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Grapevine Remote Sensing Analysis of Phylloxera Early Stress (GRAPES): Remote Sensing Analysis Summary

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GRAPEVINE REMOTE SENSING ANALYSIS OF PHYLLOXERA EARLY STRESS (GRAPES): REMOTE SENSING ANALYSIS SUMMARY

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SUMMARY

This document describes image processing analysis applied to high spatial resolution airborne imagery acquired in California's Napa Valley in 1993 and 1994 as part of the Grapevine Remote sensing Analysis of Phylloxera Early Stress (GRAPES) project. Investigators from NASA, the University of California, the California State University, and Robert Mondavi Winery examined the application of airborne digital imaging technology to vineyard management, with emphasis on detecting the phylloxera infestation in California vineyards. Phylloxera infestation is a significant problem because the root louse causes vine stress that leads to grapevine death in three to five years. Eventually the infested areas must be replanted with resistant rootstock. Visual symptoms of phylloxera infestation include leaf chlorosis, vine size reduction, and collapse of fruit tissue during the growing season. Increased leaf temperatures have also been hypothesized for affected vines. Early detection of infestation and changing cultural practices to compensate for vine damage can minimize crop financial losses from damage and replanting. Vineyard managers need improved information to decide where and when to replant fields or sections of fields.

Multi-year airborne images of a vineyard were spatially co-registered so annual relative changes in leaf area due to phylloxera infestation could be located. Image processing analysis was applied to data from the Compact Airborne Spectrographic Imager (CASI, imagery acquired in 1993) and the Electro-Optic Camera (EO Camera, imagery acquired in 1994). Changes were determined by using information obtained from computing Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) images. As the canopy leaf area of infested regions decreased, these regions became increasingly non-uniform. Infestation spread was also projected in advance using proximity analysis, a geographic information system (GIS) technique. Two other methods of monitoring vineyards through imagery were also investigated: optical sensing of the Red Edge Inflection Point (REIP), and thermal sensing. These did not convey the stress patterns as well as the NDVI imagery and require specialized sensor configurations. NDVI-derived products are recommended for monitoring phylloxera infestations.

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INTRODUCTION

Phylloxera (*Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* Fitch) affects a number of the grape growing counties in California and is currently a severe problem in Napa and Sonoma Counties. The parasitic action of this root louse causes leaf chlorosis, decreases shoot and leaf growth and fruit yield, and leads to vine death three to five years from onset. Once established, the infestation spreads quickly through a vineyard. The grapevines' deep rooting pattern makes pesticides ineffective and there is no known biological control (refs. 1 & 2).

Changing cultural practices, such as adjusting pruning severity or changing the amount of irrigation, are sometimes used to prolong fruit production, but there is little the grape grower can do to combat phylloxera, except replant on phylloxera-resistant rootstock. As the infestation spreads, the grape yield decreases each year, until the yield is too low justify the maintenance costs and the vines are plowed up. Replanting is expensive, and the field will also be out of production for a number of years before the newly planted vines bear fruit.

The GRAPES project was a collaboration between NASA Ames Research Center, the University of California Davis, the University of California Cooperative Extension, California State University Chico, and Robert Mondavi Winery (Oakville, CA). The project was developed to demonstrate the use of remotely sensed data for vineyard management, with emphasis on monitoring phylloxera infestation, for example, using remotely sensed data to help decide when to replant a phylloxera infested field.

Some vineyard managers have used aerial photography to study phylloxera spread (ref. 3). The GRAPES project incorporated airborne digital imaging systems with subsequent image processing and analysis to enhance information content with respect to canopy size (ref. 4). This report summarizes methodology used to generate annual imagery for vineyard managers to monitor the spread of phylloxera in a Mondavi vineyard. This methodology could be applied to digitally acquired imagery and to film-based traditional aerial photography that has been scanned into digital form. Satellite images acquired by the Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) and Satellite Pour l'Observation de la Terre (SPOT) were also purchased, but were used for valley wide analysis and not at the vineyard or block scale. (A block is the smallest management unit within a vineyard.) This document also describes the image processing analysis applied to high spatial resolution airborne imagery acquired in California's Napa Valley in 1993 and 1994. Results of the analysis indicate the procedures used offer tangible benefits to growers.

STUDY SITE AND GROUND DATA

Airborne digital data were acquired over the study site, ToKalon Ranch (a vineyard owned and managed by the Robert Mondavi Winery), in 1993 and most of Napa Valley, including ToKalon and two other Mondavi vineyards, Carneros and Oak Knoll, in 1994. ToKalon ranch lies on the West edge of the valley floor and is surrounded on the other three sides by other vineyards. The ToKalon soils are mainly Bale loam and clay loam with 0–2% slope, with some Bale clay loam with 2–5% slope and some Coombs gravelly loam with 0–2% slope. The southern portion of the ranch is Clear Lake clay (2–5% slope). Images from 1993 and 1994 covering all of ToKalon Ranch were processed, but this report focuses on one five-hectare block (denoted as block I in the following discussion) within

ToKalon. Block I consisted of cabernet sauvignon grapevines on AXR-1 rootstock with four-meter row spacing planted primarily in Clear Lake clay soil. The analysis of this block was used to illustrate the type of information that can be generated for an entire vineyard.

Nine plots within block I were used for collecting field data (pruning weights, phylloxera counts, and leaf samples). These plots were chosen based on 1992 aerial color infrared photography and a pre-growing season phylloxera study. Interpretation of the color infrared photos provided locations of infested areas. Infestation levels were then confirmed by root digging in the field. The nine plots consisted of three plots each of uninfested, mildly infested, and severely infested vines. Each plot contained forty vines. At the end of each growing season (January), Mondavi pruned the vines and weighed vegetative material. Infrared temperatures were also collected in the field, using a hand held infrared thermometer, from five representative plots, soil, and roads in 1994. These data were used to support airborne thermal infrared data collection.

AIRCRAFT DATA

Aerial photography (acquired by Ames Research Center's C-130 and ER2 aircraft) and digital imagery from a variety of airborne sensors were used during the GRAPES project. Several airborne sensors with different specifications and spectral characteristics were used to investigate block monitoring capabilities and to test the utility of the digital image processing methods.

The airborne sensors used included: Airborne Data Acquisition and Registration (ADAR), Airborne Infrared Disaster Assessment System (AIRDAS), CASI, Digital Multi-Spectral Video (DMSV), EO Camera, NS001 Thematic Mapper Simulator (TMS), and Real Time Digital Airborne Camera System (RDACS). Each of these sensors can be used to acquire image data at different spatial, spectral, and radiometric resolutions. Spatial resolution, or ground resolution, is the size of the smallest area element that can be detected for the image. Spatial resolution, referred to as pixel size, depends on the sensor platform (aircraft) collection altitude. For example, the CASI sensor can be used to acquire image data at spatial resolutions between 0.6 m and 10 m. At 1200 m altitude, the CASI system yields a pixel size of 1.6 m (rounded to 2 m in this report) and at 450 m, 0.6 m. The total area imaged, therefore, decreases with decreasing aircraft altitude. Below some limiting height the sensor systems cannot acquire and store data fast enough to provide continuous ground coverage. The AIRDAS (Ames Research Center) sensor, which was designed for fire monitoring, has two thermal infrared channels (ref. 5). The AIRDAS low temperature, thermal channel (9250 nm center wavelength) was the most interesting for the GRAPES project, because it was used to determine surface (brightness) temperatures. The CASI can be used to collect data in spatial mode and spectral mode. In the CASI's spatial mode the sensor functions as a push-broom imager with up to 15 bands and in spectral mode the sensor operates like a group of spectrometers (1.8 nm spectral resolution) sweeping the flight path (ref. 6). Only the spatial mode with four or eight channels and a resampled spatial resolution of about 2.0 m were used for the project. The four channel configuration was used to provide false color infrared imagery and the eight channel configuration provided data along the red edge of the vegetation reflectance curve, figure 1. The DMSV had four similar channels (ref. 7). The EO Camera, flown at an altitude of 20 km aboard the NASA ER-2, has a nominal spatial resolution of five meters and was flown with five channels. The NS001 TMS has eight channels, was flown aboard the NASA C-130 with a spatial resolution of three to five meters. Seven of these channels correspond to the TM instrument channels. The RDACS has three cameras with narrow band filters (about ten nanometers).

While the imagery acquired from all these sensors was examined, most of the data analysis was performed on data from the primary project sensors (CASI and EO Camera). Data from the other sensors were provided by their representatives for evaluation. Only the CASI and EO Camera processing will be discussed in the following sections. The central wavelengths of each spectral channel, the spatial resolution, and the sensor provider for these sensors are summarized in Table 1. For more detailed sensor specifications, see the Appendix.

Table 1. Airborne sensors used in the GRAPES project. Spatial resolutions are based on the respective flight altitudes.

Sensor	Channel centers (nm)	Spatial res. (m)	Source
ADAR	440, 515, 650, 890	3	Positive Systems, Whitefish MT
AIRDAS	645, 1635, 4550, 9250	5	NASA ARC
CASI (4 ch)	550, 630, 680, 787	2	Borstad Associates, Sidney, BC, Canada
CASI (8 ch)	500, 550, 630, 680, 710, 737, 747, 788	resampled to 2	Borstad Associates, Sidney, BC, Canada
DMSV	450, 550, 650, 750	1	SpecTerra Systems, Pty., Ltd., Nedlands, Western Australia
EO Camera	680, 720, 735, 750, 775	5	NASA ARC
NS001 TMS	489, 566, 665, 839, 1240, 1640, 2240, 11300	3 to 5	NASA ARC
RDACS	548, 650, 821	1	NASA Stennis Space Ctr.

The four-channel CASI data were acquired 26 July 1993 using a nadir view over all of ToKalon at an altitude of 1200 m. An eight-channel, 45 degree oblique view was also acquired over block I at an altitude 450 m, respectively. An oblique image minimizes the spectral effect of the soil, since the sensor looks at an angle to the canopy. Some soil was still seen because the vines have an open canopy and the vine rows are widely spaced. The oblique image was used only for the red edge inflection point calculations. The CASI data were delivered as radiance data, with no atmospheric corrections applied. The EO Camera data were acquired 1 August 1994 at an altitude of twenty kilometers. Reliable radiance calibration data were not available for the EO Camera at the time, so these data were used uncalibrated.

The processing described below was performed with imagery from the study site, but focusing on block I, since field data were available for ground truth for this block. Since the blocks were known to be infested with phylloxera based on root diggings and damaged regions had a rapid annual spread rate, the stress or damage to the vines was concluded to be due to phylloxera. Preliminary work with a proximity search was also accomplished using four vineyard blocks (C, H, I, and J) to study the spread of phylloxera within the blocks. From their appearance in the false color infrared imagery, two of the blocks, H and I, were lightly stressed in 1993, while C and J were moderately stressed in 1993. In 1994, blocks H and I were moderately stressed and block C was severely stressed and block J was moderately stressed.

A 1993 C-130 1:6 000 scale and a 1994 ER2 1:32 000 scale photograph were also available for the ToKalon Ranch region. The photographs were scanned to generate multispectral images, analogous to the NIR, red, and green channels of an airborne scanner. The effective pixel size for these images after registration was one meter.

PROCESSING AND RESULTS

There were several factors affecting the image analysis procedures: (1) the image data had to be in the same map projection as, and spatially co-registered with, the other data layers used in the GRAPES project (for example, soils, road network, hydrology); (2) the imagery was to be compared from year to year; and (3) the data analysis procedures needed to be practical and applicable for procedural repeatability and ease of use. The third factor required choosing a procedure providing results easily comparable with the field data.

The second constraint was the most difficult to achieve. The data processing had to reconcile differences in sensor characteristics and provide results that were not affected by differences in viewing conditions. Several normalization schemes were tested to reconcile the data sets. The scheme finally selected was chosen based on ease of implementation and validity of the results. The simplest procedure was to match the spatial resolutions of the data, then classify the imagery based on the NDVI values. This simple method provided sufficient results without complicated sensor calibration and atmospheric correction models applied to the imagery.

Image Registration

The four-channel CASI imagery acquired in 1993 was used as the base date, while subsequent airborne digital images were geo-registered to it. The ToKalon site data, consisting of three adjacent passes, were mosaicked together into one image. The mosaicked image was registered to a Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) zone ten projection, with two-meter spatial resolution. This image registration was accomplished using global positioning system (GPS) data points collected in the field. These points were then located in the image and used as ground control points (GCPs). Finally, the image was warped so the GCP's were in the correct positions relative to the UTM coordinate system. Later images of the same area, such as the EO Camera imagery, were registered to this image. A standard image to image transformation procedure was used. In this case the GCPs were pixel locations in the CASI image and the equivalent pixel locations in the unregistered image.

Equalization of Spatial Resolution

The EO Camera imagery, acquired in 1994, was registered to the 1993 CASI imagery. The 1994 EO Camera data had a nominal spatial resolution of five meters, while the CASI imagery had a spatial resolution of two meters. The resolution difference was compounded by the EO Camera lens could not be focused across all wavelength channels simultaneously, and consequently the channels, particularly the red channel, were slightly out of focus. The 1994 image was registered to the 1993 image, while adjusting for the pixel size (sampling interval) difference by resampling. Low pass (averaging) spatial filters of various sizes were used to degrade the CASI and EO Camera near infrared (NIR) to the EO Camera red spectral band spatial resolution. The best visual match was obtained with a 5x5 window

applied to the EO Camera NIR band and a 7x7 window applied to both of the CASI channels. This procedure normalized the EO Camera focusing problems, figure 2.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Analysis

The NDVI was next applied to the imagery. The NDVI is defined as

$$NDVI = \frac{NIR - red}{NIR + red}$$

The NDVI highlights differences in vegetation canopy reflectance. Healthy vegetation has strong absorbance characteristics in the red portion of the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS), while also reflecting strongly in the NIR portion of the EMS. These properties are due to the interaction of light with the chlorophyll in the plant tissue (fig. 1). Subtle changes in vegetation vigor or leaf chlorophyll composition result in subtle alterations in absorbance and reflectance characteristics. These characteristics are then highlighted in the NDVI. The index is near zero for bare soil, but can be close to 1.0 for a dense, healthy canopy. The NDVI was used because it lessens the influence of solar illumination, angular influences, slope, and viewing geometry. It performs consistently between sensors, for different flights, and within the images. NDVI is also correlated to leaf area index (LAI), or canopy leaf amount, and biomass (ref. 8). The index compensates for brightness differences and highlights the spectral differences between pixels. Absolute NDVI's were not directly comparable because of year-to-year differences in non-canopy variables and non-phylloxera related growth effects. Non-canopy variables include calibration differences (the CASI data were calibrated to radiance versus the raw EO Camera data), atmospheric conditions (weather conditions and aerosol concentration), and solar illumination angle differences. Year-to-year plant growth differences could be also be a response to other factors, including other plant stresses, changes in management practices, and increased rainfall (that is, more irrigation) in 1994. However, if the range of NDVI values within the images is represented by classes, then relative values (classes) in the images from the same areas on different dates can be compared. A small number of classes makes the images easier to interpret. Initially NDVI data were assigned hues ranging from brown (bare soil), through yellow (small or stunted vines), to dark green (vigorous growth). This approach showed damage patterns within the vineyard. Later, images were coded using a rainbow (color spectrum) color coding due to the greater hue separation. This scheme was preferred by the Mondavi vineyard manager and subsequently became the coding of choice for the images.

Subjective comparisons of NDVI images of block I from 1993 and 1994 were difficult, so an unsupervised classification was used to categorize block I and, later, the entire vineyard. An objective method of determining class breaks was needed, so Iterative Self-Organizing Data Analysis (ISODATA) (ref. 9), an unsupervised classification algorithm was used. Utilized with only one input image band, the ISODATA routine determines the clusters within the range of pixel values in the image using the number of clusters the user inputs. The ISODATA classification process begins by dividing the range of values and using the midpoint of each breakpoint as the starting means for the number of classes specified by the user. Each pixel is then assigned to the cluster that has the closest mean value to the pixel value. Cluster means are then recomputed based on the pixels assigned to the clusters, and the pixels are again assigned to clusters based on the new means. Eventually the means settle down and the process terminates. When run on block I, six classes were used in the classification. This kept

the number of classes down ease of interpretation, while still representing the image variation. For the entire vineyard, this number was doubled to twelve classes, since there was much variation in NDVI values due to differences in vine maturity, trellis type, and vine spacing as well as plant condition.

A number of vineyard blocks were pulled after the 1993 data acquisition and subsequently, large areas of bare soil were evident in the 1994 imagery. These “soil” pixels would be over-represented in the classes generated from the 1994 NDVI image. To equalize the distribution, the NDVI images were visually compared with aerial photos and the false color infrared imagery to select an NDVI threshold that masked out the nearly bare and bare soil pixels. Any pixels below the threshold (the soil) became zero and were not considered in the classification routine. The thresholded image contained only vegetated landscape elements and the range of NDVI values was therefore reduced. The proportion of high NDVI pixels appeared stable, since those pixels were primarily trees along the streams, roads, and hillside as well as the vigorous grapevines.

The ISODATA classification was performed to the filtered CASI (1993) and EO Camera (1994) images. A common area covering the ToKalon vineyard was used in these steps for both years. Subsets of each of these classified images for block I are shown in figure 3. The mean class values for each of the plots within block I and their pruning weights are shown in Table 2. A percentage summary of the classification for block I by class values is shown in figure 4. In the vineyard as a whole, there were NDVI class values below and above the block I class values. A few NDVI classes predominated in 1993 (fig. 4). In 1994, the vineyard blocks had a large number of bare soil pixels and a broad distribution of other class values, because phylloxera damage lead to a decrease in block uniformity.

Table 2. Mean pruning weights per vine and mean Normalized Difference Vegetation Index class values for pixels within plots.

<i>Plot</i>	<i>1993</i>		<i>1994</i>	
	<i>Pruning Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Pruning Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Class</i>
1	1.39	1.648	0.92	0.023
2	0.70	1.129	0.45	0.186
3	0.95	2.581	0.58	0.795
4	2.25	5.835	1.57	2.000
5	2.94	6.626	2.50	3.907
6	1.13	4.851	0.54	0.020
7	1.60	7.301	2.45	8.375
8	2.51	6.699	3.36	7.488
9	2.95	6.720	3.95	9.085
$R^2 = 0.60$		$R^2 = 0.88$		

The 1994 histogram for block I (fig. 4) also showed increases in high class values, which was consistent with the pruning weights given for plots 7–9 (Table 2). Infestation levels were evident in the pruning weights and to a lesser extent in the NDVI class values. Table 2 indicates the mean class values for the pixels in infested plots 1–6 had decreased, while the mean class values for the lightly or

unaffected plots (7, 8, and 9) had increased. Class values were plotted against pruning weight in figure 5. Correlations between the pruning weights and either NDVI or class values were similar, though greater in 1994 versus 1993: R^2 was about 0.60 for 1993, 0.86 for 1994. The correlation between pruning weight and NDVI class for both years combined ($R^2 = 0.76$) was higher than the correlation between all of the pruning weights with all NDVI values ($R^2 = 0.66$). Therefore, classifying the imagery improved the relationship between pruning weights and NDVI. Similar improvement occurred with the NDVI values when the red and NIR channels were radiometrically normalized before computing the NDVI (results not presented here).

A difference image was generated for block I (fig. 6) to spectrally compare the images. Image differencing was accomplished by subtracting 1994 NDVI class image from the 1993 class image. An extensive area, in the middle of the vineyard block indicated a significant NDVI decrease associated with the spread of phylloxera. The dark gray areas on the left side of the vineyard block indicate canopy cover increases. This image also exhibited large decreases centered on the areas with lower class values in 1993, such as at the upper middle of the block (fig. 3).

NDVI analysis was also performed with the scanned color infrared photographs from block I. Comparison of the 1993 NDVI classes with the 1993 pruning weights resulted in an R^2 of 0.64. Comparisons of the 1994 classes and 1994 weights resulted in an R^2 of 0.90. NDVI values from the 1993 scanned photograph compared to the 1993 pruning weights resulted in an R^2 of 0.61. The 1994 digitized photo generated NDVI values and pruning weights had an R^2 of 0.91. We surmise this indicated that scanned aerial photography may produce similar results to digitally acquired imagery if used with the classification procedure outlined above. A difference image was also computed for these photographs (fig. 7) with patterns similar to those in figure 6, but with a higher spatial resolution.

Proximity Analysis

Areas that were conspicuously damaged by phylloxera for each year were identified on the imagery to determine an NDVI class threshold and generate a vegetation stress image as follows. For each year the classified NDVI image was combined with the corresponding false color infrared (CIR) image to visually determine a threshold class number for 1993 and 1994. Pixels below this threshold were considered to represent stressed vegetation in the NDVI classified images. For the four blocks (C, H, I, and J), the same threshold was applied to each based on similarities in age, vine and row spacing, and trellis type. The threshold may require modification from block to block due to differences in vine canopy caused by various trellis types, vine spacings, or age differences. For example, a block with wider row spacing would have lower NDVI values than a block with narrower rows, due to the increase in soil area being sensed, although the vine canopy may exhibit similar health characteristics. To compensate for this difference, the threshold value may need to be lowered for a less densely planted block. The classified images for each year were then each recoded into a binary image exhibiting only stressed and non-stressed areas (parts (a) and (b) of figs. 8–11).

A proximity search, a GIS function, was performed for each of the 1993 stress images out to 40 m from the edge of the stressed areas. In the resulting proximity image the value at each pixel is the distance from the stressed areas, where areas inside the stressed areas have a distance value of zero. Starting with a distance value of zero, the search image was iteratively recoded into a series of binary images, where the pixels within the specified distance from the 1993 stressed pixels were predicted to

be stressed in 1994. This resulted in a phylloxera stress prediction for the following year. The vineyard manager can use this predictive tool to prepare for lower yields or plot eradication for that block.

Finally, the stressed areas at each distance were compared to each of the 1994 stress images to determine the best predictive match. The recoded image was compared with the 1994 stress image by calculating the percentage of mismatched pixels, or error, at each distance. There were two error components: commission and omission. This gave four occurrence possibilities, since a given pixel could be stressed or non-stressed in each year. The two error components were: (1) the area that was not predicted but was stressed (error of omission), and (2) the area that was predicted but was not stressed (error of commission). These two counts were totaled and divided by the total number of pixels in each block to derive the error estimates of phylloxera spread prediction.

The distance of minimum error was the spread rate from 1993 to 1994 for that block. The percentage errors for the four blocks are shown in Table 3. These data demonstrate that the spread rate of the stressed areas was higher for the blocks that were already moderately stressed, consistent with previous research (ref. 3). The predicted stress images are shown in part (c) of figures 8–11.

Table 3. Proximity analysis prediction error results for two moderately stressed blocks (C and H) and two lightly stressed blocks (I and J).

	<i>Minimum total error</i>	
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Distance (m)</i>
C	15.6	20
H	26.5	16
I	21.7	6
J	18.3	6

Red Edge Inflection Point

In addition to the NDVI analysis, the REIP model has the potential to indicate year-to-year change in plant stress. The REIP is the point of maximum slope in the spectrum of a leaf, between the red absorbance well and the NIR reflectance plateau (fig. 1). The soil reflectance curve is generally monotonic. For a healthy leaf, the red spectral absorption feature (well) is broader and the REIP shifts to longer wavelengths (towards the NIR), as compared to a stressed leaf. The REIP is expected to be insensitive to the amount of canopy cover and is more sensitive to leaf reflectance changes than NDVI.

Before computing an REIP image, the 45° oblique CASI 1993 image was registered to the nadir acquired CASI image, so the derived REIP values could be compared to plot-related values. The NDVI values computed from this registered image had an $R^2 = 0.89$ with the NDVI values from the nadir image. This indicated the change in sensor configuration and look angle had little effect on the NDVI values. Due to the different look angle some variation, caused by non-Lambertian reflectance from the canopy was expected. REIP images were generated by fitting pixel values from channels 4–8

(680–788 nm) to a third order polynomial and solving for the location of maximum slope (ref. 10). The following form for radiance as a function of wavelength was used for curve fitting:

$$L(\lambda_x) = a \lambda_x^3 + b \lambda_x^2 + c \lambda_x + d,$$

where $L(\lambda_x)$ is the radiance in channel x centered at wavelength λ_x . The set of equations for all of the channels was then solved for the coefficients a , b , c , and d at each pixel. Taking the second derivative and setting it to zero resulted in the following equation for the REIP wavelength, λ_{REIP} :

$$\lambda_{REIP} = -b / 3a$$

The REIP wavelengths were calculated using radiance values for each pixel. For example, given radiance values 33, 50, 78, 87, and 88 W/m².sr.μm, for the channels centered at 681, 710, 737, 747, and 788 nm, respectively, the equation for radiance was estimated using least squares regression:

$$L(\lambda_x) = -0.00017557 \lambda_x^3 + 0.38163 \lambda_x^2 - 275.45 \lambda_x + 66077,$$

where the λ_{REIP} was 724.55 nm.

The mean REIPs for the plots are shown in Table 4 and the REIP image is shown in figure 12. Though the REIP images were noisy, the coefficients of determination with mean REIP per plot were high: 0.72 with pruning weight, 0.83 with oblique NDVI, 0.89 with nadir NDVI, and 0.88 with (nadir) NDVI class. The stronger relationship between pruning weights and REIP, versus pruning weights and NDVI, may be due to the difference in viewing geometry or the increased sensitivity of the REIP.

Table 4. Mean Red Edge Inflection Point (REIP) wavelengths from 1993 oblique CASI estimated from five (680–788 nm) channels.

<i>Plot</i>	<i>REIP</i>	<i>Standard Deviation</i>
1	723.29	2.2
2	722.25	2.6
3	723.47	2.0
4	724.97	2.4
5	725.64	1.2
6	724.33	1.9
7	724.92	1.4
8	724.67	2.2
9	725.19	1.1
R ² with pruning weight		0.72
R ² with NDVI class		0.88

The narrow range of REIP values (3.4 nm) and the high standard deviations (mean 1.9 nm for the nine plots, Table 4) led to an investigation of the relationship between noise in the radiance values and the REIP. A one, two, and five percent error in radiance for each of the five CASI channels was simulated and the REIP was calculated for each case. This analysis showed a 0.5 nm REIP shift per percentage error. The radiometric accuracy of the CASI sensor is about two percent (ref. 11), or a one nanometer error in the REIP due to instrument calibration uncertainty. This helps explain the noisy appearance of figure 12.

Thermal Imagery

Due to thermal calibration problems with the AIRDAS sensor in the ambient temperature channel (channel 4), brightness temperatures could not be extracted. An image of the block I digital numbers is shown in figure 13. Areas indicating stressed vegetation in this image were similar to those in the 1994 NDVI classified image (fig. 3), but the patterns were not as clear. Field measurements showed a small (< 1°C), although statistically significant, temperature difference between infested and uninfested grapevine leaves, but a large difference between soil (55–60°C) and grapevine leaves (26–30°C). The AIRDAS data had a spatial resolution of 5m, so pixels represented a mixture of grapevine canopy and soil. Therefore, differences in temperature represented in the image mostly corresponded to varying mixtures of soil and canopy rather than plant temperature differences.

CONCLUSIONS

To determine phylloxera infestation and predict future vine stress using remotely sensed data, a cooperative technology testing and development project involving a number of participants was initiated. During this project, various digital imaging systems were flown over test sites in Napa, California to determine the most efficient method and data available to locate and predict phylloxera vine stress. In the course of the GRAPES project a number of different sensors were flown. Because grapevines are a row crop, pixel sizes smaller than the row spacing can obscure the spectral differences and make block patterns difficult to interpret. Considering the image analysis performed, entire vineyards can be processed and patterns within blocks observed with a spatial resolution of about three to five meters. This project acquired imagery collected over an entire vineyard, but focused on one block or several blocks to verify the results. The smallest vineyard-unit managers consider for many decisions is the block (about 1–10 ha), so within block variability is superfluous. Because the cost of acquisition and processing remotely sensed digital imagery is inversely proportional to the pixel size, three to five meters is a good tradeoff between cost and spatial resolution.

The use of the same sensor for each flight, while not necessary, would greatly simplify data processing and improve confidence in the derived image products. If the spatial resolution between sensors is different, the resolution of the sensors has to be matched by image analysis techniques. Spectral values between different systems do not have to match; as long as the data sets are not significantly different, because clustering each NDVI image and the NDVI itself compensates for differences in atmospheric conditions.

The mean spectral-class value per plot was found to be highly correlated to the pruning weight per plot for each year. The correlation between pruning weight and mean NDVI class per plot was higher than the correlation between pruning weight and mean NDVI value per plot ($R^2 = 0.76$ compared to 0.66). Good results with digitally acquired imagery were achieved without sensor calibration and atmospheric correction by using spectrally classified data to examine relative differences in canopy cover per year. Preliminary results indicate this classification procedure should provide improved results with scanned photography as well as digitally acquired imagery.

Histograms of the spectrally classified, digitally acquired, images for block I also showed a change from a homogeneous block in 1993, with a sharply peaked histogram, to a relatively flat histogram, non-uniform block, in 1994. If an unsupervised classification procedure is used, then the classified images can be ground truthed or compared to other imagery to determine the relationship between classes, canopy cover, and damage level. This information can be used to determine a threshold for classes of stressed or conspicuously damaged vegetation. The effect of different trellising types or row spacing on NDVI was not explicitly investigated, but the approach should provide a good indication of relative differences within a given field.

Proximity analysis provided a method of estimating the next year's phylloxera damage. Given some initial conspicuously damaged areas within a block, a proximity spread, based on region growing from the existing clusters, can provide an estimate of future damage. Since new phylloxera infestation locations within a block occur, in addition to spreading from an existing infestation location, and the spread rate within a block was not the same across a block, prediction error was approximately 20%. For block I (a five-hectare block), the damaged area was 1.1 ha in 1993, 2.2 ha in 1994, and the

estimated damaged area in 1994 was 1.8 ha, with an error of about one-hectare. Phylloxera are also usually well established by the time a damaged area is large enough to be considered a center of growth. By the following year the block will be moderately or heavily damaged, and combined with the large prediction error, a prediction beyond one year is not practical. Spread analysis does, however, provide a tool for exploring different scenarios of spread rates and growth centers. Insufficient testing was done to determine if a single growth rate could be uniformly applied to vineyard blocks and still obtain reasonably accurate predictions, but the results of this study suggest different growth rates are needed.

REIP results and thermal imagery for the plots were promising, but less meaningful than the NDVI products. The REIP results agreed well with the pruning weights and NDVI class results, but they require special narrow spectral bandpass filters along the red edge that are not commonly available. Due to the narrow range (a few nanometers), REIP analysis also requires detailed spectral and radiometric calibration throughout the image. This is a current problem with CCD (charge coupled device) arrays, and the data need to be stable if multi-temporal studies are to be practical. Patterns, indicating stressed vegetation, were present in the thermal imagery, but were not as distinct as in the NDVI imagery. Leaf temperature was difficult to measure due to the open canopy. As an indication of canopy cover and vegetative health, the easily derived NDVI and following classified imagery were easier to interpret than the REIP or the thermal imagery.

Commercial airborne imagery acquisition services exist to provide the data needed for generating NDVI products. Only a red and a near infrared channel are needed to compute an NDVI, but multiple channels in the red to near-infrared spectral region are needed for computing the REIP. A thermal sensor is needed to acquire thermal imagery. In the next few years (1998) satellites will provide commercial multispectral data with four-meter spatial resolution. Through procedures such as those outlined here, airborne imagery acquired in the visible and near-infrared can complement vineyard managers' knowledge gained from conventional ground-based techniques, aerial photography, and experience.

The imagery indicated plant stress due to phylloxera and other sources, such as water stress. Airborne imagery can serve multiple roles in vineyard management. Multi-year imagery can be used to help identify the type of stress if the growth pattern can be identified. The benefits versus the costs of multiple flights per year are still unknown, but the information gained from a single flight per year was considered worthwhile to the Mondavi vineyard management team. Knowledge of the pattern change from year-to-year allows the vineyard manager to intervene and apply remedial measures as well as provide data for financial forecasts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To monitor the phylloxera infestation of a vineyard, digital multispectral imagery should be acquired at least once a year at full canopy, between mid-season and harvest. The imagery should have a spatial resolution not to exceed three meters and the use of the same sensor package for each data collection period is important. The data can be used to generate co-registered, classified, NDVI data sets for multi-year comparisons. In classifying one block, five or six spectral classes are sufficient, but ten to twelve should be used for an image of an entire vineyard. A small number of classes makes image product interpretation easier, but some features could be missed with too few classes. To avoid

problems with changing amount of bare soil in the imagery, a threshold should be used to eliminate low NDVI pixels.

COMPUTER FACILITIES

All image processing described above was performed at the NASA Ames Research Center ECOSAT Computational Facility with ERDAS Imagine 8.20 (ERDAS, Inc., Atlanta, GA) running under Solaris on a Sun Microsystems SPARCstation. The processing described here used standard image processing routines available on a PC, using any one of number of commonly available geographic image processing software packages. More information about satellite image processing, much of which also applies to aircraft imagery, including software sources, can be found in the Satellite Imagery Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at <http://www.geog.nottingham.ac.uk/remote/satfaq.html>.

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PROJECT URL (WEB PAGE ADDRESS)

<http://geo.arc.nasa.gov/sge/grapes/grapes.html>

APPENDIX: SENSOR SPECIFICATIONS

The sensors flown in the course of this project were summarized in Table 1, but this appendix describes these sensors in more detail. The sensors were flown on aircraft platforms at low, medium, and high altitudes and had various spectral characteristics. Half of these were charge-coupled device (CCD) sensors and the other half were scanners. Scanning sensors use a linear array of photo detectors that measures the intensity of radiance within some wavelength region as the sensor passes (or sweeps) over the landscape, while a CCD sensor uses an array of detectors and takes a “snapshot” of the landscape.

Sensors measure radiant intensity at some wavelength range and have two types of resolution: spatial and radiometric. The wavelength region of each sensor channel is determined by the spectral response function of the wavelength filter, and the bandwidth of the filter at half maximum value is the full width half maximum (FWHM). Spatial resolution was defined on page 3 as related to aircraft altitude, but this was just another way of describing a detector's instantaneous field of view (IFOV), or angular width. Because a detector's IFOV is fixed, a change in altitude changes the amount of landscape subtended by the detector. This quantity is expressed in radians, where $1.0 \text{ r} = \pi/180^\circ$, or usually in milliradians. The radiometric resolution of these sensors was eight bits, except the CASI sensor with twelve bits and the AIRDAS sensor with sixteen bits. Some of these sensors, like CASI, can be reconfigured for multiple purposes, but Table A1 describes the configurations used with the GRAPES project.

Table A1. Specifications airborne sensors used in the GRAPES project.

Sensor	Channel centers (nm)	FWHM (nm)	Sensor type	Image size (pixels)	IFOV (mr)
ADAR	440	80	CCD	1500x1000	0.44
	515	110			
	650	80			
	890	220			
AIRDAS	645	70	scanner	720	2.62
	1635	130			
	4550	300			
	9250	7500			
CASI (4 ch)	550, 630, 680, 767	12	scanner	512	1.2
CASI (8 ch)	500, 550, 630, 680, 710, 737, 747, 788	12	scanner	512	1.2
DMSV	450, 550, 650, 750	25	CCD	740x578	0.72
EO Camera	680	10	CCD	1025x1280	0.25
	720	5			
	735	5			
	750	11			
	775	10			
NS001 TMS	489	61	scanner	700	2.5
	566	74			
	665	64			
	839	143			
	1240	220			
	1640	140			
	2240	280			
	11300	2000			
RDACS	548, 650, 821	10	CCD	739x484	1.0

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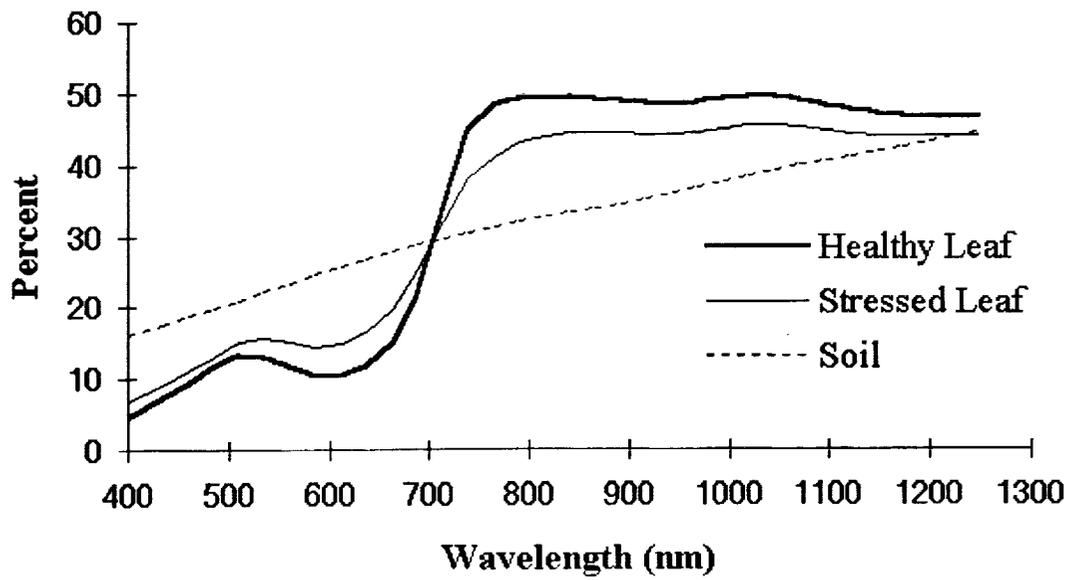
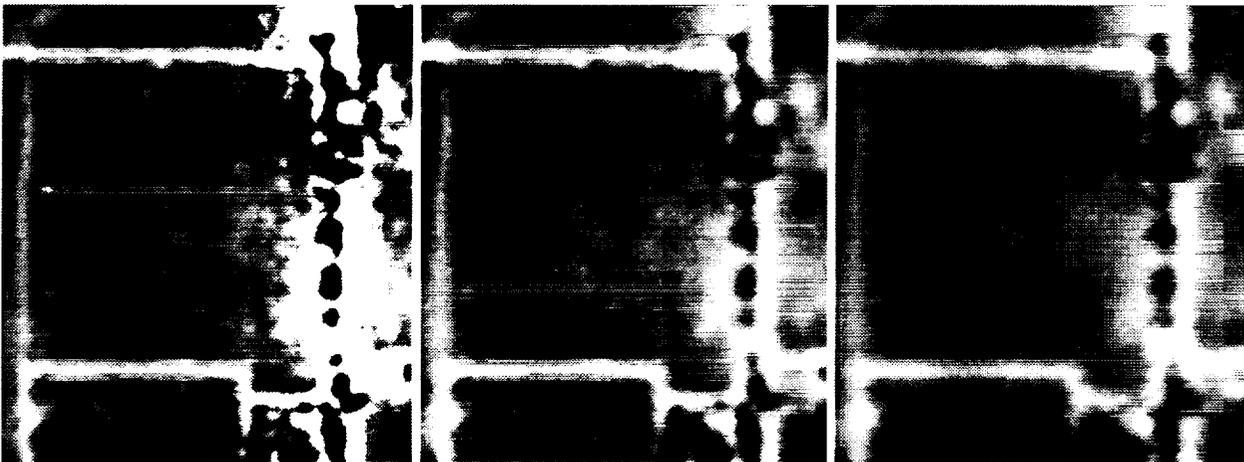


Figure 1. Example of leaf and soil spectra. The REIP is the point of maximum slope in the spectrum of a leaf. A healthy leaf has a broader spectral absorption in the red (680 nm) and REIP occurs at a longer wavelength, as compared to a stressed leaf.



1994 red channel



1993 red 5x5

1993 red 7x7

1993 red 9x9

Figure 2. Low pass filter kernels of 5x5, 7x7, and 9x9 pixels were applied to the CASI (1993) red channel data to resolution match the image to the EO Camera (1994) red channel image. After visual comparisons, the 7x7 average 1993 image determined to be the best match. Features, such as the two bright areas in the 1993 images, were too distinct in the 5x5 average image, and were too blurred in the 9x9 average image.

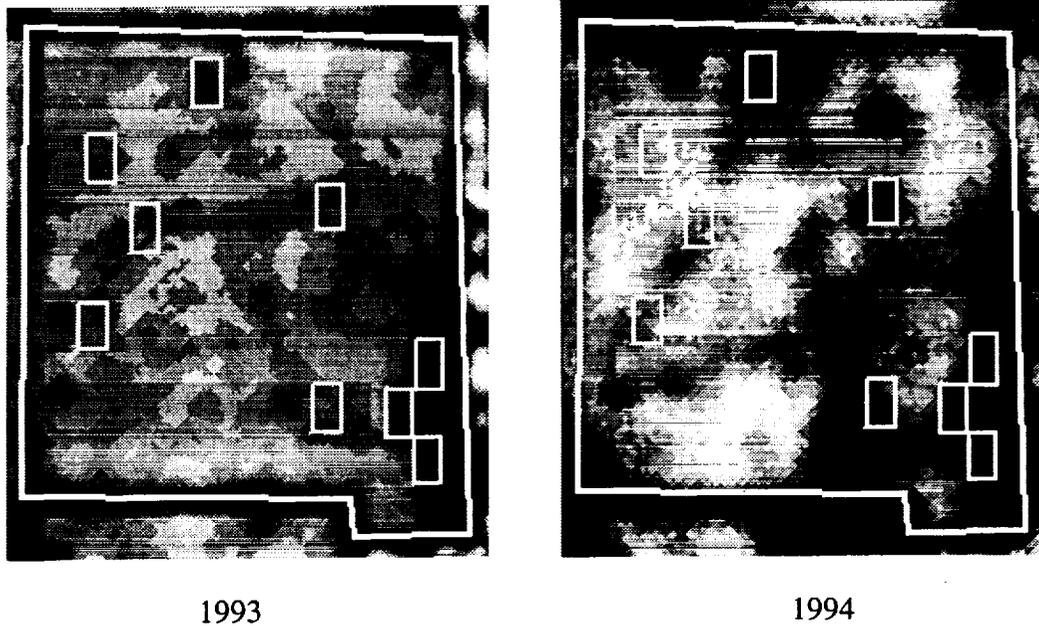


Figure 3. Block I classified NDVI 1993 and 1994 images, where the lowest NDVI values are shown in black and the highest values in white. Also shown in white are the boundaries of the block and plots within the block. A large patch of low canopy cover vines can be seen in the lower right, contrasting with the trees at the extreme right edge of the 1993 image. Multiple patches of low canopy cover vines can be seen in the 1994 image. "Rainbow" colored images were used during image analysis and initial products were colored by vigor level: brown for little or no vegetation, yellow for some vegetation, and green for high vegetation cover.

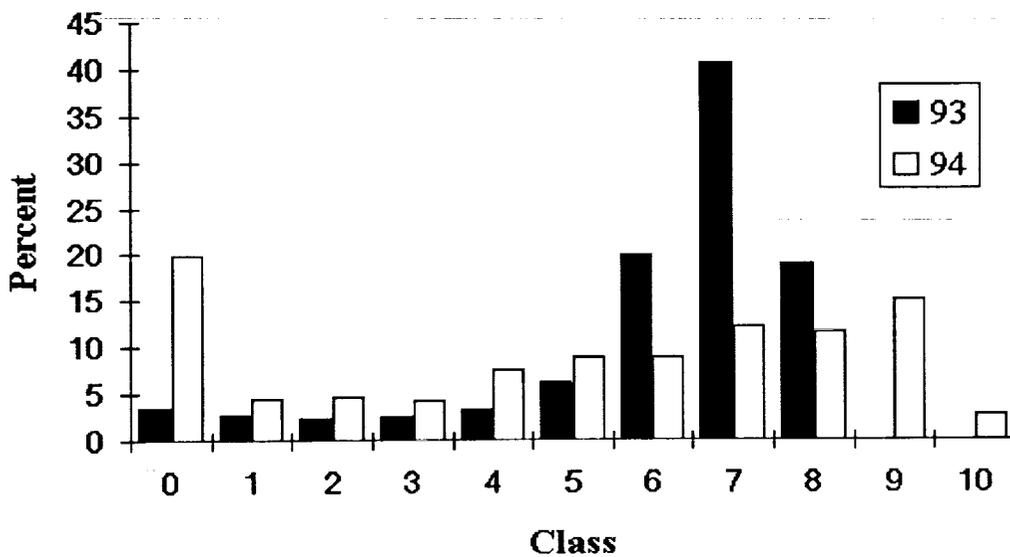


Figure 4. NDVI class histograms for block I. Class 0 percentages represent pixels below the bare soil threshold. Only ten of the twelve classes used for the ranch were present in block I.

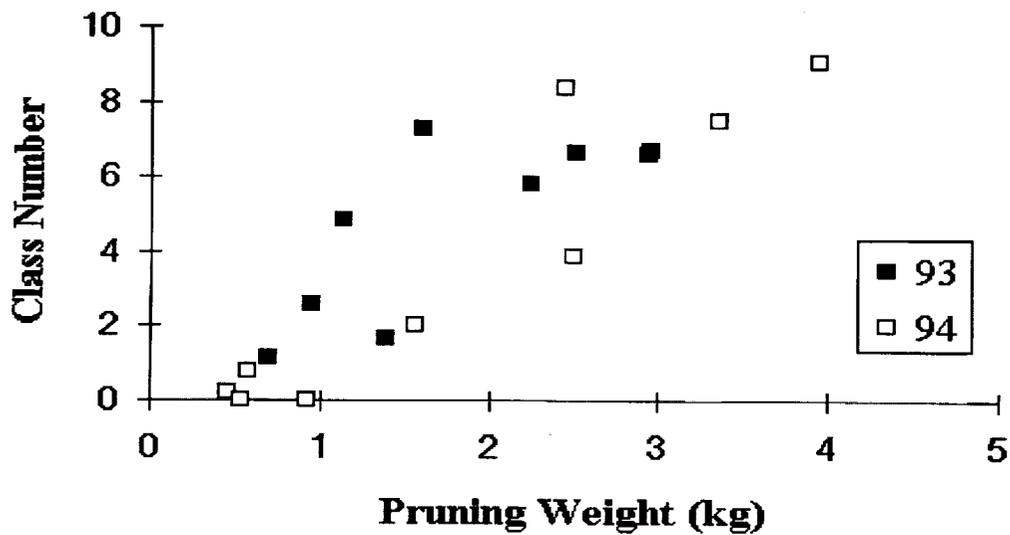


Figure 5. Block I pruning weight per plot for both 1993 and 1994 correlated well with the per-plot mean Normalized Difference Vegetation Index class number. In 1993, $R^2 = 0.60$; in 1994, $R^2 = 0.88$; and for both combined $R^2 = 0.76$.

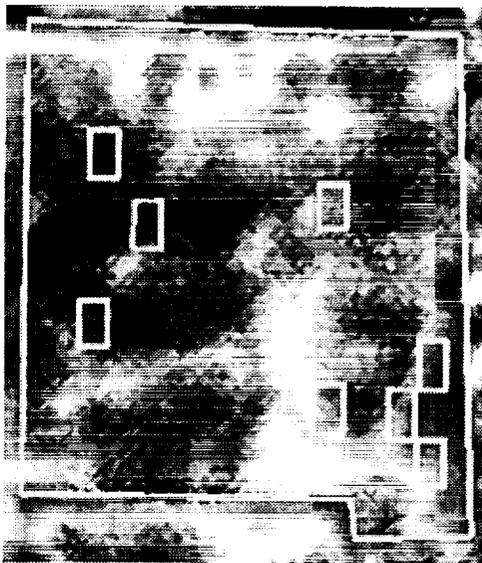


Figure 6. NDVI class difference image for 1993 and 1994. This image represents canopy cover change. Areas with the largest class value decrease are white and those areas with a class value increase are black. The medium-gray area in the lower right exhibited no change, also shown in white. The boundaries of the block and the plots within the block are shown in white.

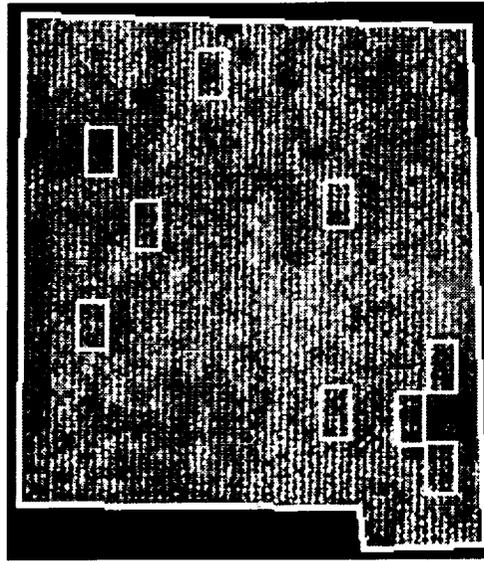


Figure 7. Difference image between 1993 and 1994 NDVI classes derived from scanned photography. Gray scale coding is the same as in the previous difference image. These one meter resolution data were not precisely registered, so there was some misalignment of the vine rows. The patterns visible in figure 6 are still visible, however. If the images were smoothed and resampled to 3m pixels, speckling can be reduced.

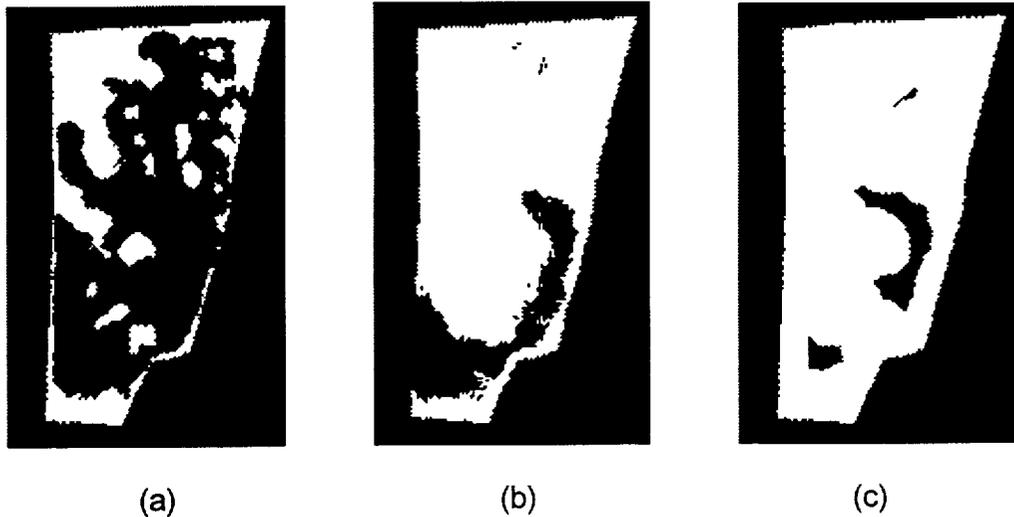


Figure 8. Proximity analysis images for block C. Part (a) 1993 stressed areas, (b) 1994 stressed areas, and (c) the 1994 stressed areas predicted at twenty meters using proximity to 1993 stressed areas. White areas are stressed and black areas are unstressed or background.

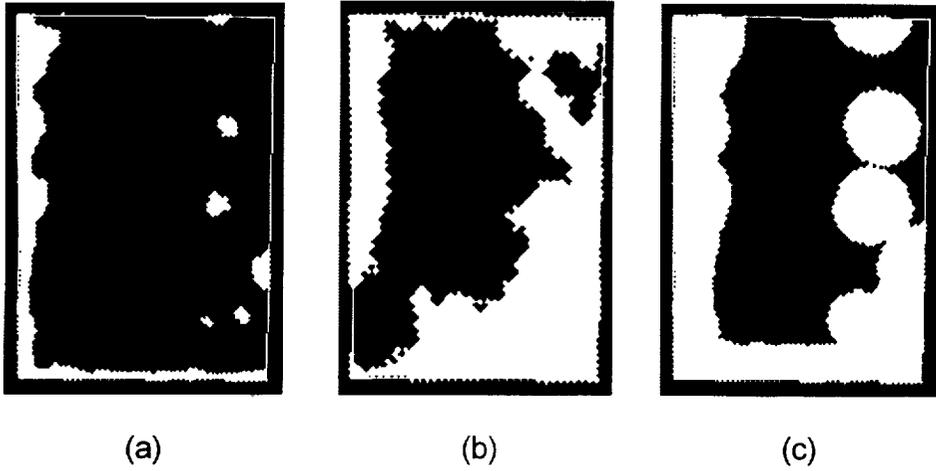


Figure 9. Proximity analysis images for block H. Part (a) shows 1993 stressed areas, (b) shows 1994 stressed areas, and (c) shows the 1994 stressed areas at sixteen meters predicted using proximity to 1993 stressed areas.

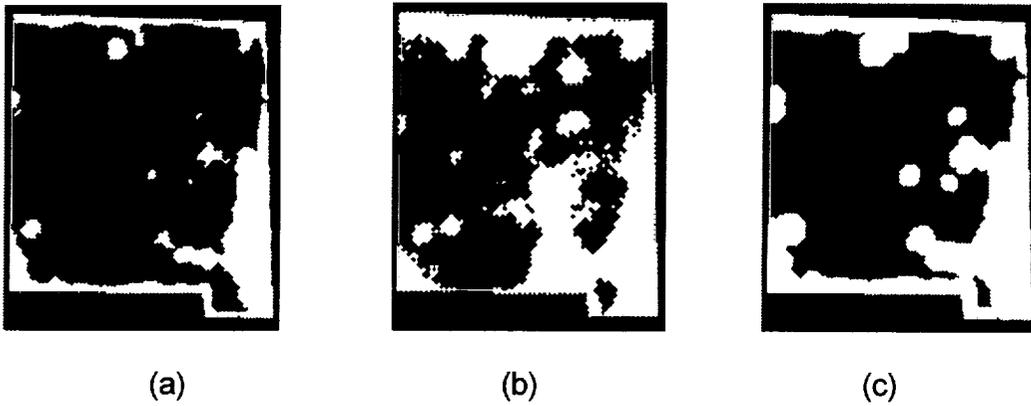


Figure 10. Proximity analysis images for block I. Part (a) shows 1993 stressed areas, (b) shows 1994 stressed areas, and (c) shows the 1994 stressed areas at six meters predicted using proximity to 1993 stressed areas.

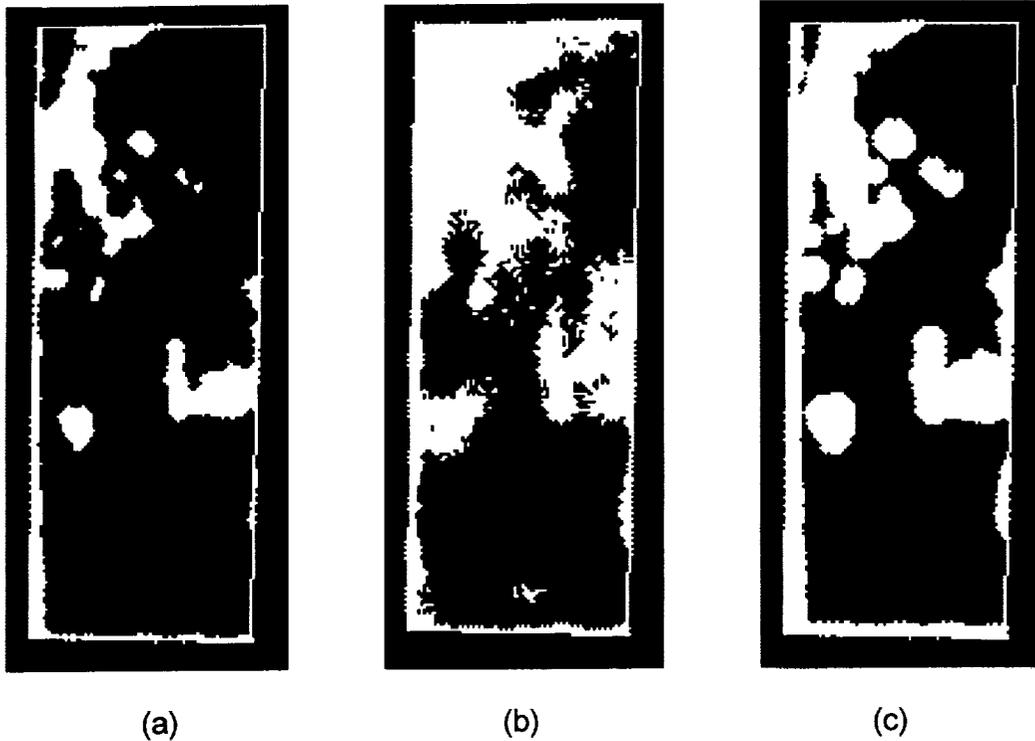


Figure 11. Proximity analysis images for block J. Part (a) shows 1993 stressed areas, (b) shows 1994 stressed areas, and (c) shows the 1994 stressed areas at six meters predicted using proximity to 1993 stressed areas.

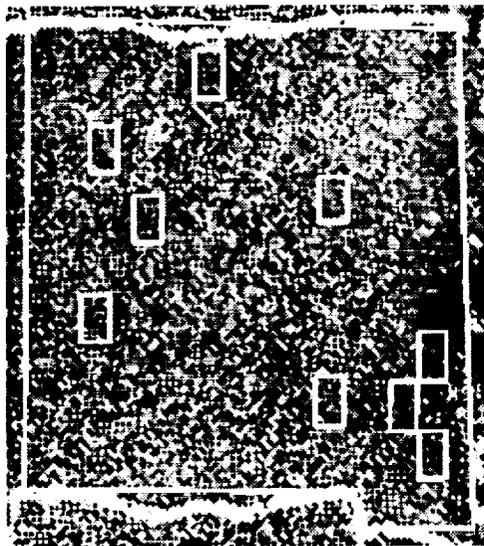


Figure 12. REIP image of block I. The REIP was computed using five channels as input to a third order polynomial. Some distortion of the image is apparent due to aircraft roll, but the boundary of the block is visible and the dark areas (shorter REIP) correspond to stressed areas from the 1993 classified NDVI image (fig. 3).

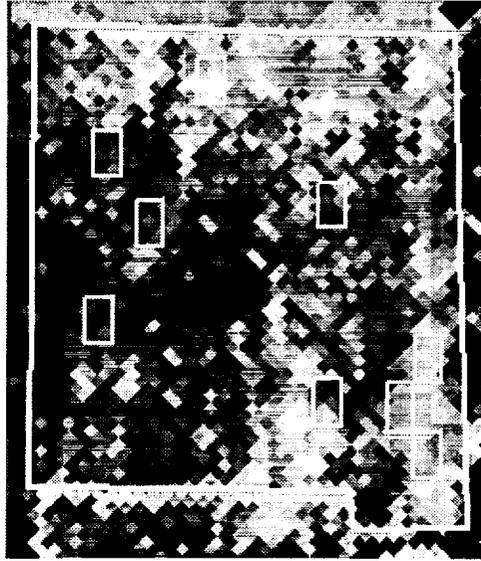


Figure 13. Block I AIRDAS thermal image (Oct 1994), where the lowest digital numbers (corresponding to the lowest brightness temperatures) are black and the highest white. Also shown in white are the boundaries of the block and the plots within the block. Patterns similar to the 1994 NDVI classified image (fig. 3), but with low contrast within the block, and the gray scale reversed.

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