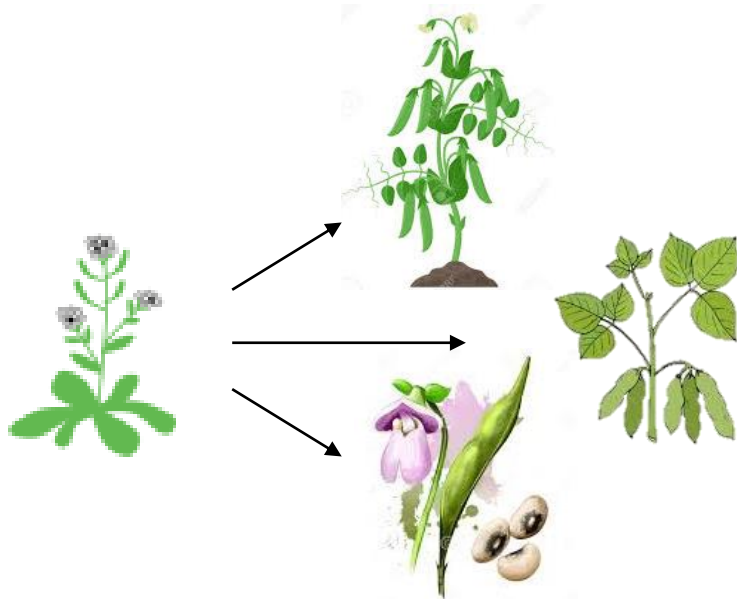




# Fertility Under Heat Stress

**Natasha Yelina**  
**Crop Science Centre Research Fellow**

GFS Coffee Break Seminar  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**UNIVERSITY OF  
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Driven by impact, fuelled by excellence



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE





**CROP  
SCIENCE  
CENTRE**

Driven by impact, fuelled by excellence

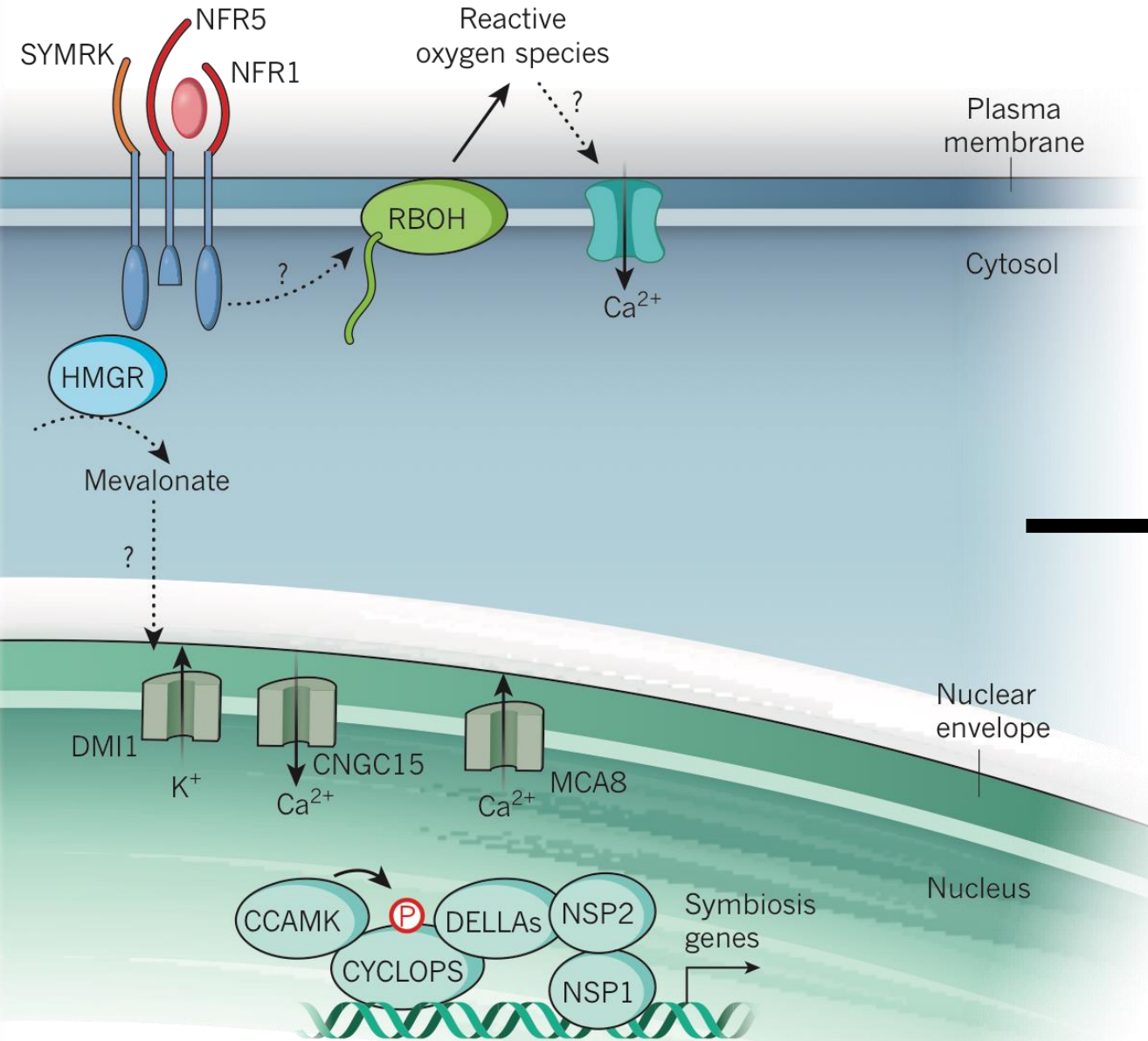


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CAMBRIDGE**



# Symbiosis signalling

Nod-LCOs



# Translation

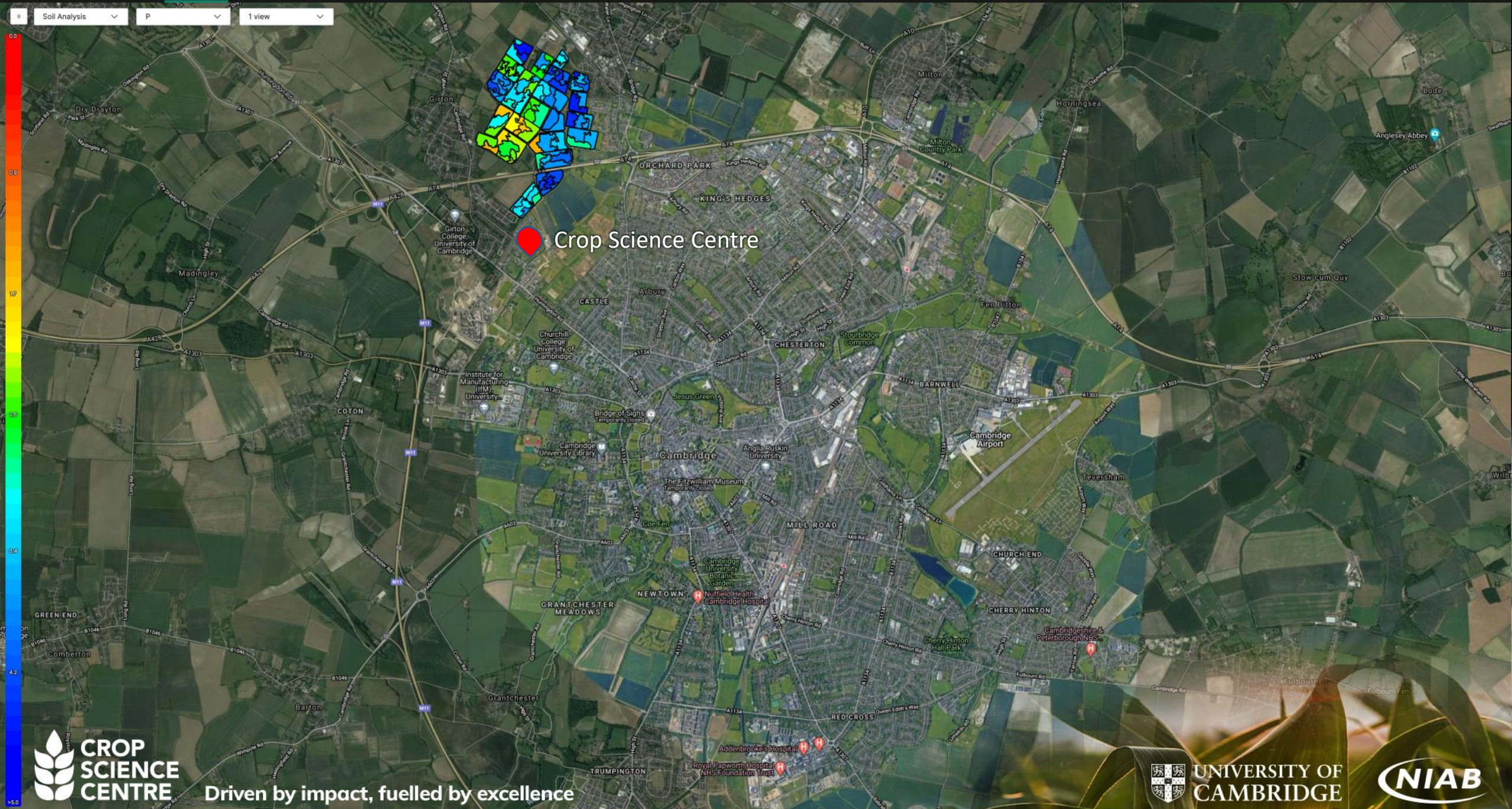
Sustainability

Equity





Soil Analysis P 1 view



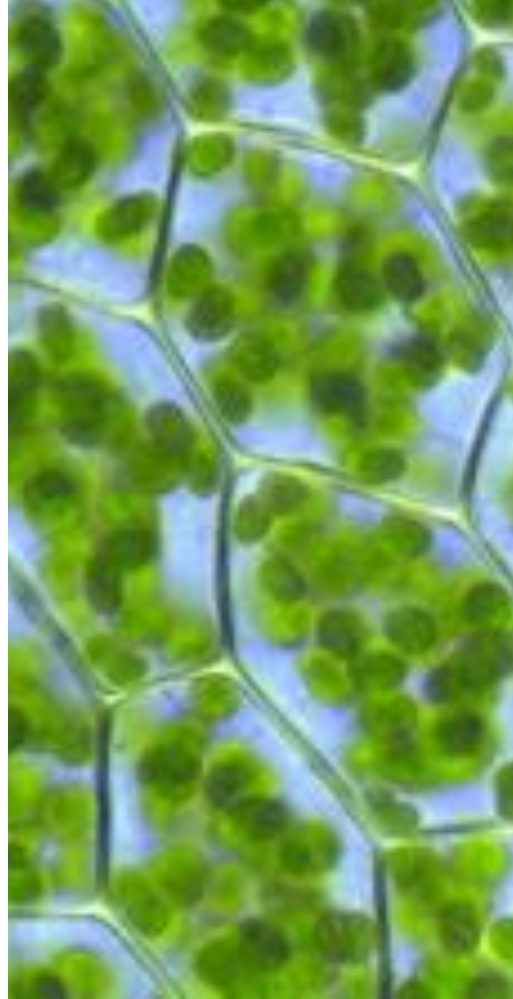
Driven by impact, fuelled by excellence



Replacing  
inorganic fertilisers



Enhancing  
photosynthesis



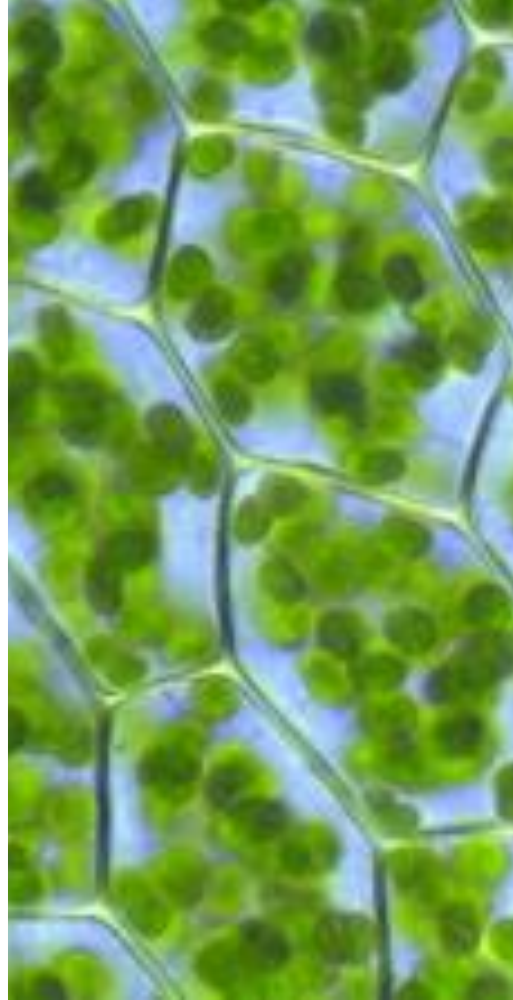
Reducing losses from  
pests and pathogens



Replacing inorganic fertilisers



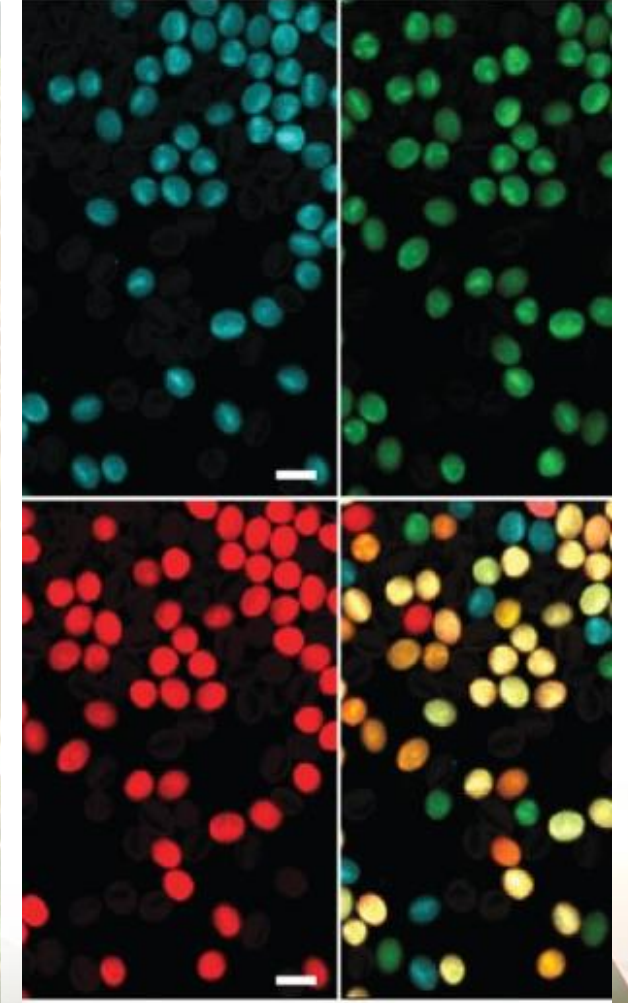
Enhancing photosynthesis



Reducing losses from pests and pathogens



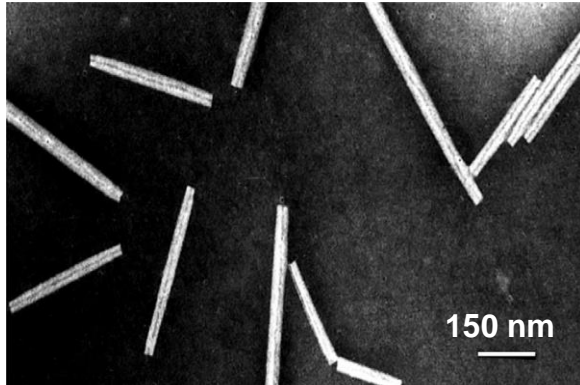
Breeding Technologies



# My Background: Plants and Plant Viruses



Moscow State University



*Barley stripe mosaic virus*



Barley

Virus infection: Plant fights back,  
virus suppresses plant's response



Just one  
virus  
protein



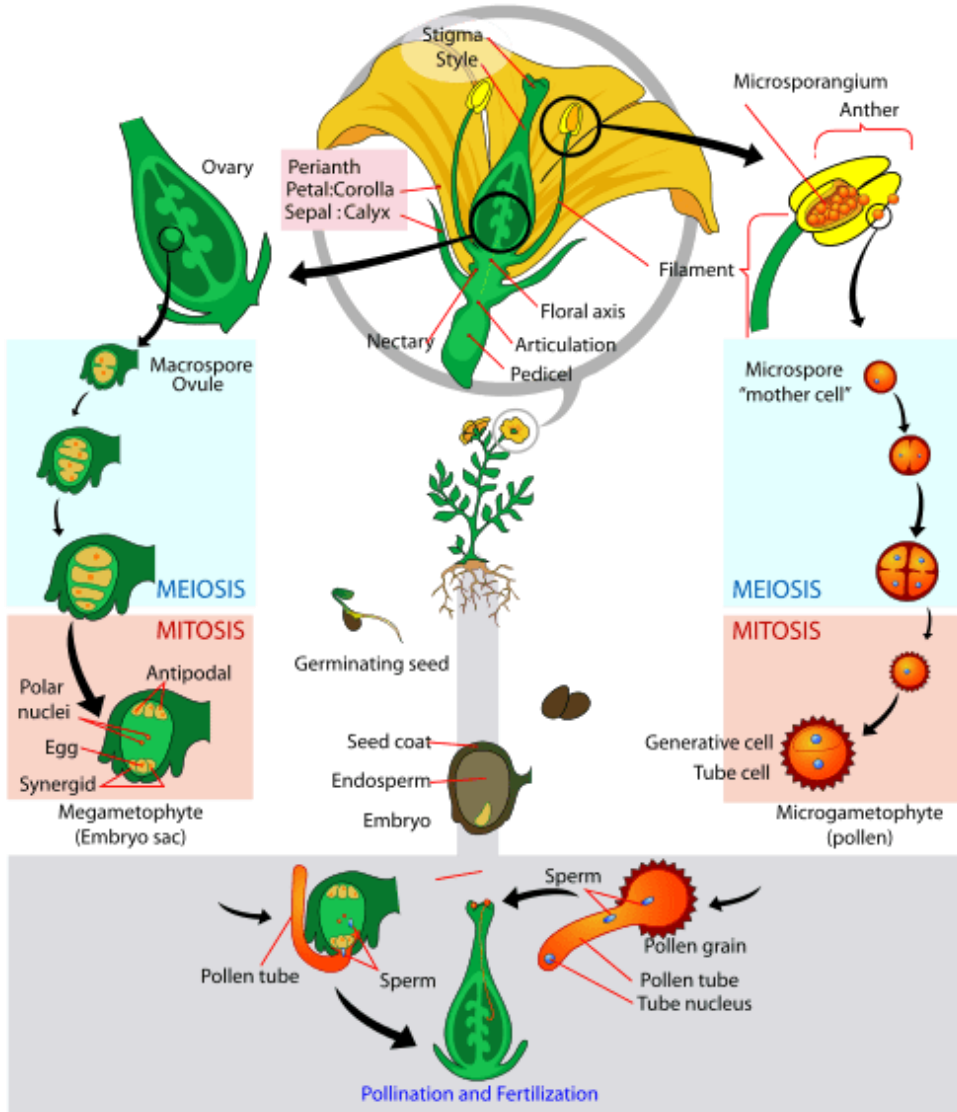
Strong virus infection, strong plant  
response, plant recovers



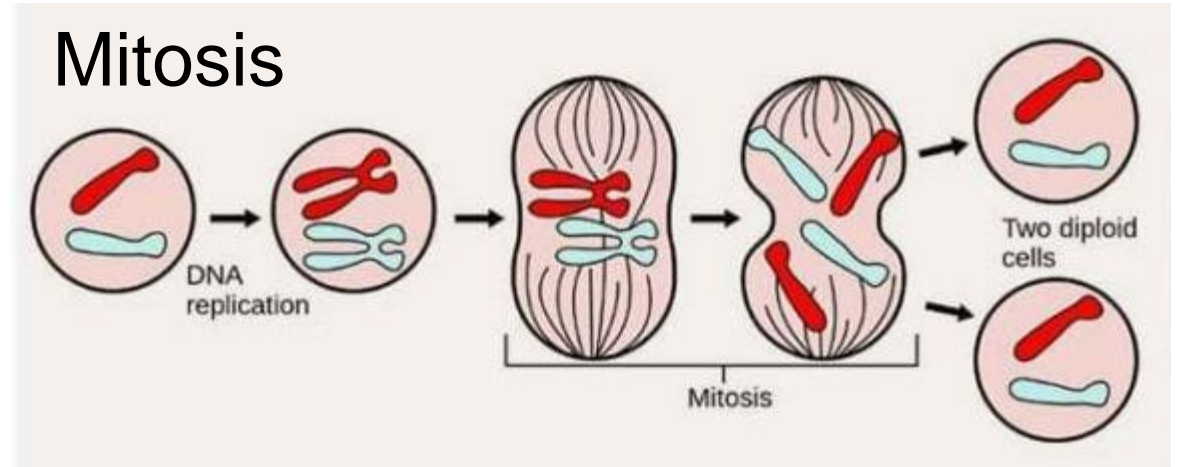
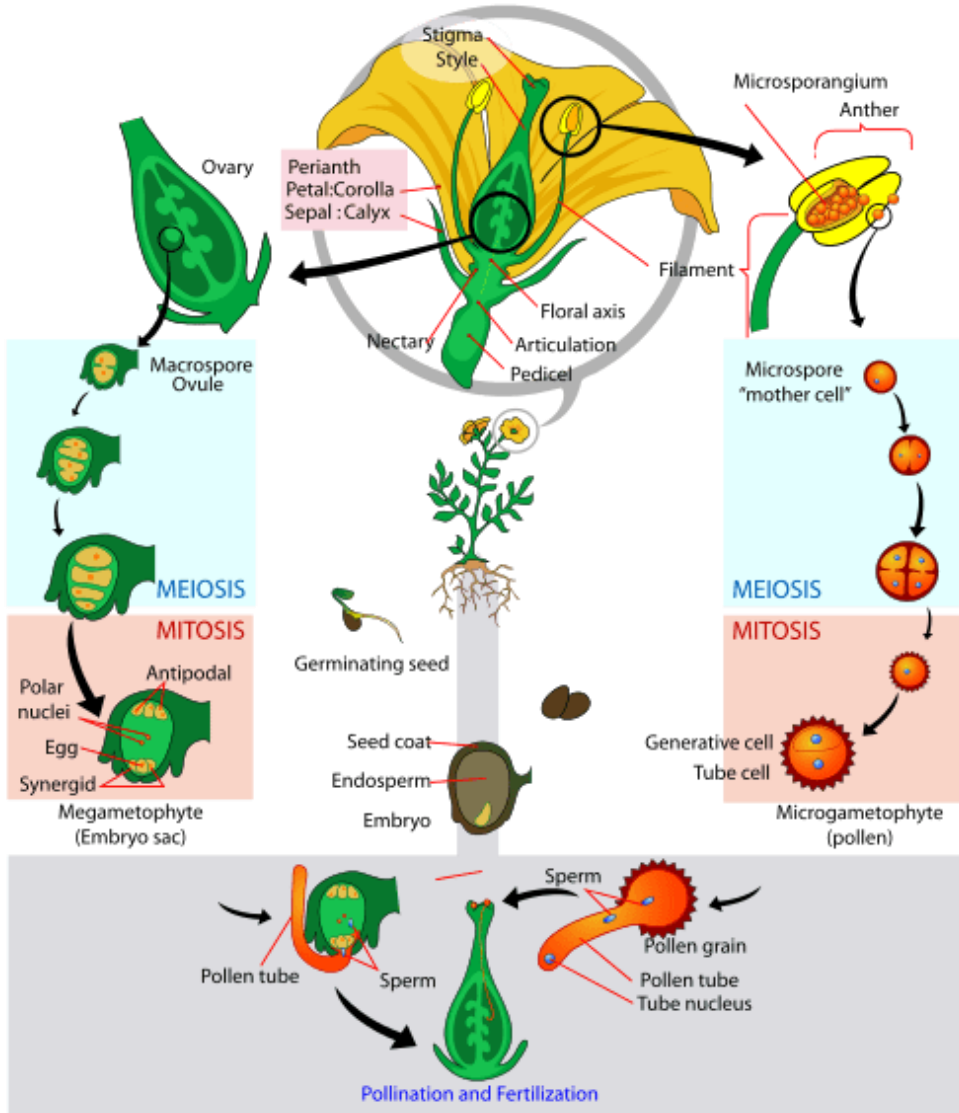
# My Background: Plant Reproduction



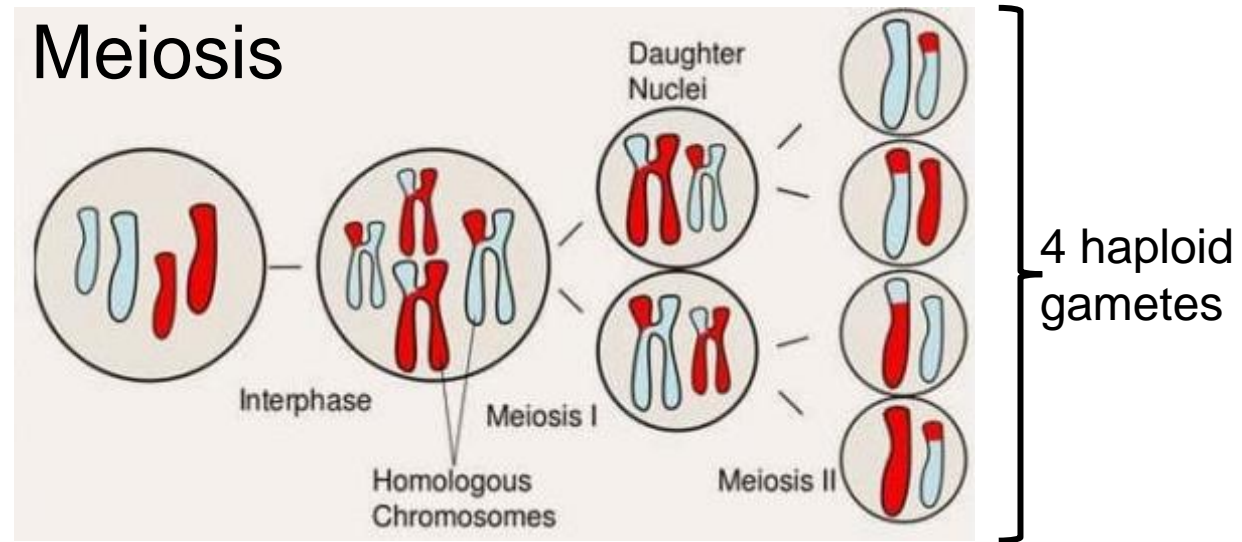
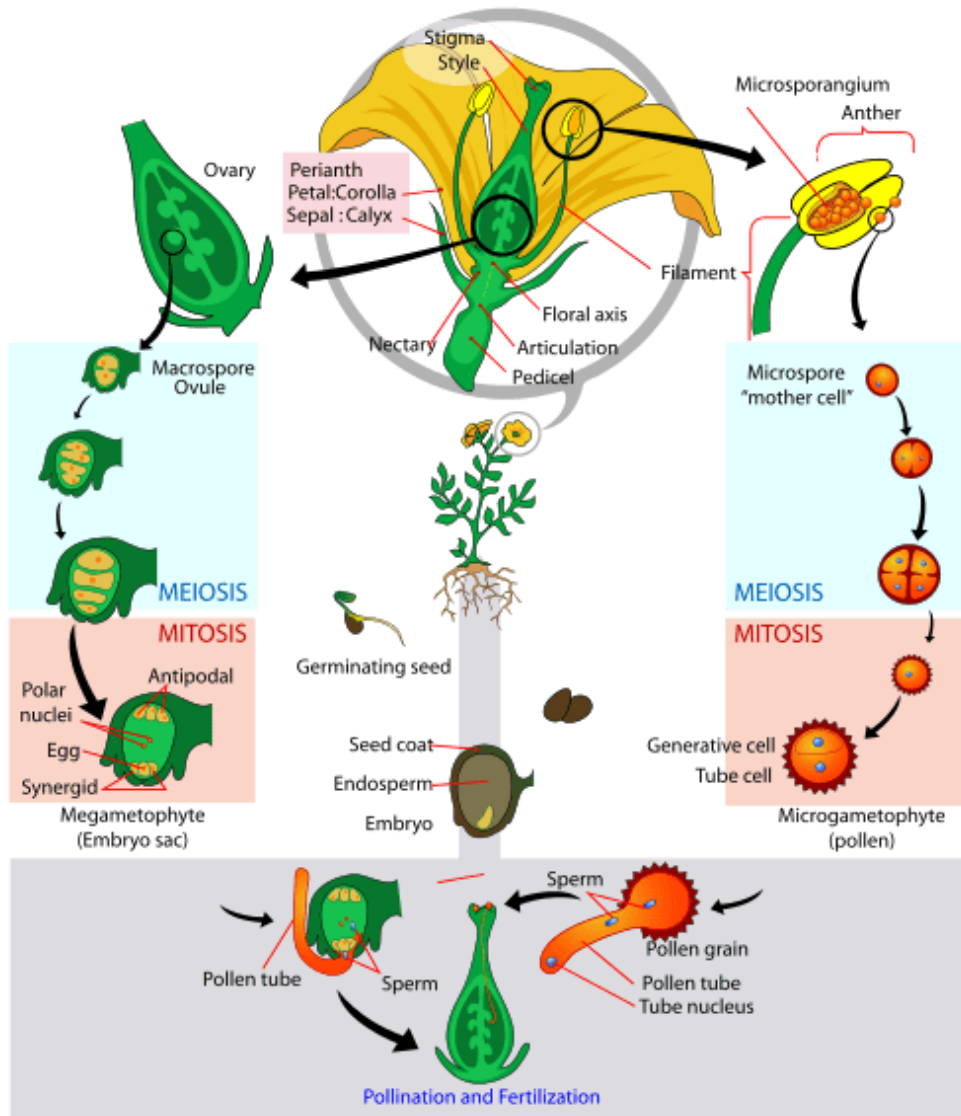
Department of Plant Sciences,  
Cambridge, UK



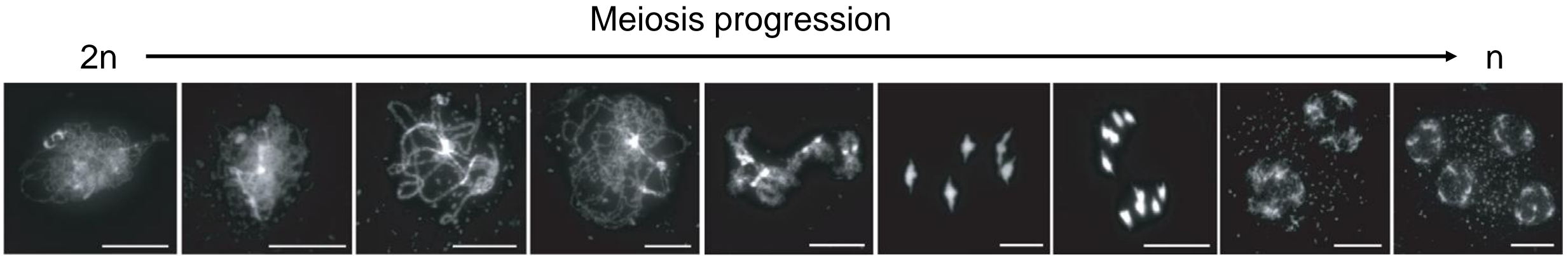
# My Background: Plant Reproduction



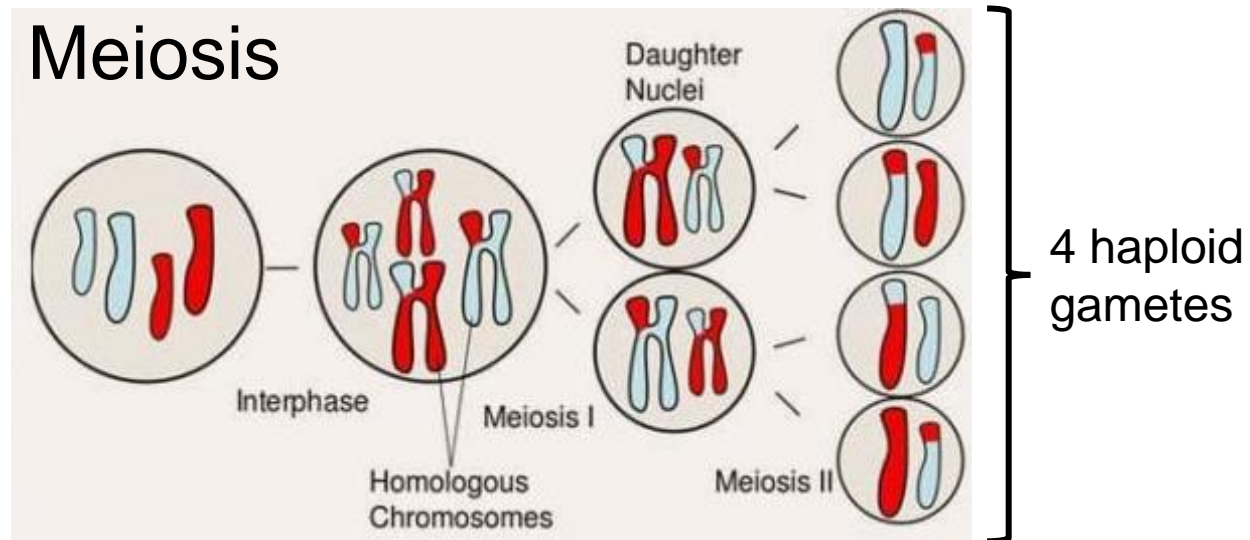
# My Background: Plant Reproduction



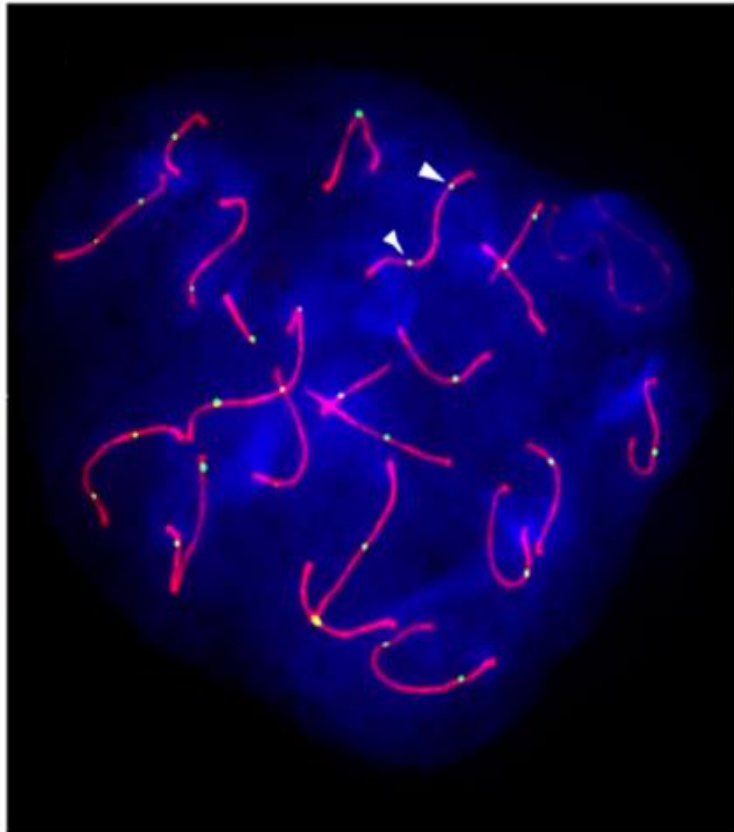
# Meiosis Is Complex...



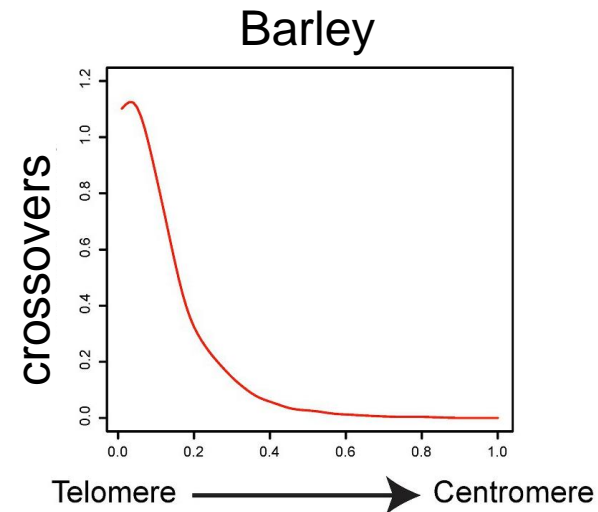
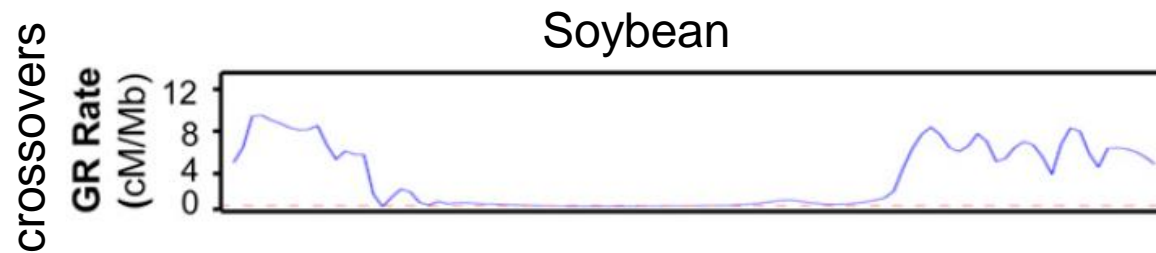
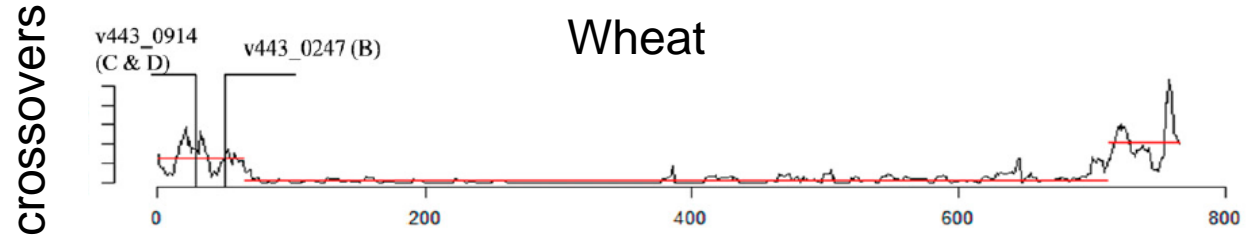
Yelina et al. 2012



# ... and Extremely Important For Crop Breeding

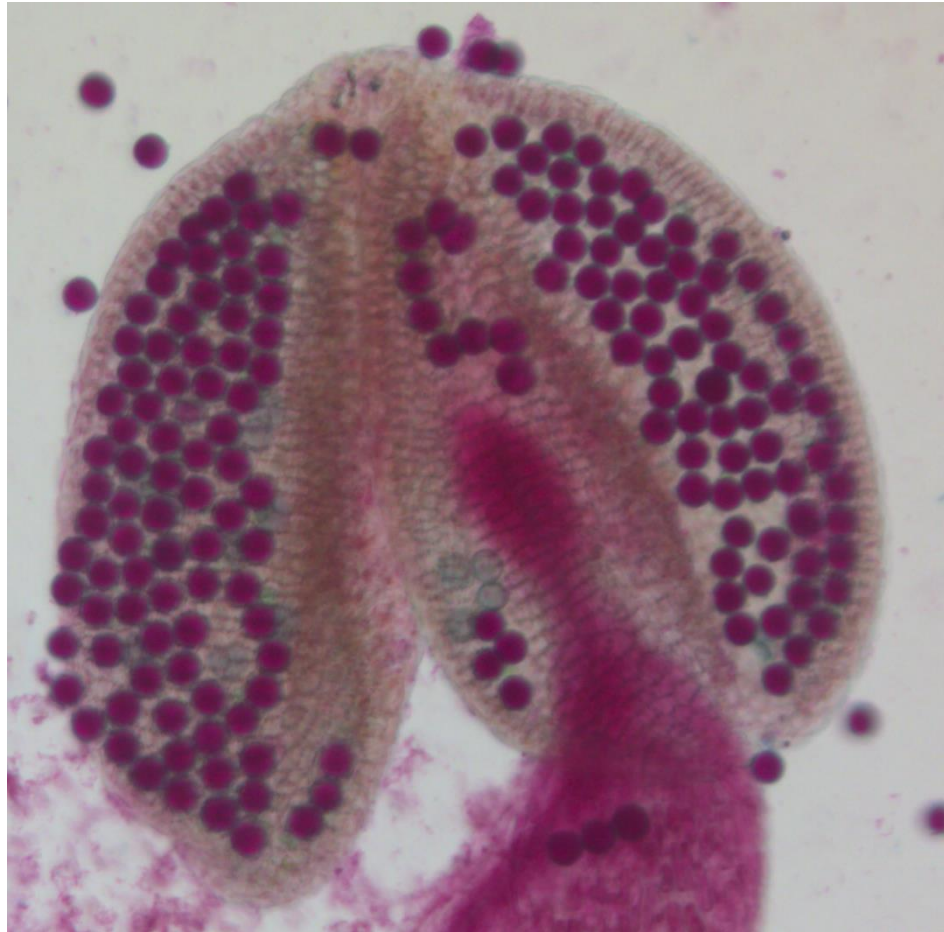


Thacker et al. 2009

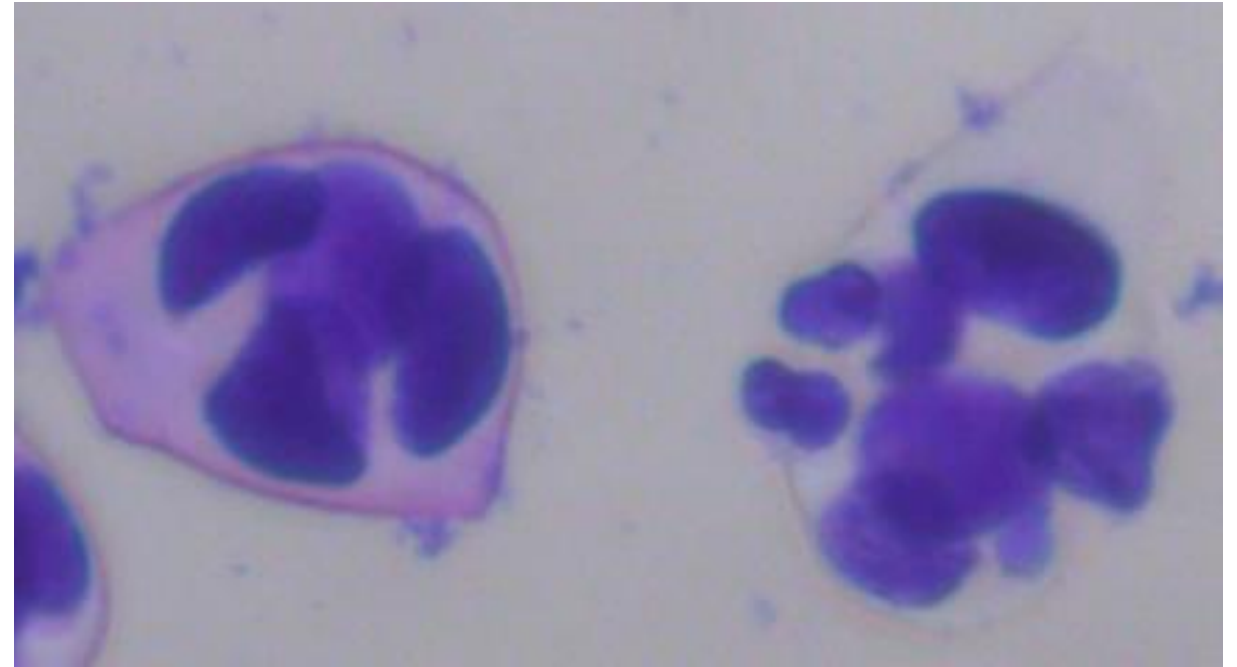


Schmutz et al. 2010  
Du et al. 2012  
Darrier et al., 2017  
Kuo et al., 2021

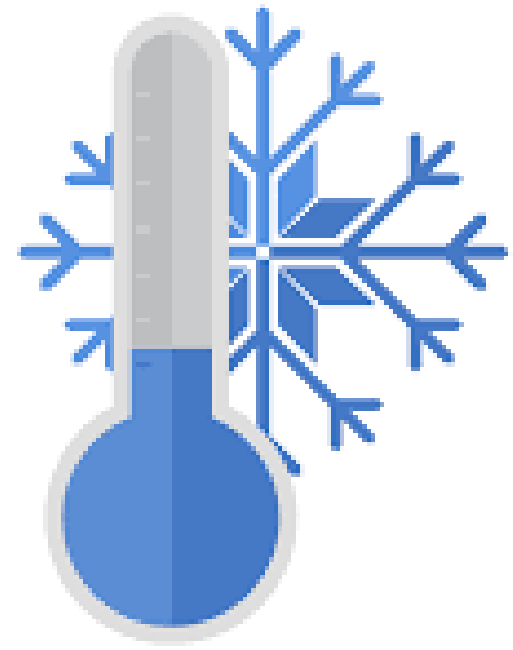
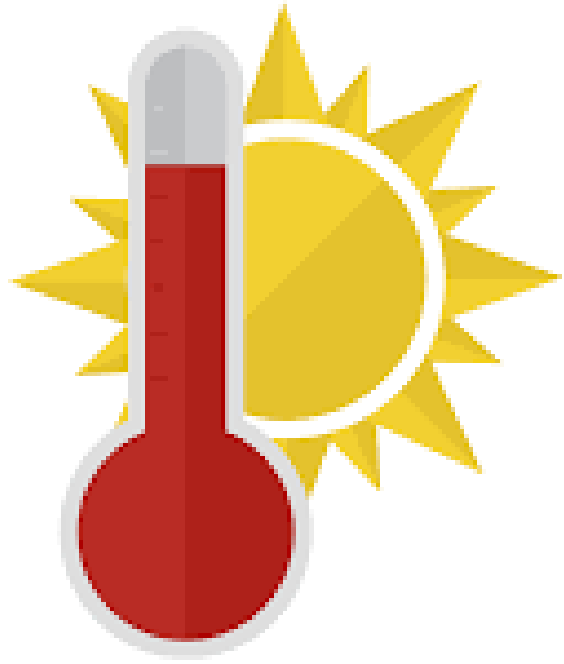
# ... and Extremely Important For Crop Breeding



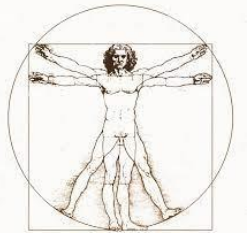
Alexander staining for pollen viability



Toluidine blue staining for aneuploidy



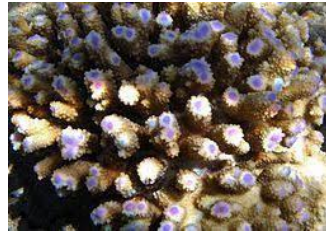
# Examples: Fertility Affected by Temperature



*Homo sapiens*



*Mus musculus*



*Acropora digitifera*



*Tribolium castaneum*



Chickpea



Pea



Cowpea



*Bos taurus*



*Poecilia reticulata*



*Sus species*



Rice



Barley



*Taeniopygia guttata*



*Grapholita molesta*



*Gallus gallus domesticus*



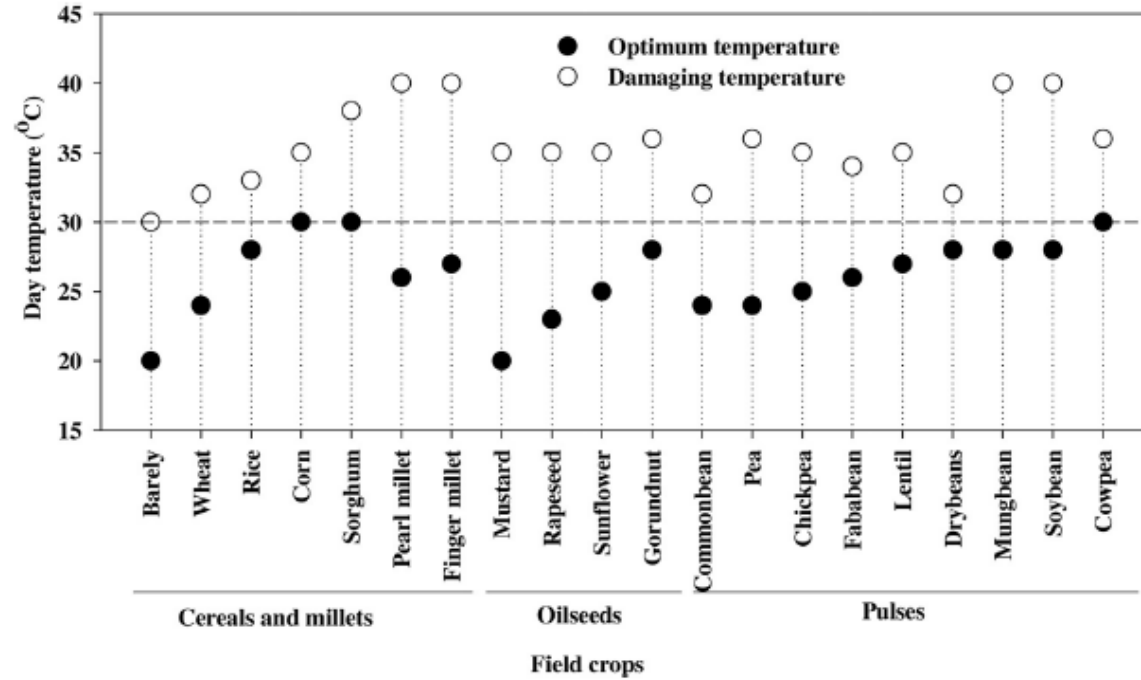
Wheat



Tomato



# Examples: Fertility Affected by Temperature



Prasad et al. 2016



Chickpea



Pea



Cowpea



Rice



Barley



Wheat



Tomato

# Examples: Fertility Affected by Temperature



Crop species	Stress	Yield losses (%)	Reference
Maize ( <i>Zea mays</i> L.)	Drought	63–87	Kamara et al., 2003
	Heat	42	Badu-Apraku et al., 1983
Wheat ( <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.)	Drought	57	Balla et al., 2011
	Heat	31	Balla et al., 2011
Rice ( <i>Oryza sativa</i> L.)	Drought	53–92	Lafitte et al., 2007
	Heat	50	Li et al., 2010
Chickpea ( <i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.)	Drought	45–69	Nayyar et al., 2006
Soybean ( <i>Glycine max</i> L.)	Drought	46–71	Samarah et al., 2006
Sunflower ( <i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.)	Drought	60	Mazahery-Laghab et al., 2003

# Why Legumes?



Intercropping



Smaller carbon footprint



N<sub>2</sub> fixing



Water efficiency

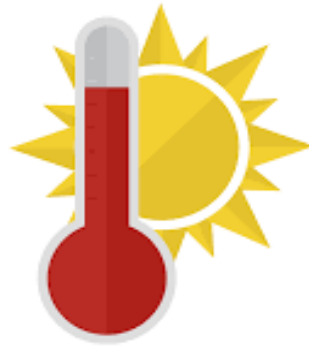


Genetic diversity  
Climate resilience



Dietary benefits

Questions:



Why is Fertility Affected By Temperature?

How Can We Reduce Crop Losses Due To Heat Stress During The Reproductive Stage?

## Genome-Wide Association Mapping of Fertility Reduction upon Heat Stress Reveals Developmental Stage-Specific QTLs in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

Johanna A. Bac-Molenaar,<sup>a,b</sup> Emilie F. Fradin,<sup>a,b</sup> Frank F.M. Becker,<sup>b</sup> Juriaan A. Rienstra,<sup>a</sup> J. van der Schoot,<sup>a</sup> Dick Vreugdenhil,<sup>a</sup> and Joost J.B. Keurentjes<sup>b,1</sup>

## Food Legumes and Rising Temperatures: Effects, Adaptive Functional Mechanisms Specific to Reproductive Growth Stage and Strategies to Improve Heat Tolerance

Kumari Sita<sup>1</sup>, Akanksha Sehgal<sup>1</sup>, Bindumadhava HanumanthaRao<sup>2\*</sup>, Ramakrishnan M. Nair<sup>2</sup>, P. V. Vara Prasad<sup>3</sup>, Shiv Kumar<sup>4</sup>, Pooran M. Gaur<sup>5</sup>, Muhammad Farooq<sup>6,7,8</sup>, Kadambot H. M. Siddique<sup>7</sup>, Rajeev K. Varshney<sup>5,7</sup> and Harsh Nayyar<sup>1\*</sup>

Theoretical and Applied Genetics (2020) 133:809–828  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00122-019-03508-9>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## *Dmc1* is a candidate for temperature tolerance during wheat meiosis

Tracie Draeger<sup>1</sup> · Azahara C. Martin<sup>1</sup> · Abdul Kader Alabdullah<sup>1</sup> · Ali Pendle<sup>1</sup> · María-Dolores Rey<sup>2</sup> · Peter Shaw<sup>1</sup> · Graham Moore<sup>1</sup>

## Developing Climate-Resilient Chickpea Involving Physiological and Molecular Approaches With a Focus on Temperature and Drought Stresses

Anju Rani<sup>1</sup>, Poonam Devi<sup>1</sup>, Uday Chand Jha<sup>2</sup>, Kamal Dev Sharma<sup>3</sup>, Kadambot H. M. Siddique<sup>4</sup> and Harsh Nayyar<sup>1\*</sup>

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1678-992X-2018-0233>

ISSN 1678-992X

Influence of high temperature on the reproductive biology of dry edible bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)

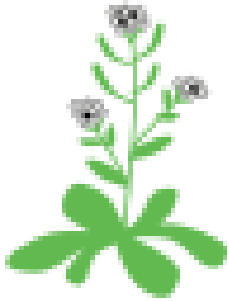
Daiana Alves da Silva<sup>1\*</sup>, Cecília Alzira Ferreira Pinto-Maglio<sup>2</sup>, Érica Cristina de Oliveira<sup>2</sup>, Raquel Luiza de Moura dos Reis<sup>1</sup>, Sérgio Augusto Morais Carbonell<sup>1</sup>, Alisson Fernando Chiorato<sup>1</sup>

SCIENTIA  
AGRICOLA

Research Article

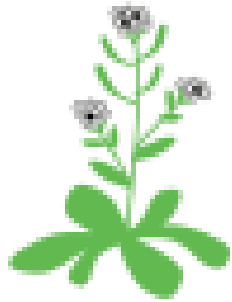


# What Can Be Done Using Model Plants

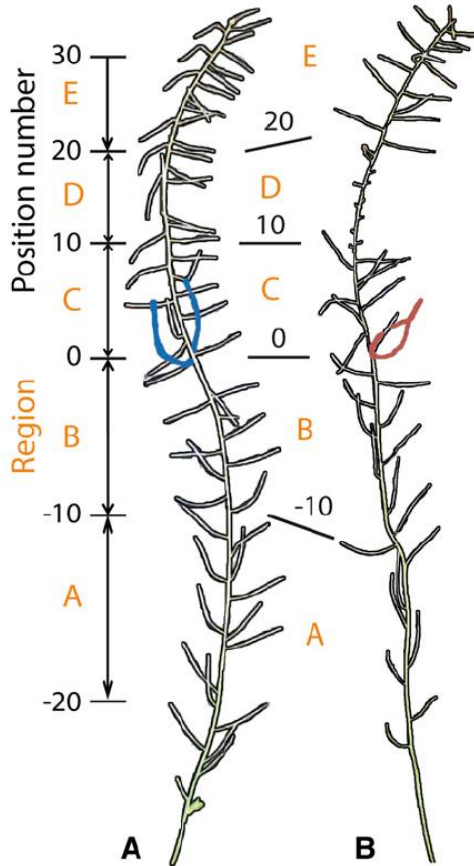


135 Mb genome  
Ideal for forward  
genetic mutagenesis  
screens

# What Can Be Done Using Model Plants

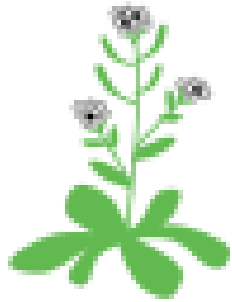


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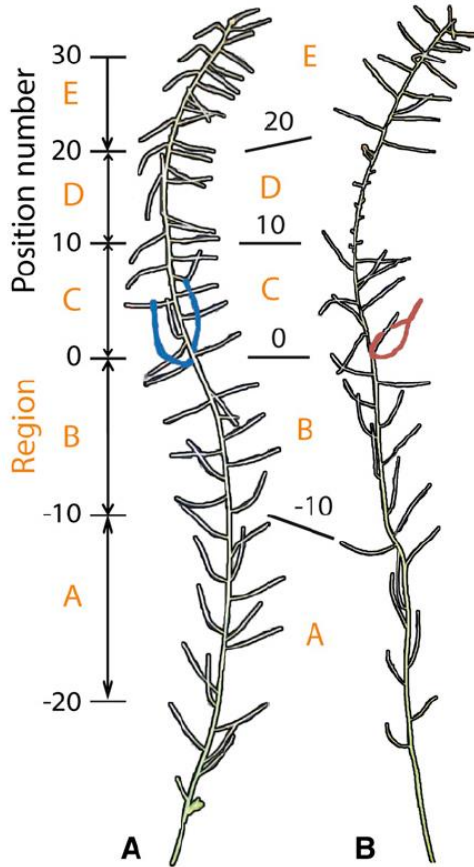


Bac-Molenaar et al. 2015

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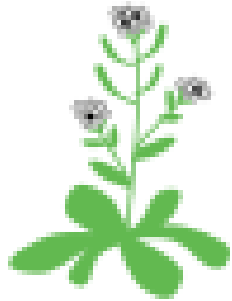
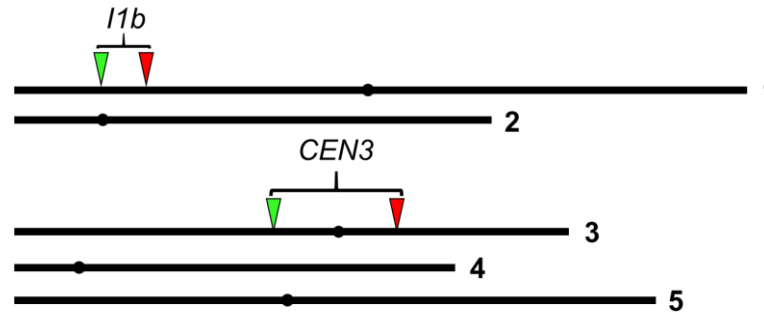


Look for mutants that retain  
fertility despite heat stress

Bac-Molenaar et al. 2015



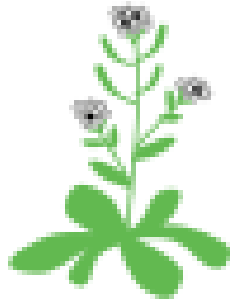
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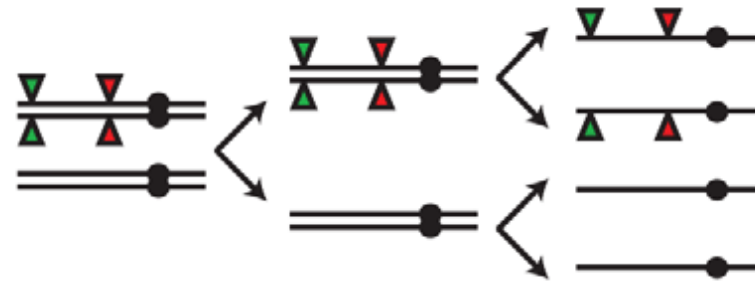
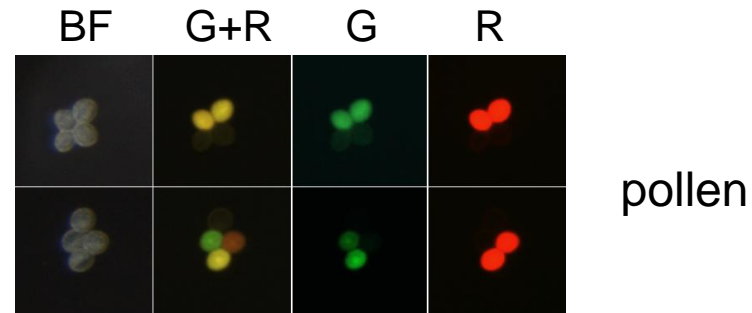
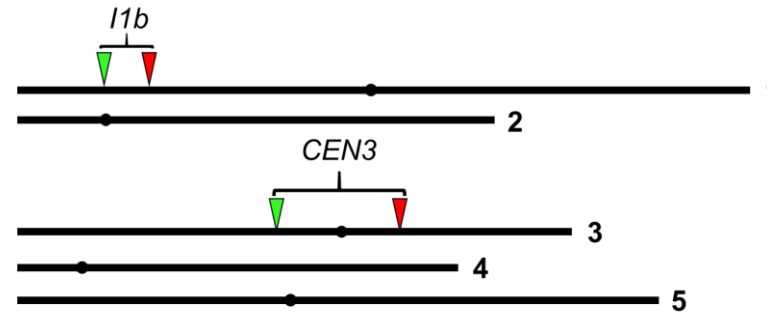
135 Mb genome  
Ideal for forward  
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screens

Fluorescent pollen markers developed by  
Prof Greg Copenhaver's lab

# What Can Be Done Using Model Plants

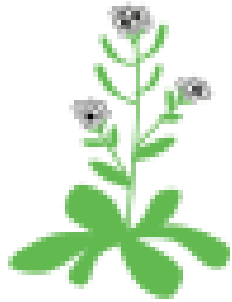


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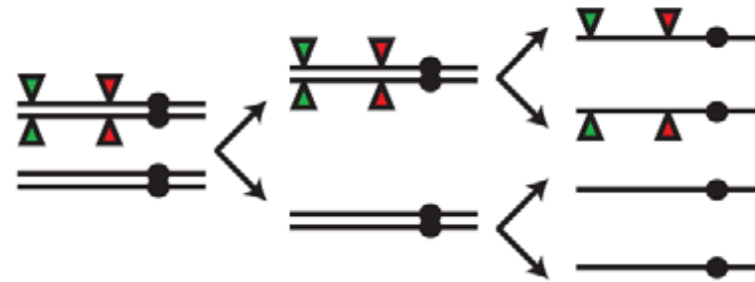
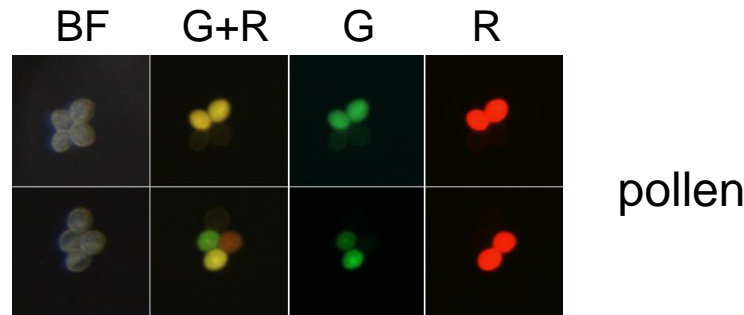
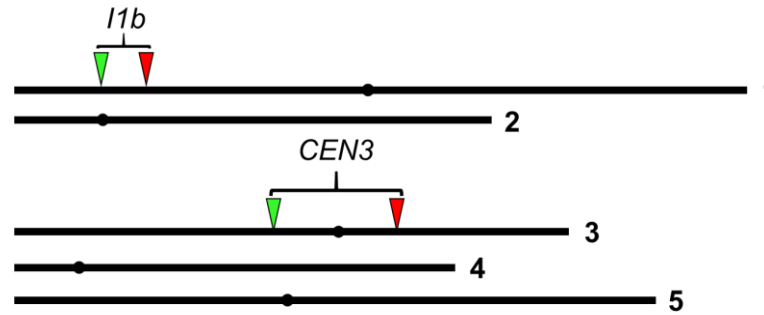


Yelina et al. 2012

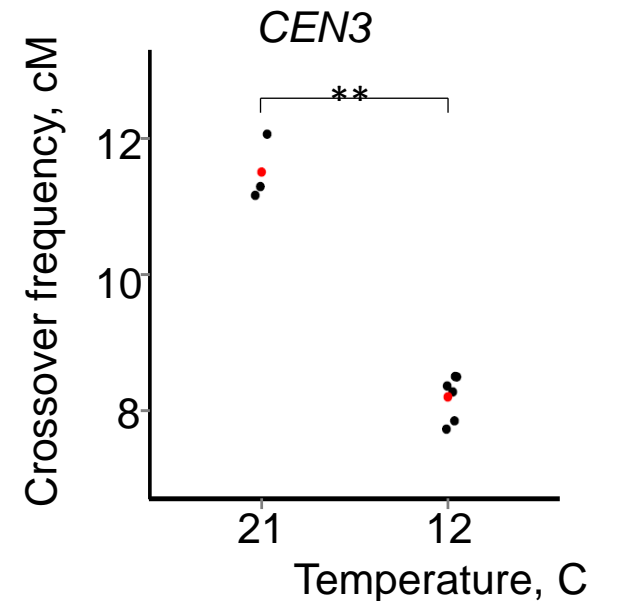
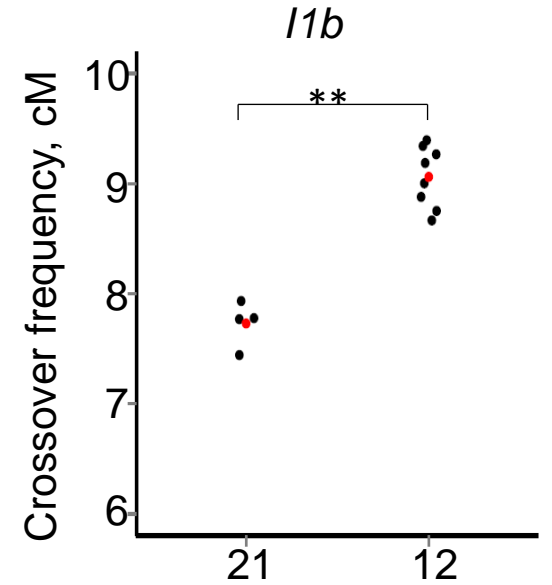
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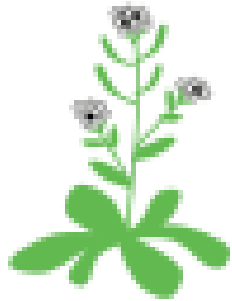
Yelina et al. 2012



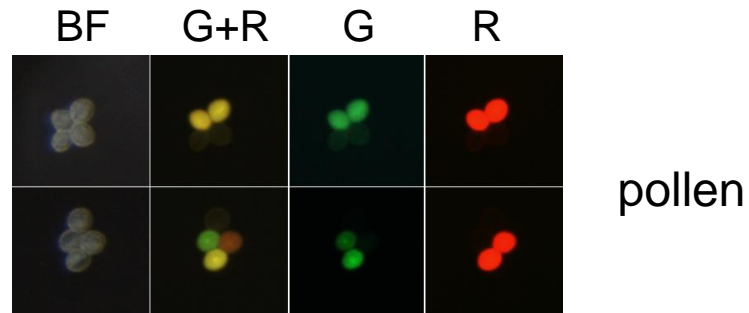
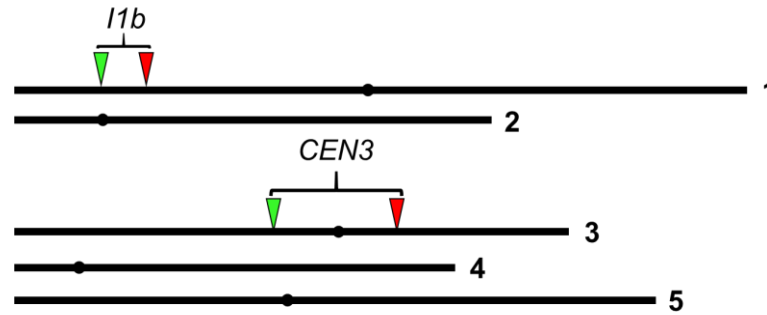
Lloyd et al. 2018

Modliszewski et al. 2018

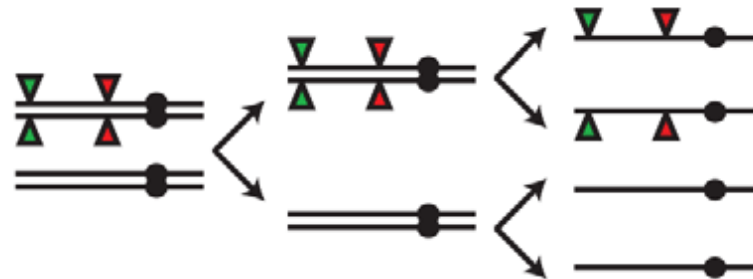
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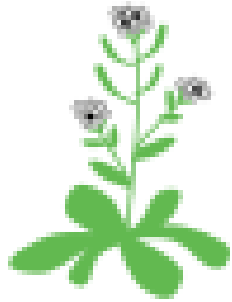
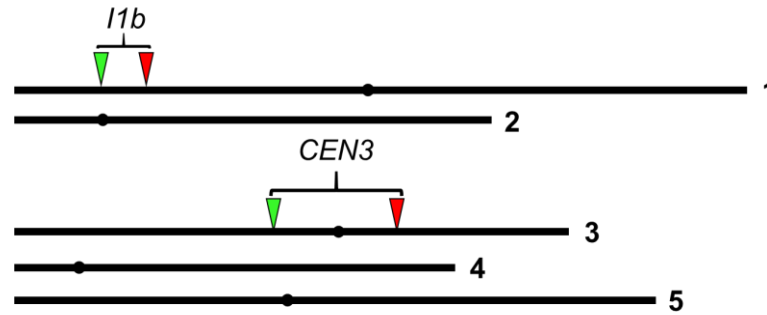


Identify mutants where  
crossovers are insensitive  
to temperature changes

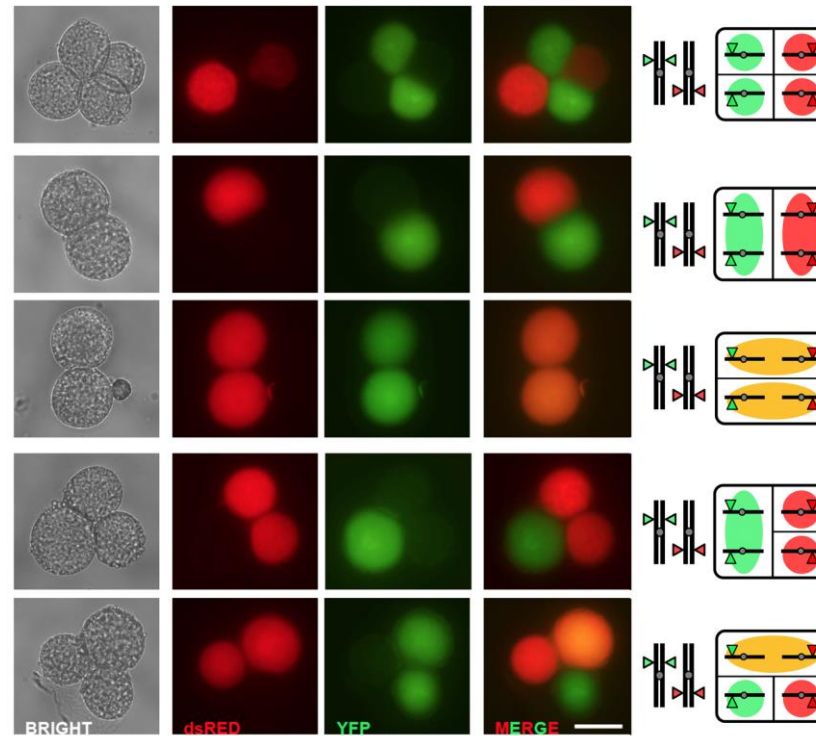


Yelina et al. 2012

# What Can Be Done Using Model Plants

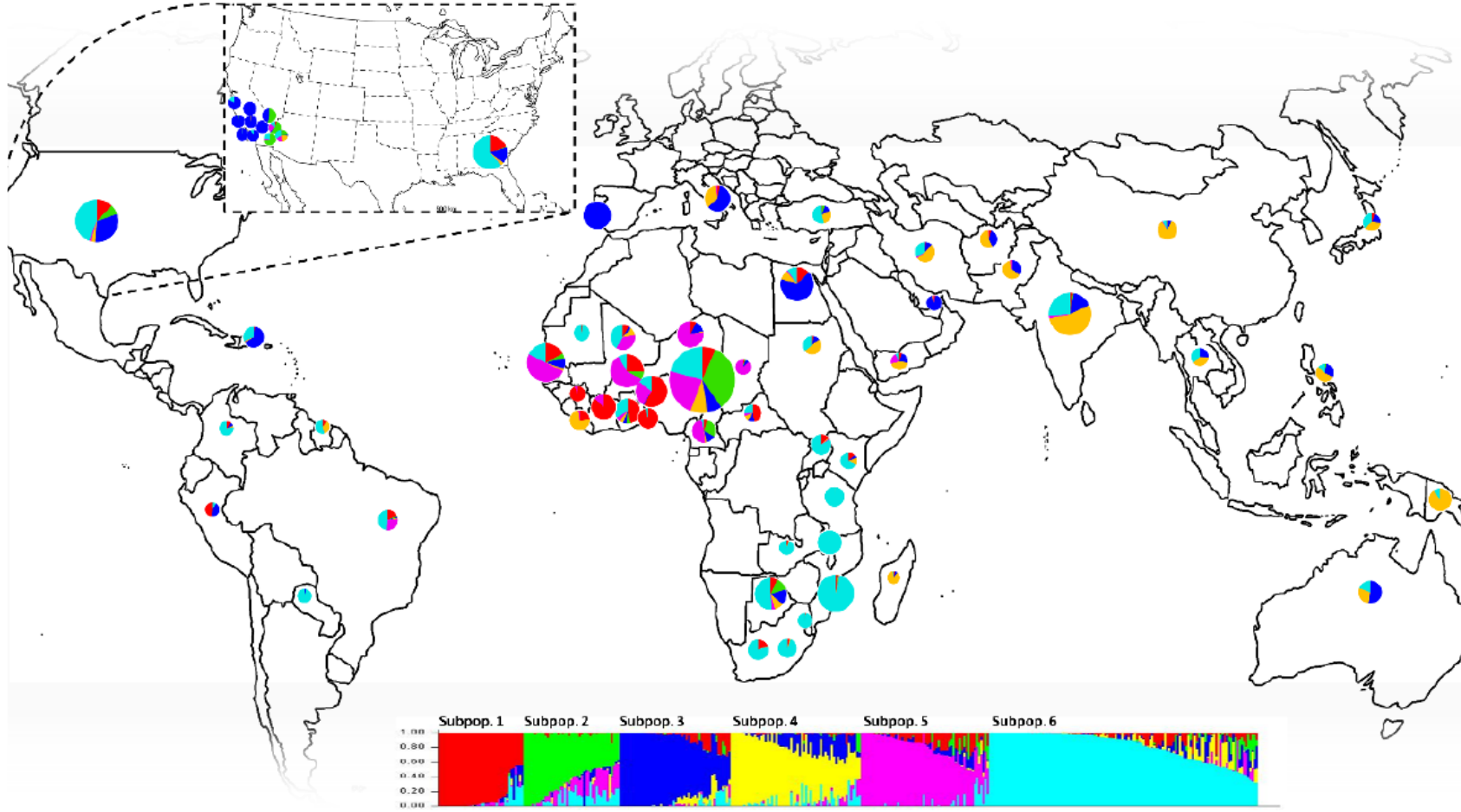


135 Mb genome  
Ideal for forward  
genetic mutagenesis  
screens



Identify mutants that do not  
have abnormalities in cell  
divisions and ploidy

# What Can Be Done Exploiting Natural Variation



Understand molecular mechanisms of natural adaptation to heat stress during reproduction

**Overarching aim:**

Understand mechanisms

Use this knowledge to engineer resilient crops

Address food security

# Summary



- Fertility is affected by temperature in many species
- Meiosis defects contribute to infertility due to temperature stress
- Reduced fertility due to temperature stress has direct relevance for agriculture
- Forward genetics and natural variation studies are powerful approaches to understand and engineer crop resilience