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Citrus Growers' Perceptions of Best Management Practices Costs and Benefits

Funding



AGRICULTURE AND
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Citrus Growers' Perceptions of Best Management Practices Costs and Benefits

The goal of the Florida Best Management Practices Adoption & Cost Survey was to better understand the burden placed on growers

Core BMPs examined:

- Controlled release fertilizer
- Cover crops
- Calibrate fertilizer equipment
- Irrigation scheduling tools

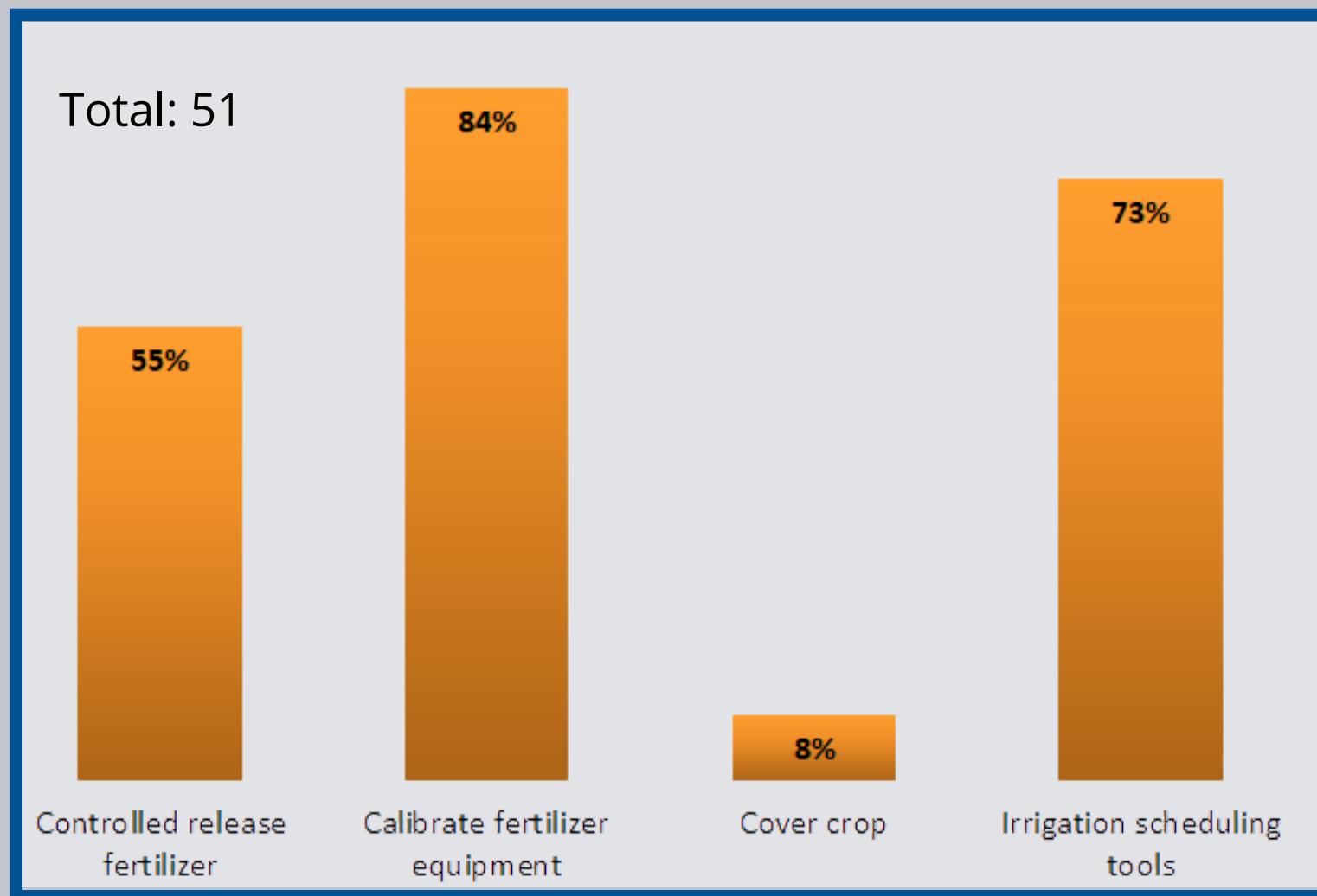
Core BMPs questions:

- Crop acres
- Additional cost
- Years used
- Affect on yield

Other BMPs: soil tests, IFAS recommended fertilizer rates, apply fertilizer at root zone, conservation tillage, conservation buffers, do not irrigate beyond field water holding capacity

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Citrus Growers' Adoption Rates of Four Core Best Management Practices



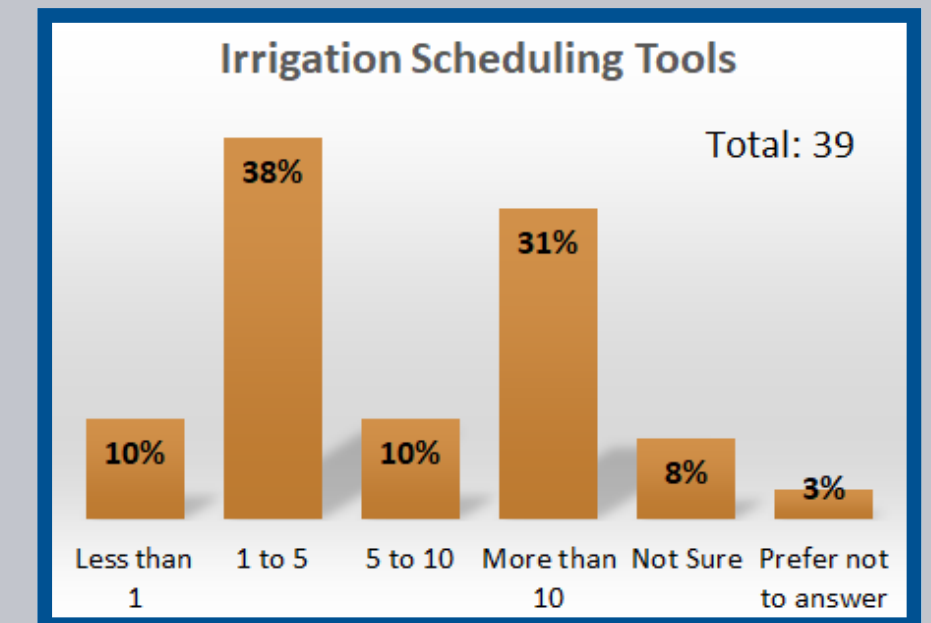
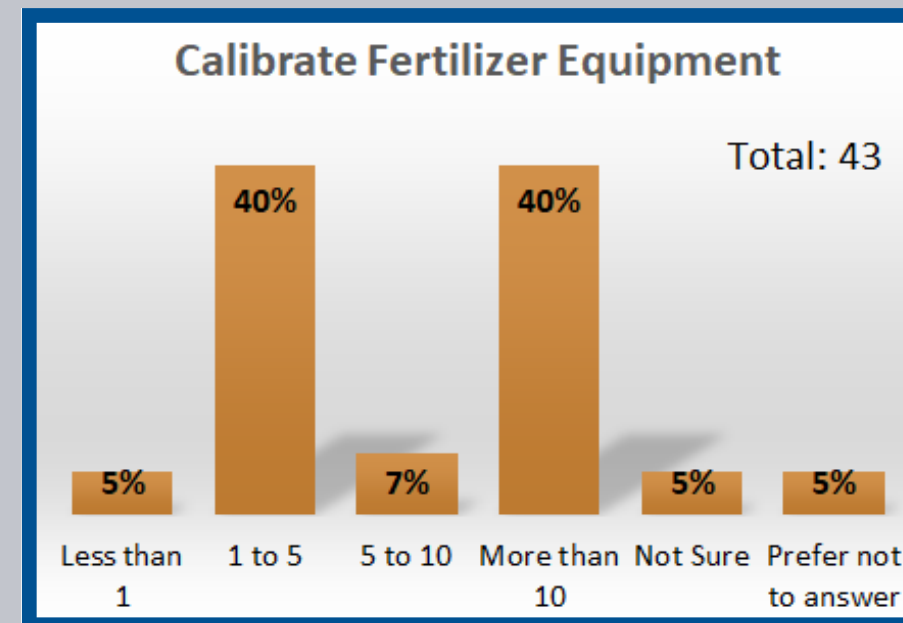
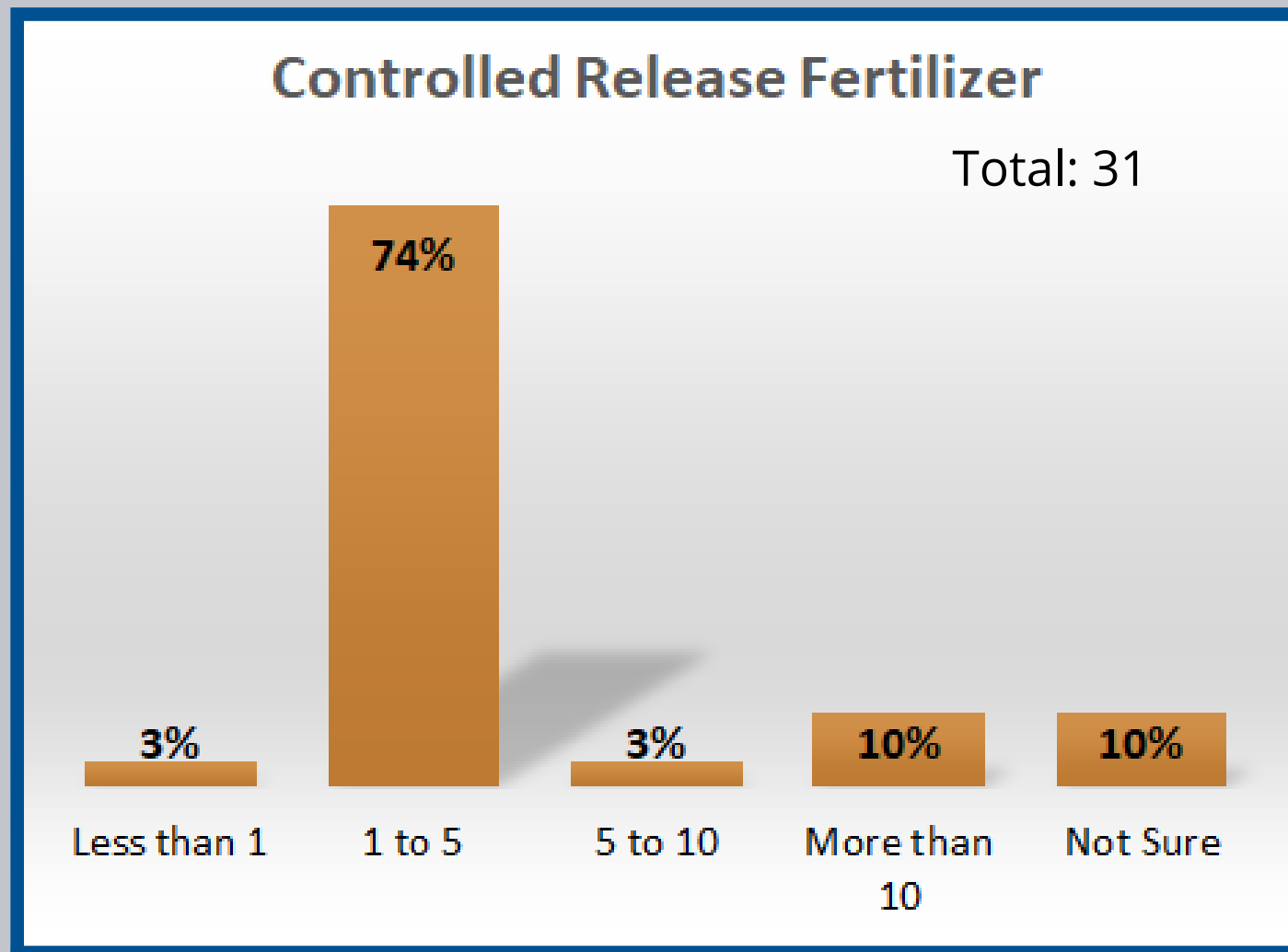
Citrus growers use BMPs

Citrus growers have adopted the use of controlled-release fertilizer, calibrating fertilizer equipment, and irrigation scheduling tools to assist them with their BMP's. Few citrus growers are using cover crops.

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Adoption Timing for Core Best Management Practices

Most citrus growers use controlled-release fertilizer for 5 years or less

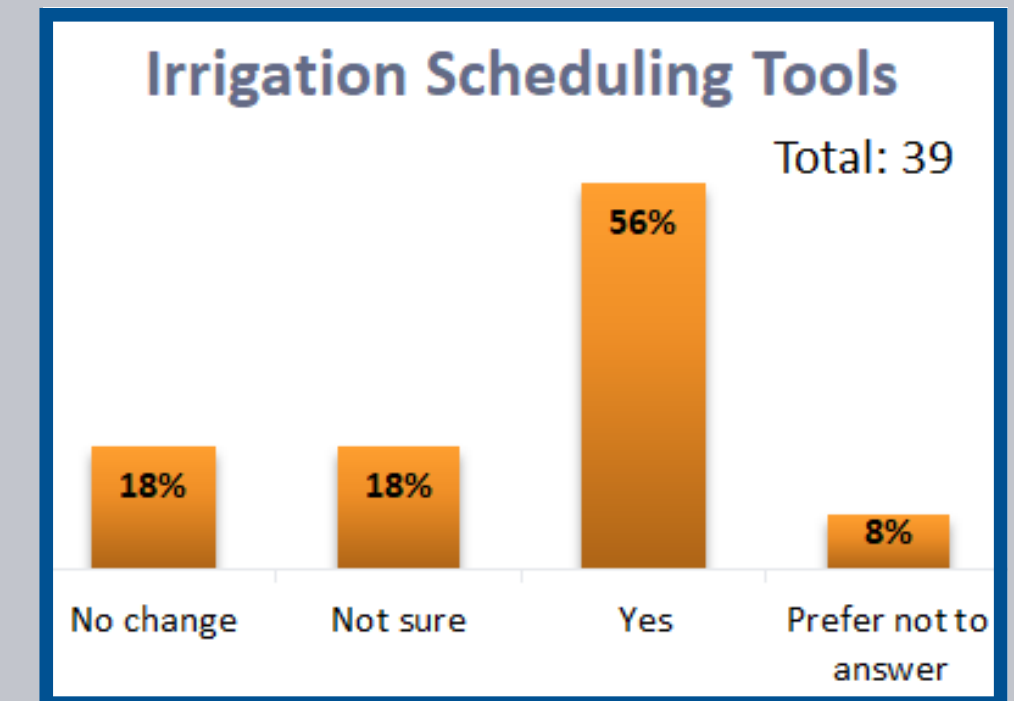
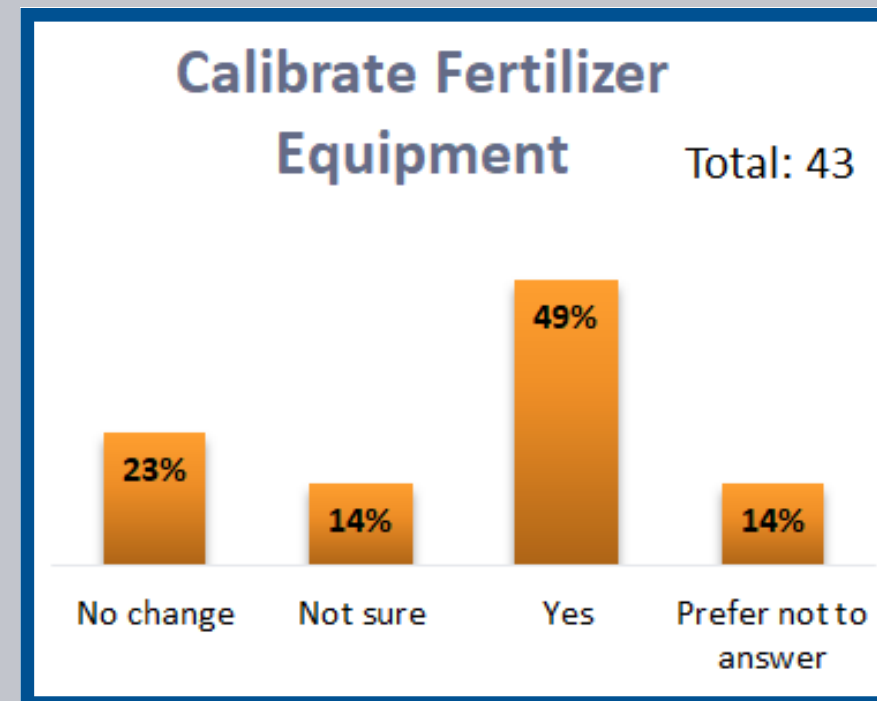
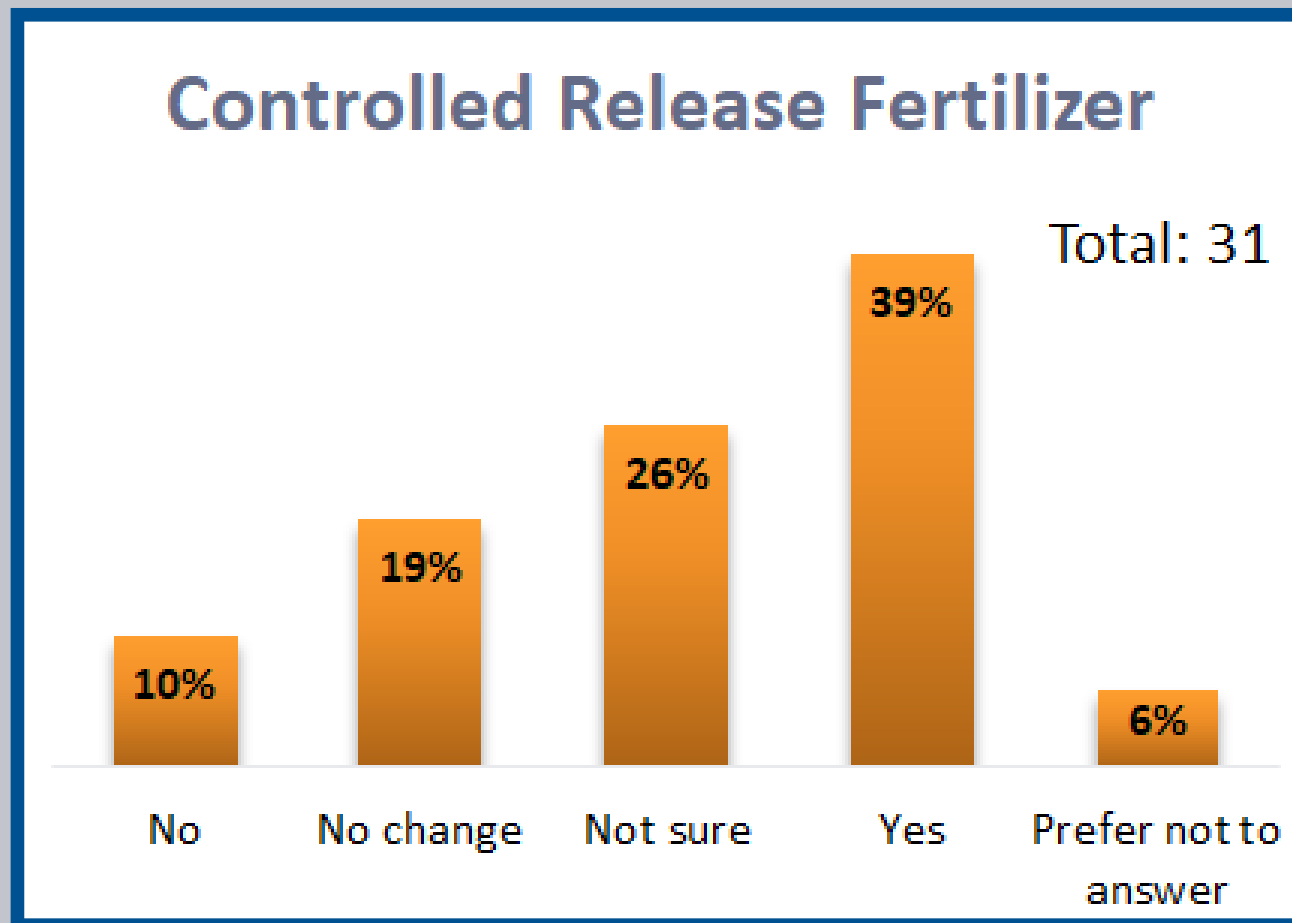


Calibrating fertilizer equipment and irrigation scheduling tools are widely adopted. The timing seems to vary between 1-5 years and more than 10 years.

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Citrus Growers' Perceptions of Core BMPs' Profitability

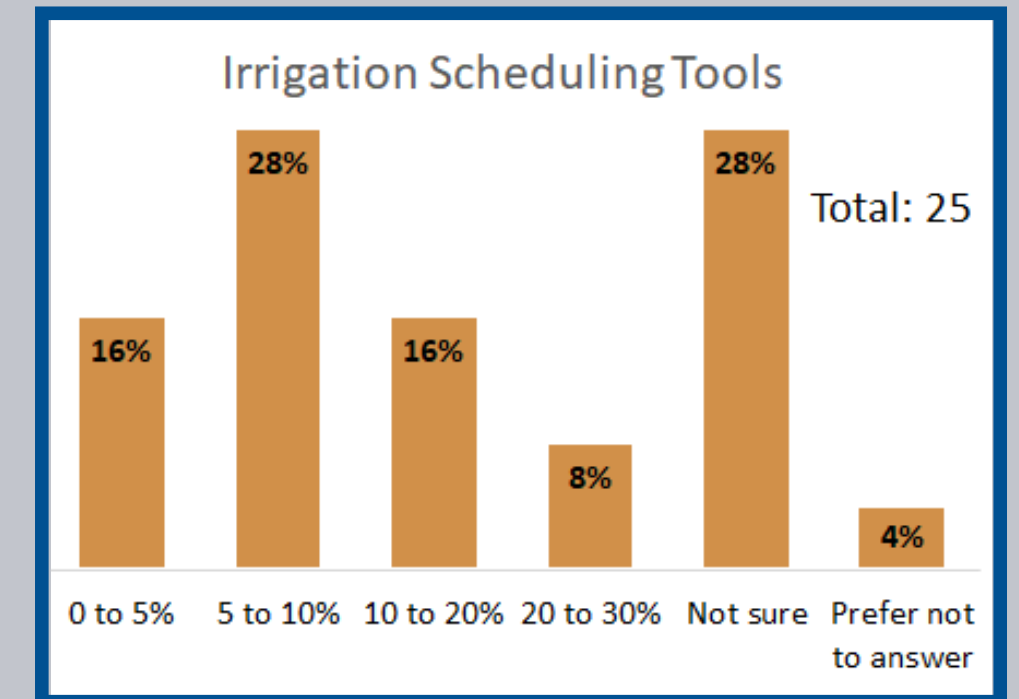
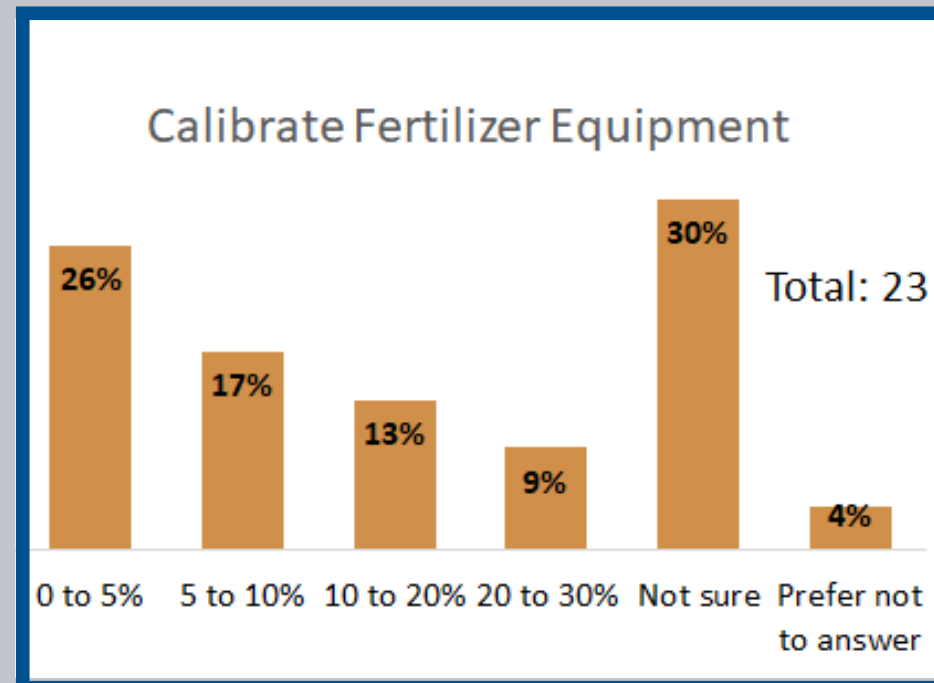
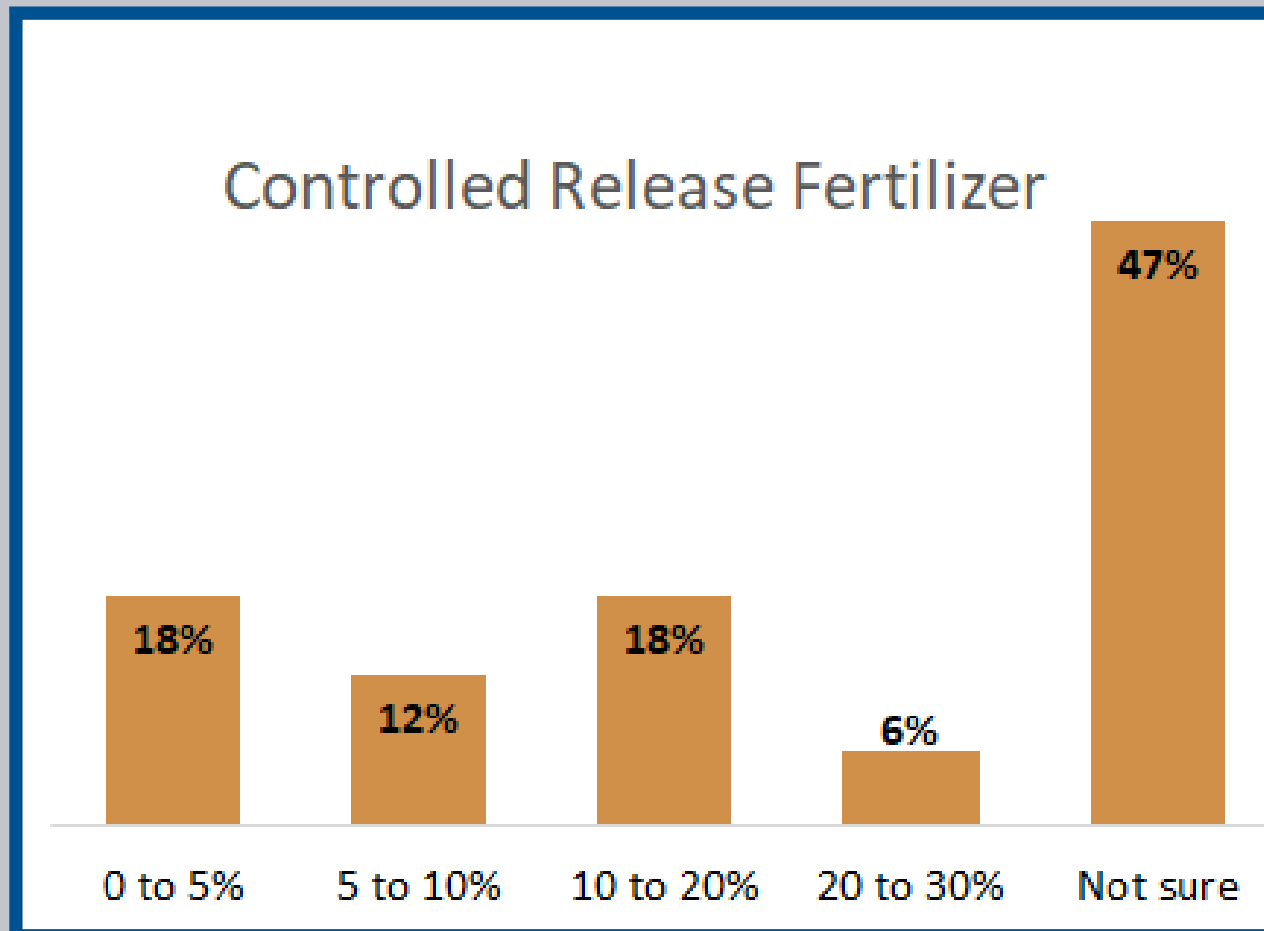
Most citrus growers think BMPs are profitable



The majority of growers reported BMPs such as calibrating fertilizer equipment and irrigation scheduling tools were profitable, but 29% of citrus growers did not find controlled release fertilizers profitable.

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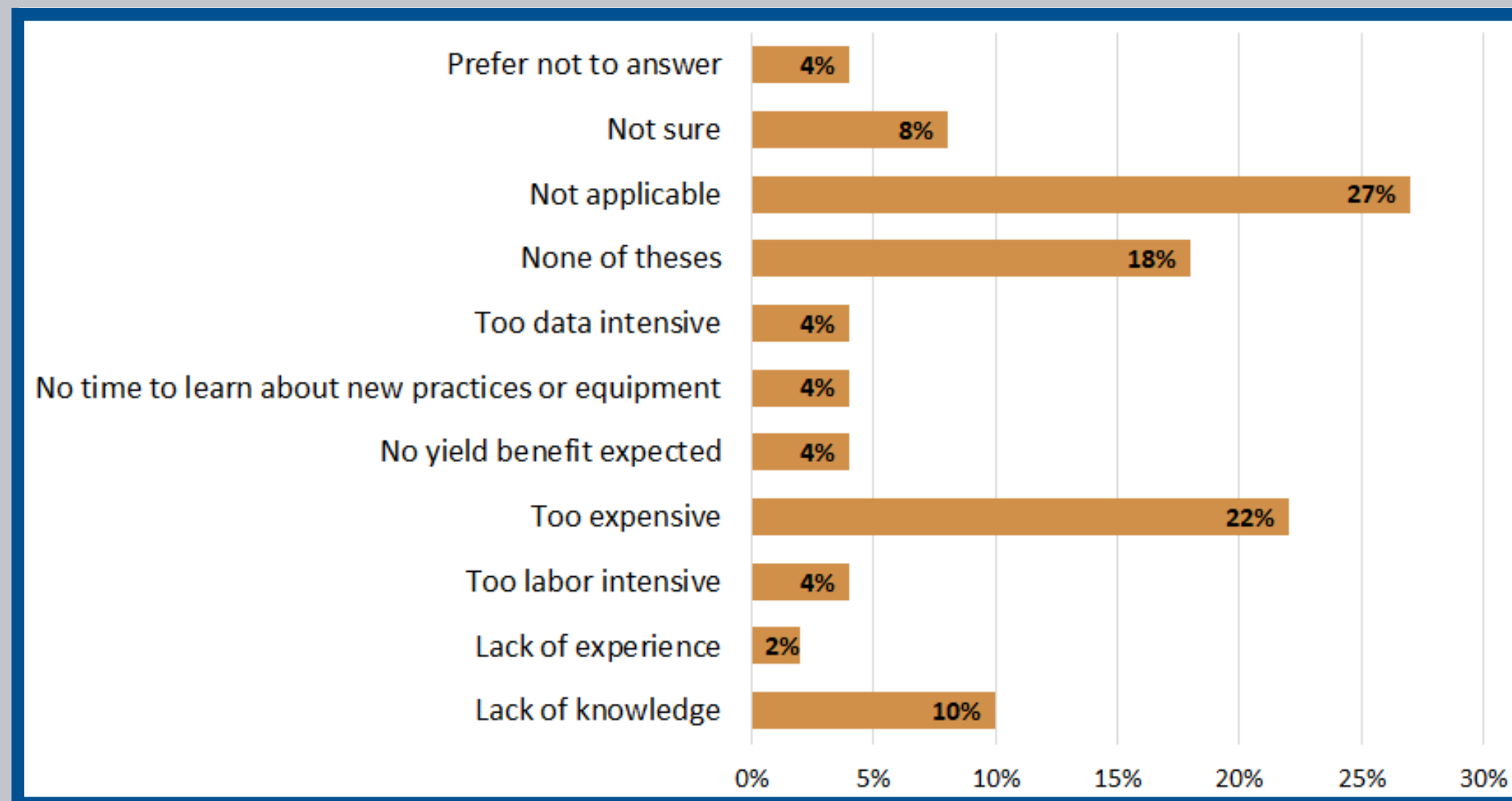
Citrus Growers' Perceptions of Core BMPs' Profitability



Most growers were uncertain if BMPs helped to increase yields. The uncertainty of BMPs varied by practice.

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Citrus Growers' Reasons for Not Implementing BMPs



Over 20% of citrus growers indicate that BMPs are too expensive or not applicable to their groves

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Summary

This study indicates that growers are adopting BMPs although there is some uncertainty about how the practices affect yields and profitability.

