



UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



2024 End of Season Data Summary

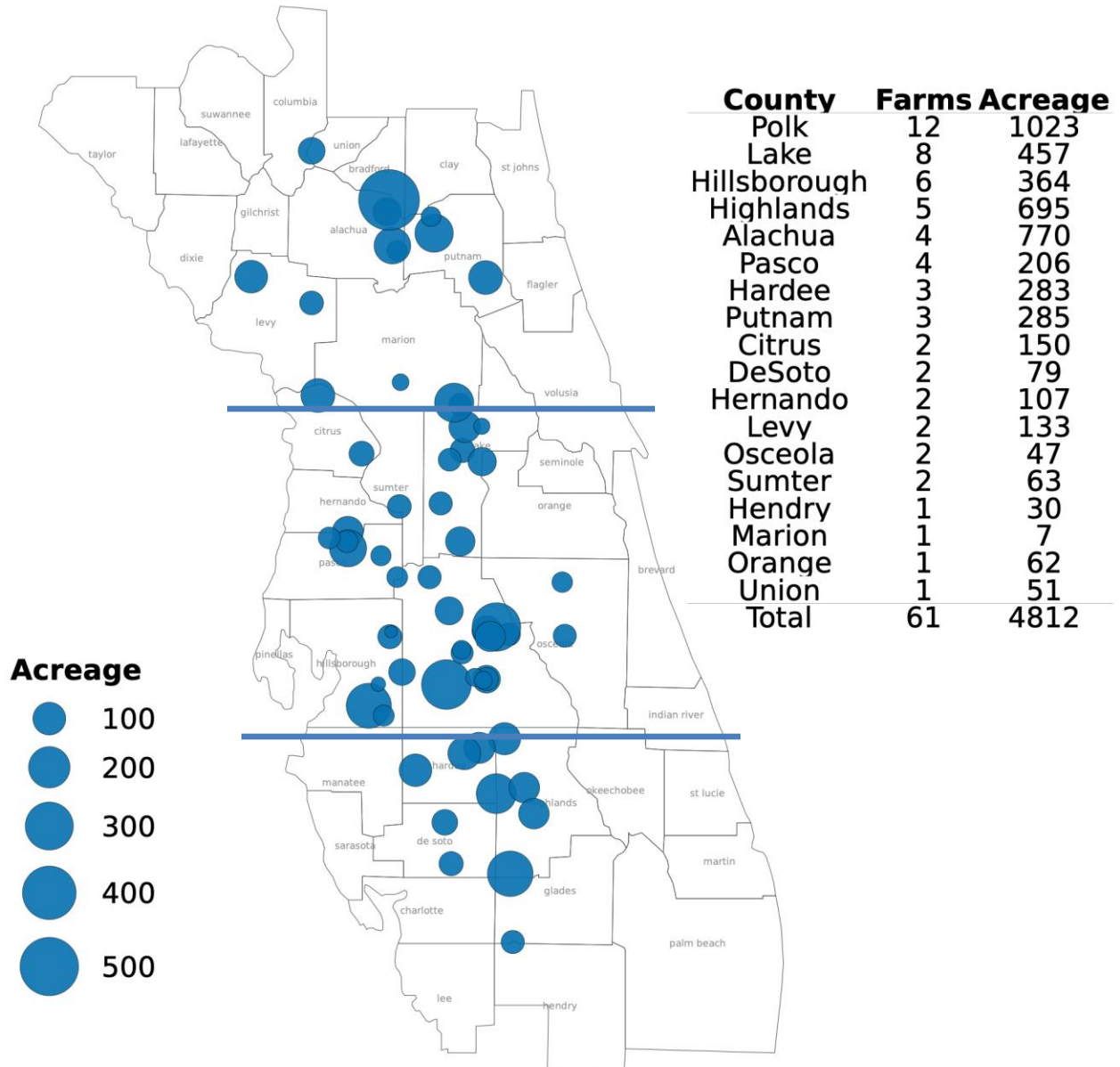
FBGA Fall Meeting

Doug Phillips

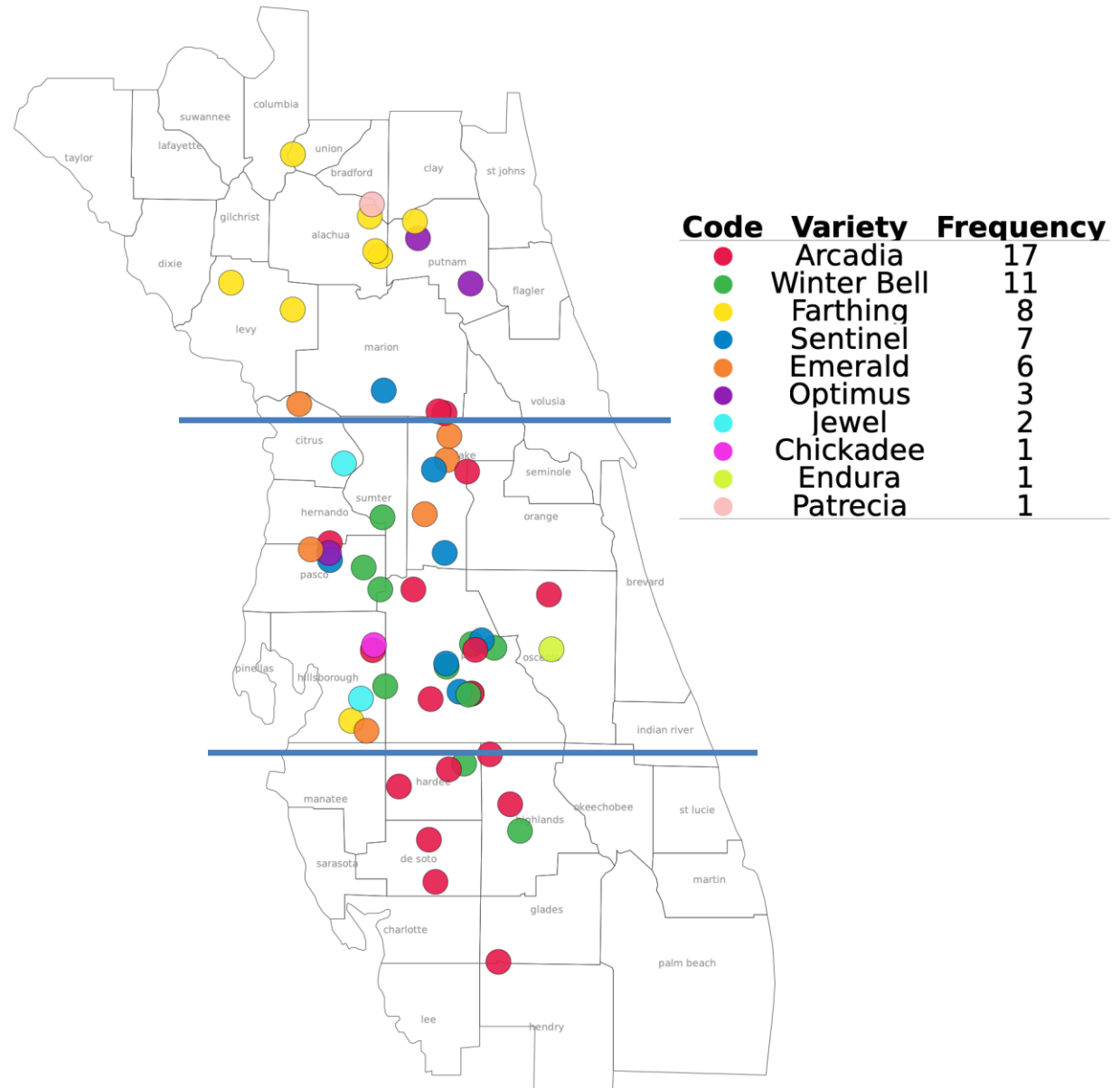
UF/IFAS Blueberry Extension Coordinator

October 24, 2024

Florida Blueberry Farms Surveyed 2024 Season



Highest Yielding Varieties Reported by Growers



Highest Yielding Reported by Region

North-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 12	Highest Yielding Where Present
Farthing	11 (92%)	64%
Optimus	10 (83%)	20%
Emerald	3 (25%)	33%
Patrecia	4 (25%)	25%
Sentinel	8 (67%)	13%

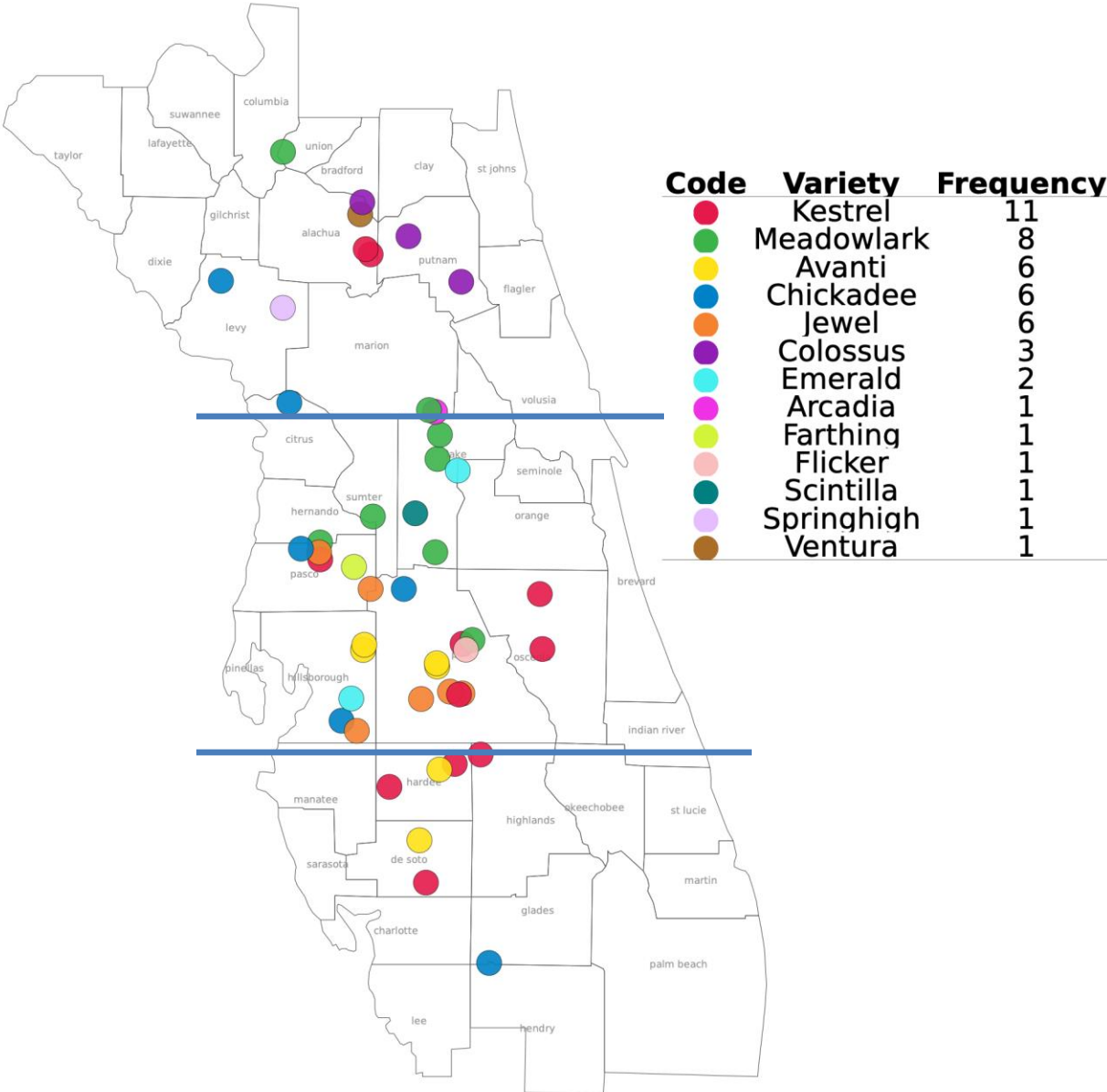
Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 38	Highest Yielding Where Present
Arcadia	31 (82%)	32%
Emerald	24 (63%)	21%
Winter Bell	18 (38%)	50%
Sentinel	25 (66%)	24%
Jewel	14 (37%)	14%

South-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 11	Highest Yielding Where Present
Arcadia	9 (82%)	78%
Winter Bell	3 (27%)	67%

Lowest Yielding Varieties Reported by Growers



Lowest Yielding by Region

North-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 12	Lowest Yielding
Colossus	4 (33%)	75%
Kestrel	3 (25%)	67%
Chickadee	2 (17%)	100%

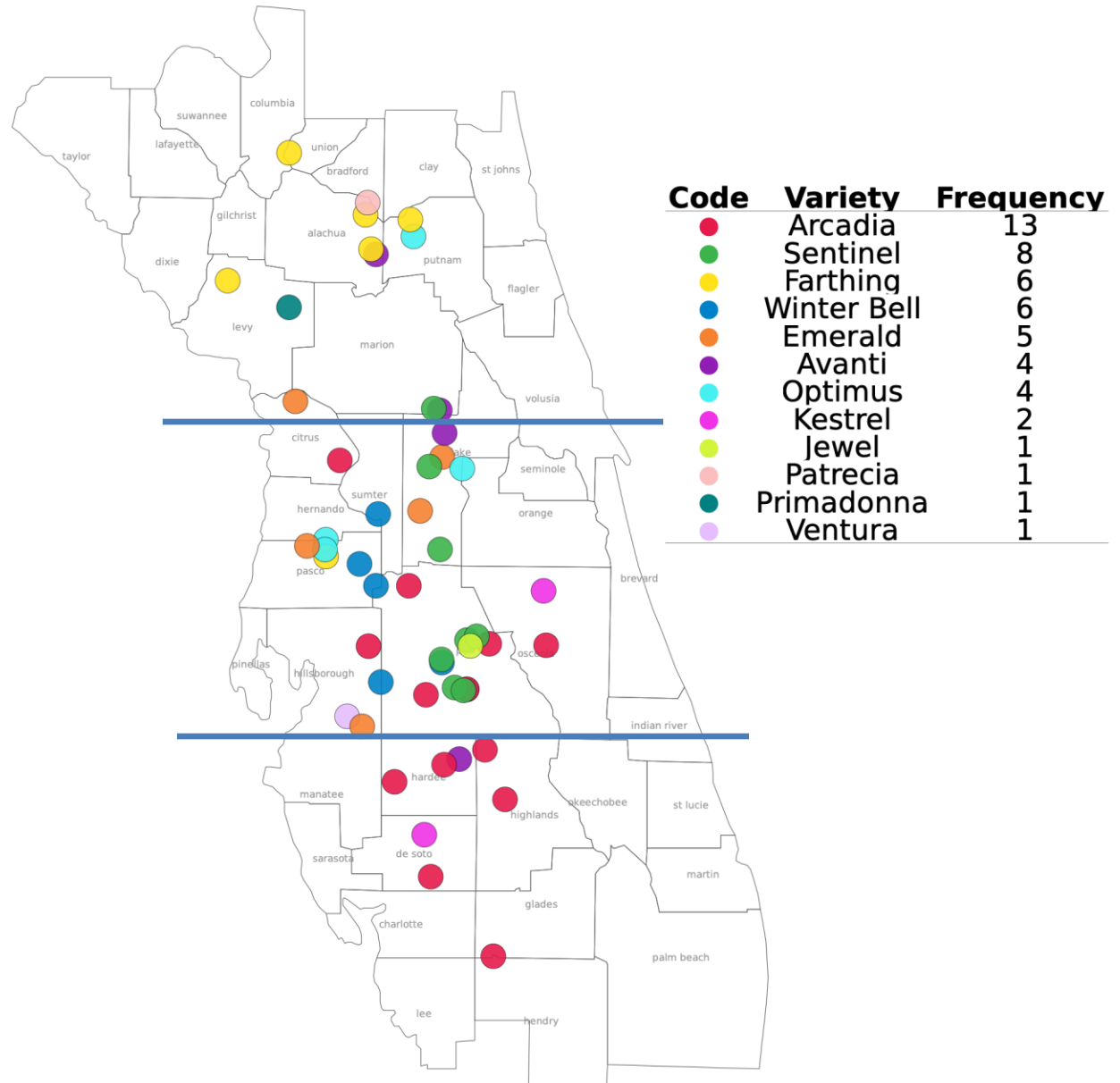
Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 38	Lowest Yielding
Meadowlark	13 (34%)	54%
Jewel	14 (37%)	43%
Kestrel	13 (34%)	38%
Avanti	14 (37%)	29%
Chickadee	7 (18%)	43%
Emerald	24 (63%)	8%

South-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 11	Lowest Yielding
Kestrel	5 (45%)	80%
Avanti	8 (73%)	25%

Most Profitable Varieties Reported by Growers



Most Profitable by Region

North-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 12	Most Profitable
Farthing	11 (92%)	45%
Patrecia	4 (25%)	25%
Optimus	10 (83%)	10%

Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 38	Most Profitable
Sentinel	25 (66%)	32%
Arcadia	31 (82%)	23%
Emerald	24 (63%)	17%
Winter Bell	18 (38%)	33%
Optimus	16 (42%)	19%
Avanti	14 (37%)	14%

South-Central

Variety	# Farms Present out of 11	Most Profitable
Arcadia	9 (82%)	67%
Kestrel	5 (45%)	20%
Avanti	8 (73%)	13%

2023 – 2024 Comparison

2023

2024

Highest Yield

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| • North | Farthing | Farthing |
| • Central | Arcadia | Arcadia |
| • South | Arcadia | Arcadia |

Lowest Yield

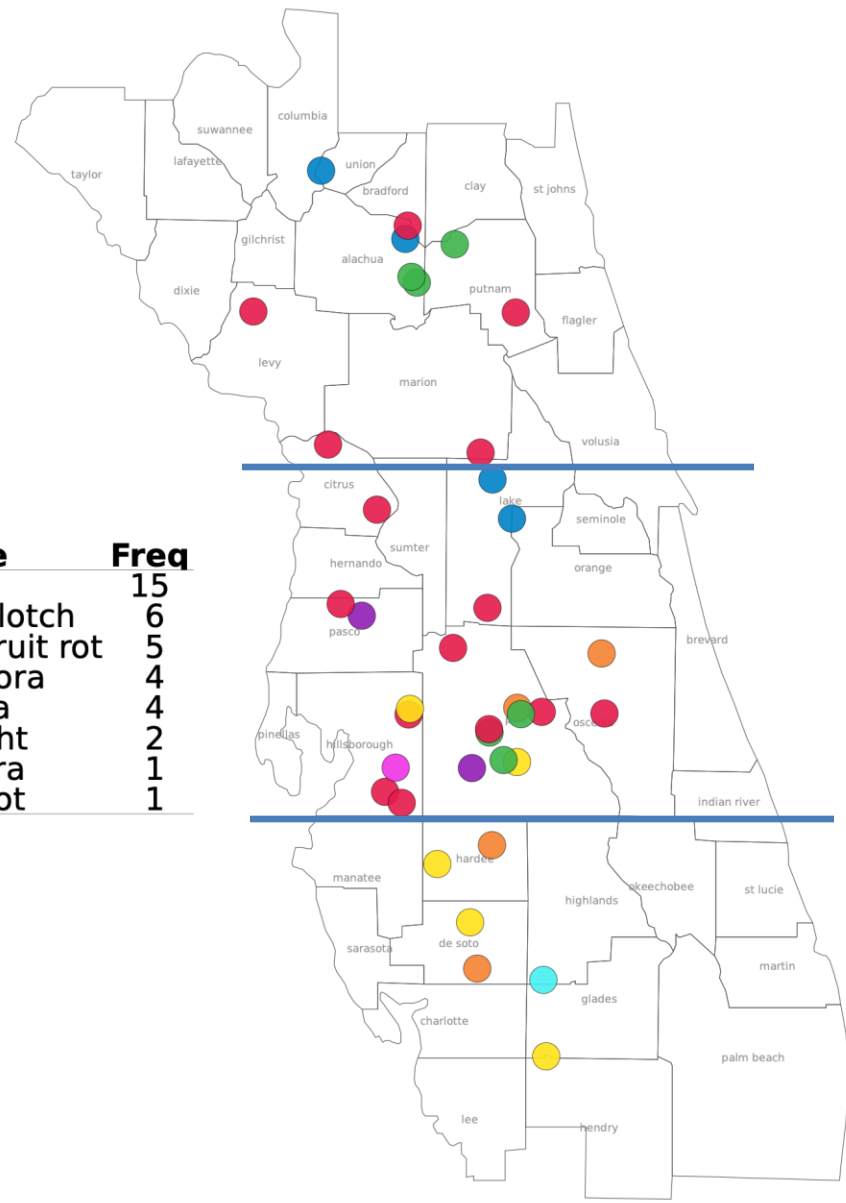
- | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| • North | Jewel | Colossus |
| • Central | Kestrel | Meadowlark |
| • South | Kestrel | Kestrel |

Most Profitable

- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| • North | Farthing | Farthing |
| • Central | Emerald | Sentinel |
| • South | Arcadia | Arcadia |

Most Problematic Diseases Reported by Growers

Code	Disease	Freq
●	rust	15
●	algal stem blotch	6
●	anthracnose fruit rot	5
●	Phytophthora	4
●	Ralstonia	4
●	stem blight	2
●	cercospora	1
●	target spot	1



Significant Diseases by Region

North-Central

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Rust	4	33%
Algal Stem Blotch	3	25%
Phytophthora	2	17%

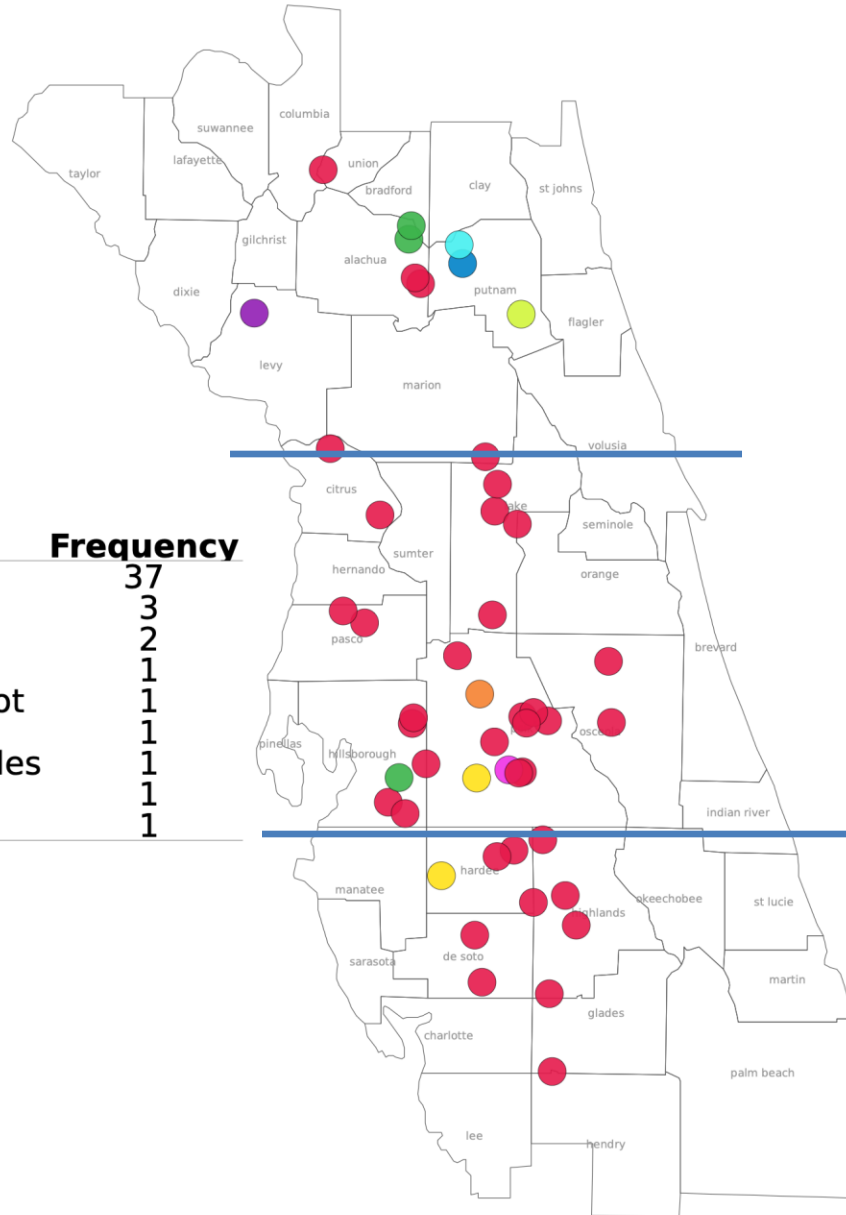
Central

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Rust	11	29%
Algal Stem Blotch	3	8%
Bot. Stem Blight	2	5%
Ralstonia	2	5%
Phytophthora	2	5%
Anthracnose Fruit Rot	2	5%
Target Spot	1	3%

South-Central

Disease	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Anthracnose Fruit Rot	3	27%
Ralstonia	2	18%

Most Problematic Insect Pests Reported by Growers



Code	Insect	Frequency
●	chilli thrips	37
●	gall midge	3
●	mites	2
●	beetles	1
●	blueberry maggot	1
●	flea beetles	1
●	stem boring beetles	1
●	wax scale	1
●	webworms	1

Significant Insect Pests by Region

North-Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	4	33%
Gall Midge	2	17%
Beetles	2	17%
Flea beetles	1	8%
Webworms	1	8%

Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	23	61%
Gall Midge	1	3%
Mites	1	3%
Blueberry Maggot	1	3%
Wax Scale	1	3%

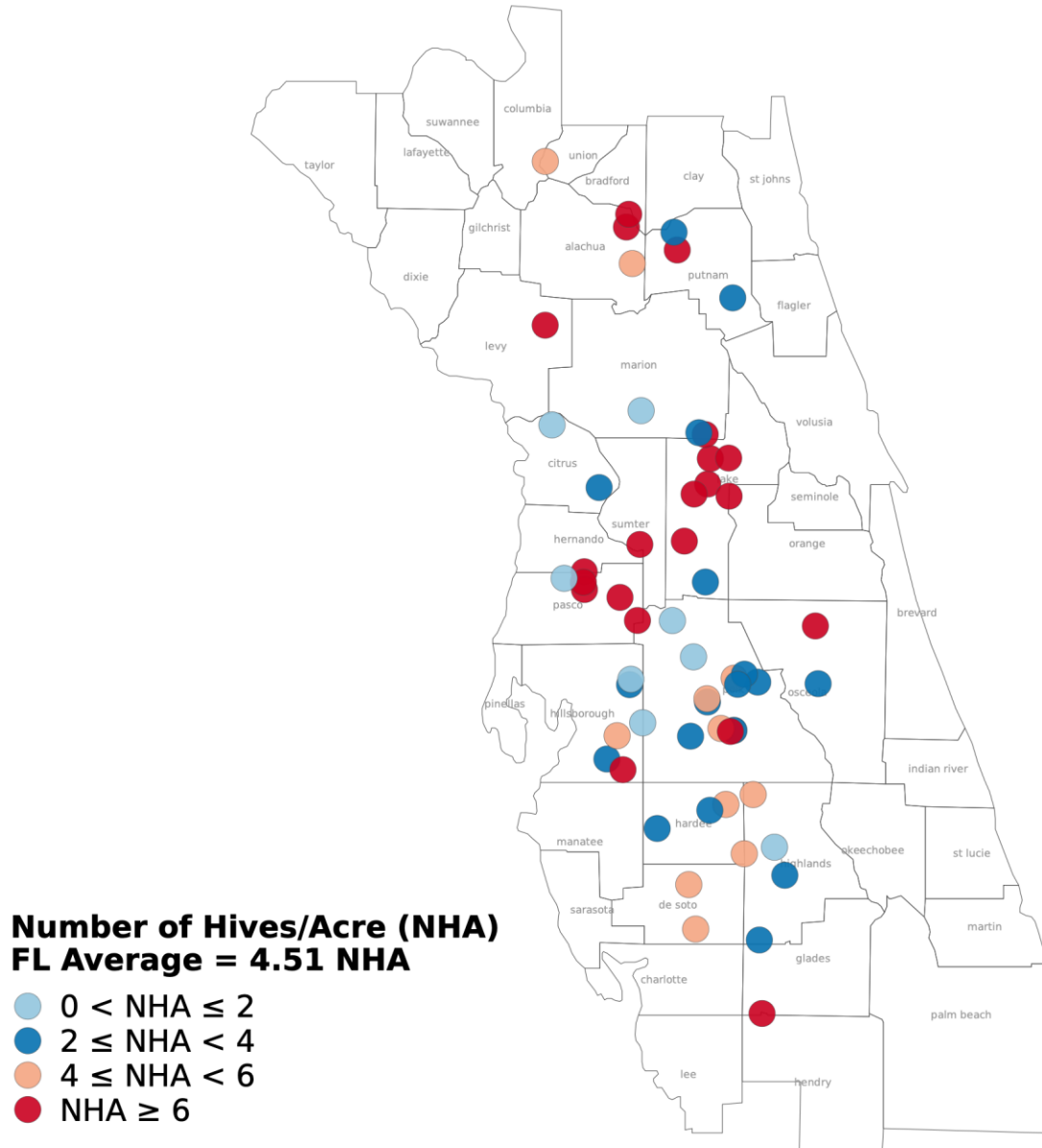
South-Central

Pests	Freq	% Farms Surveyed
Chilli Thrips	10	91%
Mites	1	9%

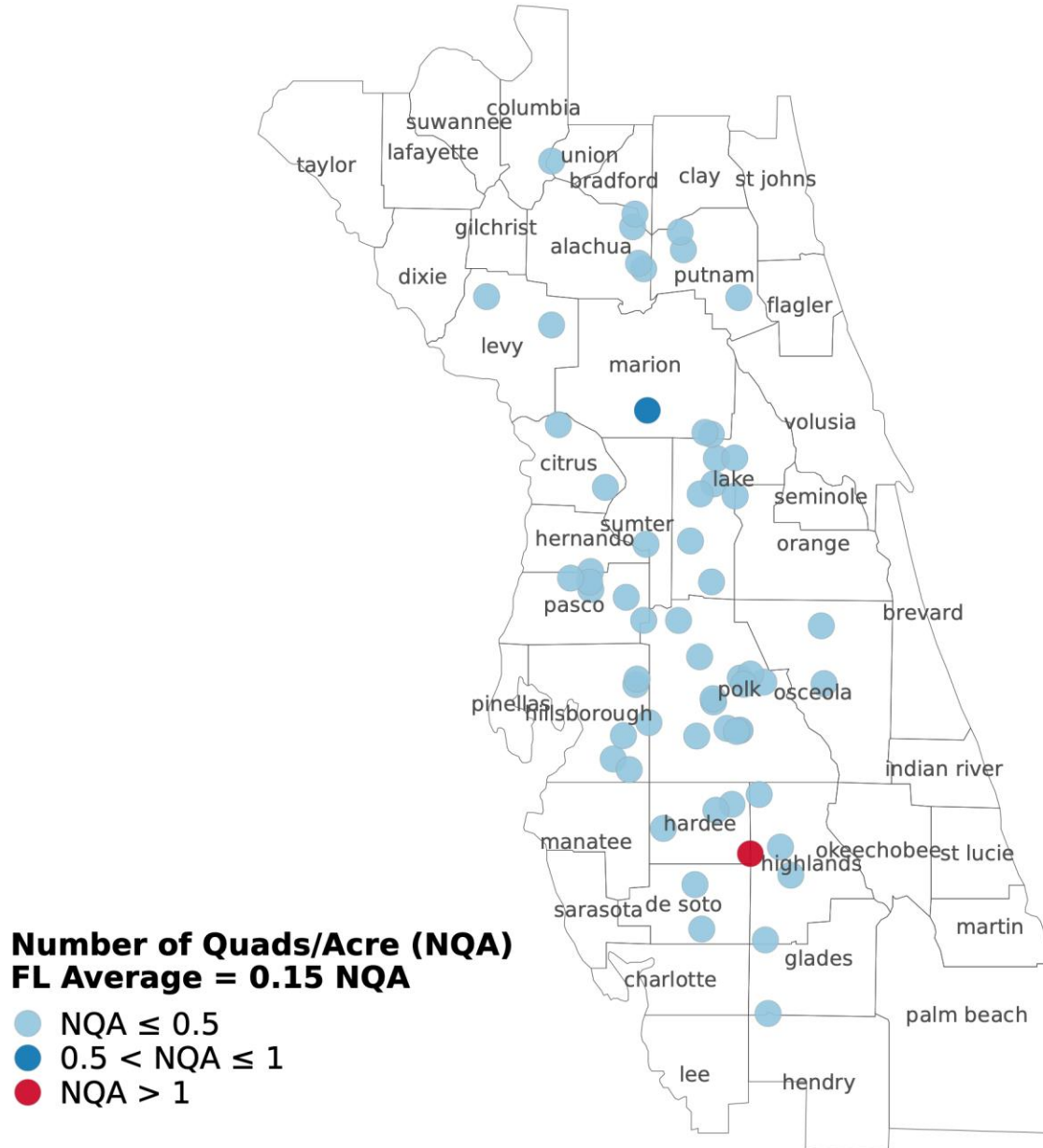
2023 – 2024 Comparison

	2023	2024
Diseases	Rust	Rust
Insect Pests	Chilli Thrips	Chilli Thrips

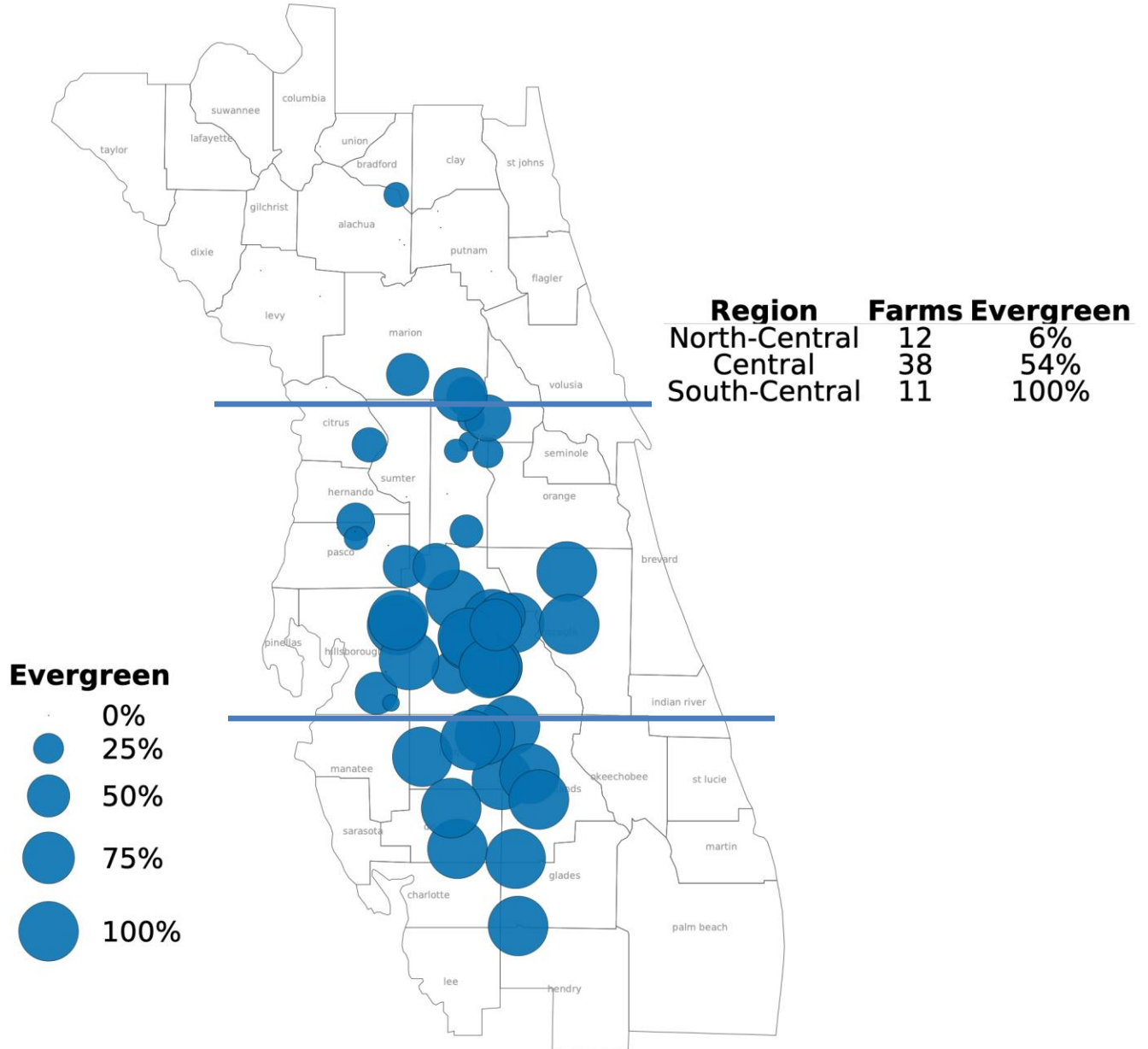
Honey Bee Hives per Acre Reported by Growers



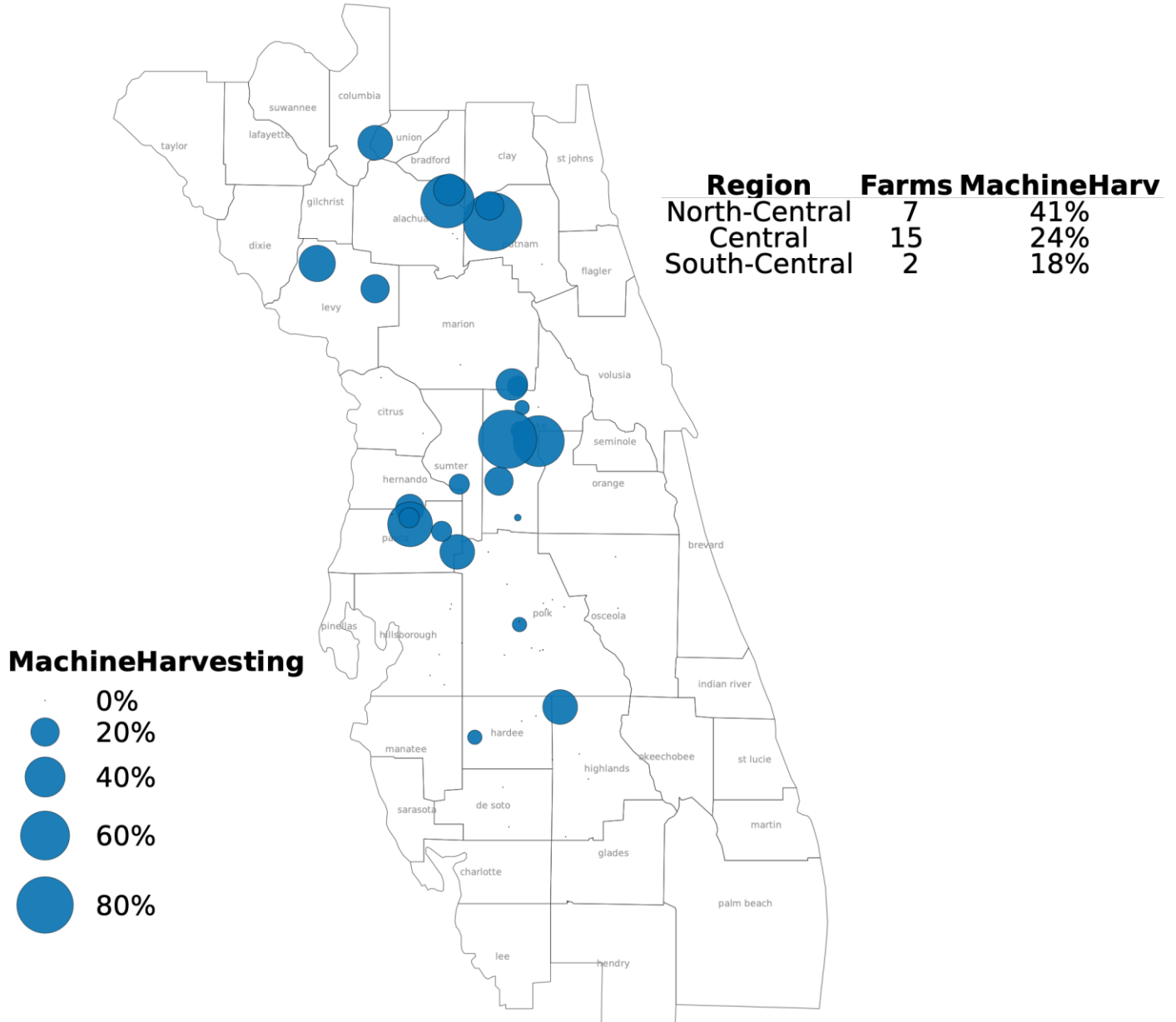
Bumble Bee Quads per Acre Reported by Growers



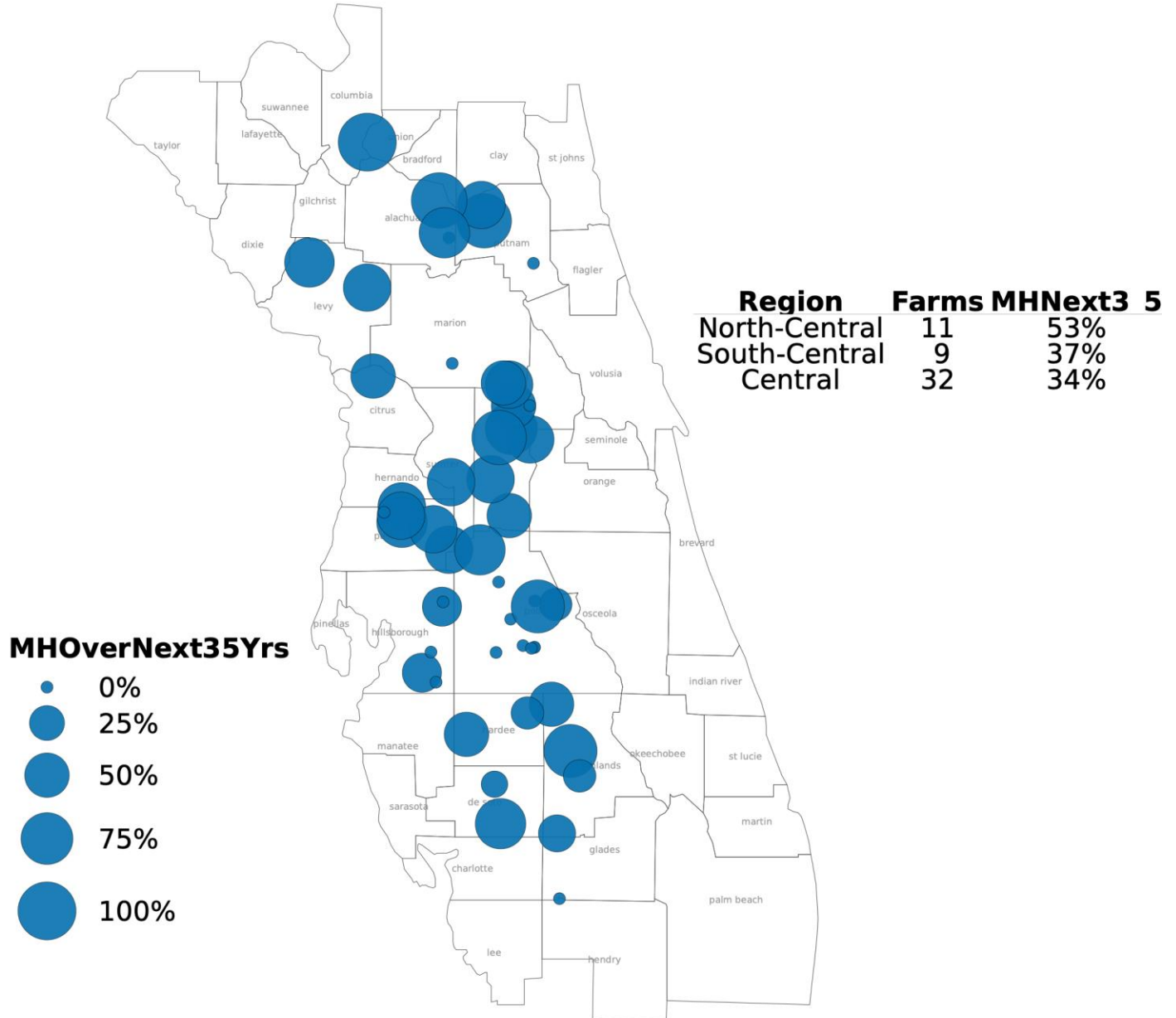
Evergreen Production Reported by Growers



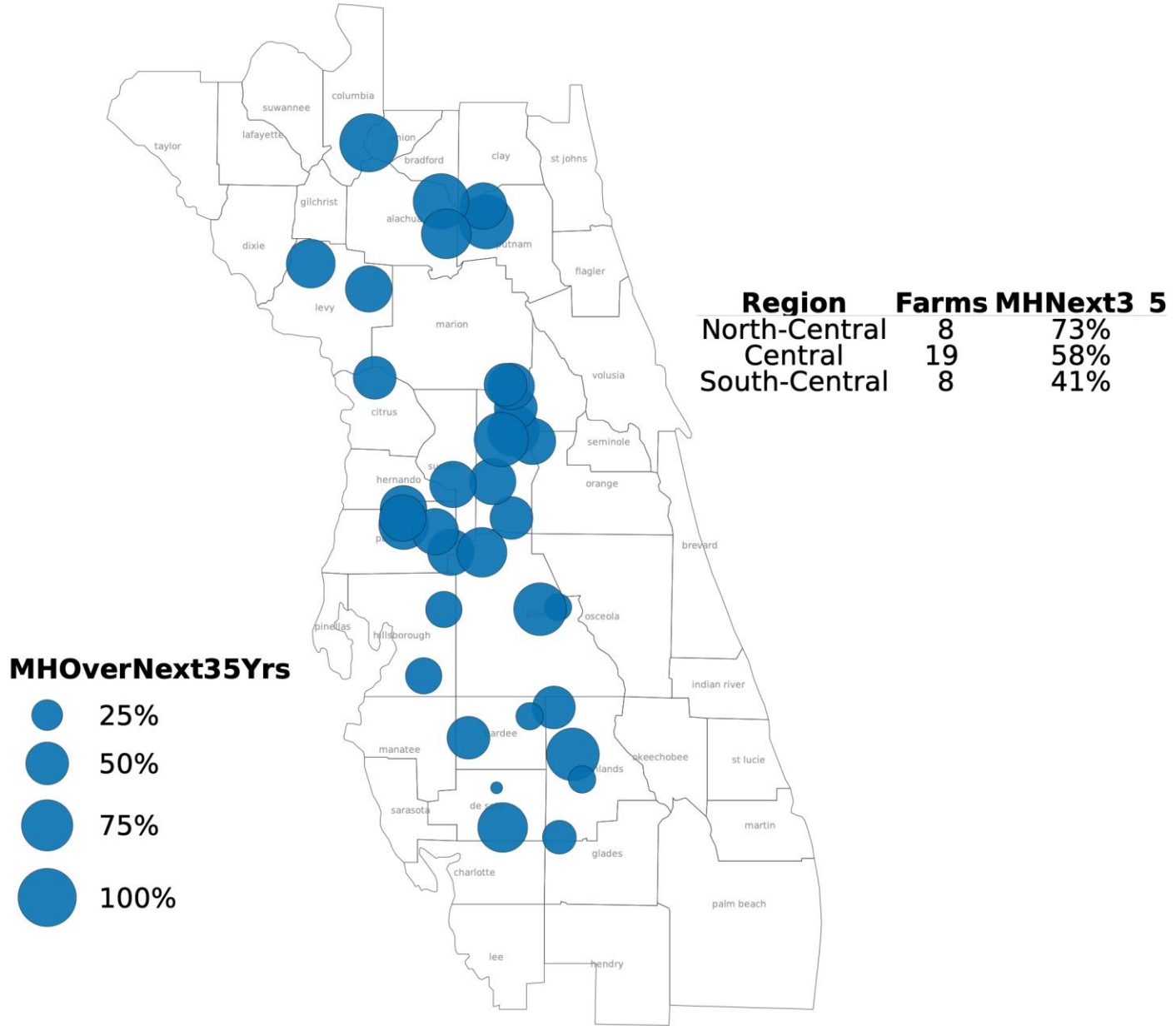
Machine Harvesting Reported by Growers



Expected % Machine Harvesting in Next 3-5 Years



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



Region	Farms	MHNext3 5
North-Central	8	73%
Central	19	58%
South-Central	8	41%

MHOverNext35Yrs

- 25%
- 50%
- 75%
- 100%

Expected Farm Size Over Next 3-5 Years

- Expected to be larger 19
- Expected to stay the same size 40
- Expected to be smaller 1
- Uncertain 1

Notable Items

- Many growers said the incidence and severity of diseases was less this season, possibly due to a drier harvest season, but rust remains a frequent issue
- Sentinel moved into the top “most profitable” spot in Central Florida
- Fewer farms expected to be larger over the next 3-5 years (19 vs 24), but more farms expected to be the same size (40 vs 24)
- Any questions you would like to see added to the survey for next season?

Grower App Resources

UF Blueberry Growers Guide

- Scouting Guide
- Management calendar
- Cultivars
- Pesticides
- English & Spanish



Blueberry Advisory System

Alerts when the risk of anthracnose fruit rot is increased (moderate or high)



UF Blueberry Breeding Website

2024 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](#)

Twitter - [@blueberry_fl](#)

Blog – www.blueberrybreeding.com/blog