university field trial<sup>3</sup>

 Vines in a vineyard inoculated with Xf.

• Treated vines compared to non-treated controls.

80%

reduction in symptoms of PD at 7 weeks after 3rd application

**2022** — UC Davis biocontrol study<sup>4</sup>

- Vines inoculated with Xf.
- Severe challenge infection, with 37% of foliage showing symptoms.

*53%* 

reduction in **symptoms** of PD under extraordinarily severe infection conditions

<sup>2.</sup> Texas A&M Research Progress Report, 2015. Data on file.

<sup>3.</sup> Regulatory filings to CDPR: Otsuka - OPC-821 Submission to DPR - Oct 31 2018.pdf.

Project 00-032-V, Innovative technologies for Pierce's Disease field day, https://agceuonline.com/299/course/Innovative-Technologies-for-Pierces-Disease-2023.