

Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid

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CREC Citrus Plant Improvement*

Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid - Description

Two standard Valencia clones, 55-4 and 1-14-19, were combined with the California C-series [C-22, Bitters, C-54 Carpenter, C-57 Furr and C-146] rootstocks along with Willits citrange [size-controlling] and the Spanish series [ES] in this trial. Planting took place in May 2014 in a cooperator site located just west of downtown Lake Placid. The objectives were to compare two scion clones of the relatively tolerant Valencia sweet orange primarily for HLB response, and to evaluate the horticultural traits of these rootstocks which were all included in a series of trials placed throughout Florida; thus, this trial can be viewed as one of a network of several designed to expand the base of evaluation.

Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid - Summary

- Location: Lake Placid, Highlands County
- Scion: Valencia clones 55-4 and 1-14-19
- Rootstocks: 8 rootstocks: 4 for both scion clones and additional 2 for 55-4 and 2 for 1-14-19.
- Date Planted: May 2014
- Design: Randomized complete-block.
 - Replications: 2 to 4
 - Plot size: 4-20 trees for each scion/rootstock combination
 - Spacing: 7.5 x 22 ft. = 264 trees/acre.
- Data:
 - 2017/18 : Juice quality.
 - 2018/19: Yield, juice quality, tree height, HLB rating.
 - 2019/20: Yield, HLB rating, tree height and fruit drop.
 - 2020/21: Juice quality, HLB rating and tree height.
- Trial status: **ACTIVE**

Table 1. Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid - List of Rootstocks and parentage

Valencia Clone 54-4		
Rootstock	Parentage	Number of Trees
C-146	Sunki x Swingle TF	59
C-22	Sunki x Swingle TF	36
C-54	Sunki x Swingle TF	33
C-57	Sunki x Swingle TF	61
ES- 4	King mandarin x Poncirus	40
Willits	Ruby swt. x TF	65

Valencia Clone 1-14-19		
Rootstock	Parentage	Number of Trees
C-146	Sunki x Swingle TF	60
C-22	Sunki x Swingle TF	56
C-57	Sunki x Swingle TF	61
ES-2	Cleo x Poncirus trifoliata (Spain)	26
ES-1	Cleo x Poncirus trifoliata (Spain)	60
Willits	Ruby swt. x TF	43

Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid – Interpretive Summary [as of April 2021]

This trial, planted in 2014 at 7.5 x 22 ft, to evaluate Valencia as a juice fruit is an example of a small trial in which the rootstocks being evaluated were similar enough in parentage that there were few differences in their performance. In this case, 50% or more of the rootstocks tested were hybrids of Sunki mandarin x Swingle trifoliate orange. The trees of two Valencia orange clones on 8 rootstocks exhibited only small differences among most measurements as follows:

Tree ht. After 5 years, most trees were about 5-7 ft tall [Fig. 15].

HLB. While leaf symptoms indicated the presence of HLB, trial trees were largely rated healthy; however, it was clear the fruit was affected.

Fruit drop. In March of the 2018-19 season, 20 to 60% of the crop had fallen to the ground preharvest. Trees on Willits and C-54 had the smallest amount of drop; the highest values were for trees on C-57, C-146 and ES-1,2 [Fig. 17]. This was a one-time observation.

Valencia Rootstock Trial, Lake Placid – Interpretive Summary [as of April 2021]

Juice quality. Samples were collected in several seasons, but often in January and February before the normal start of the Valencia harvest. Thus, the data were not strongly representative of the variety or revealing of rootstock differences. Some data suggest that the Brix and juice color values were higher for the 1-14-19 clone versus 55-4 [Figs. 2, 5].

PS/box. These values were quite low [4-5] for Valencia most likely because of sampling early in the season before marketable maturity was achieved, and HLB.

Rootstocks. A close inspection of all the data indicates that a statistical analysis would not likely lead to discovery of any meaningful differences among rootstocks. Thus, possible conclusions as of April 2021 are that: [1] all the rootstocks do not merit further evaluation; and/or [2] given that the objective of this trial was to be one among several to test and compare these rootstocks in various locations, virtually all of them performed at an acceptable level by comparison among sites and with commercial rootstocks included in other trials.

Fig. 1. Valencia rootstock trial – juice Brix: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

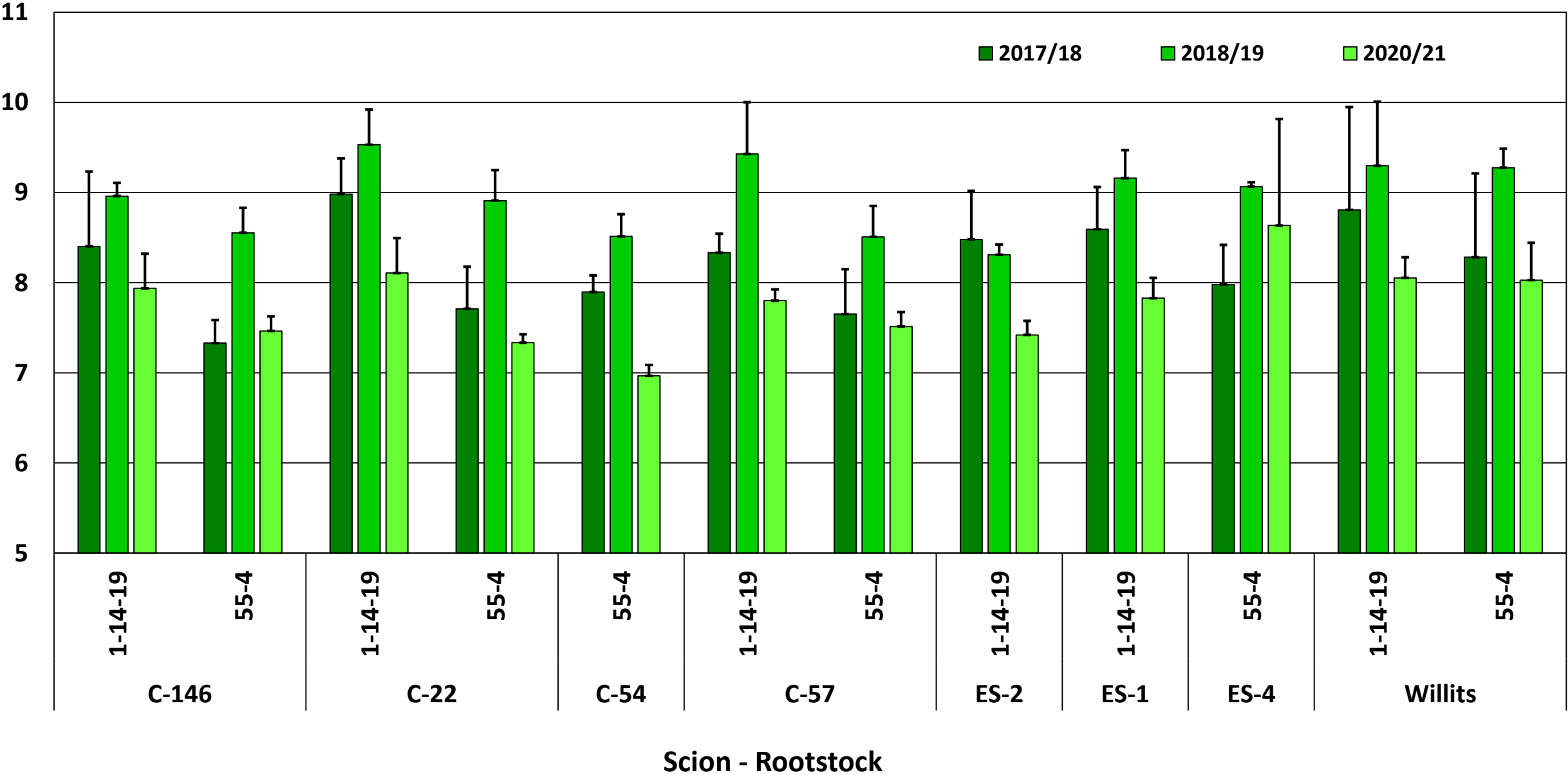


Fig. 2. Valencia rootstock trial – juice Acid: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

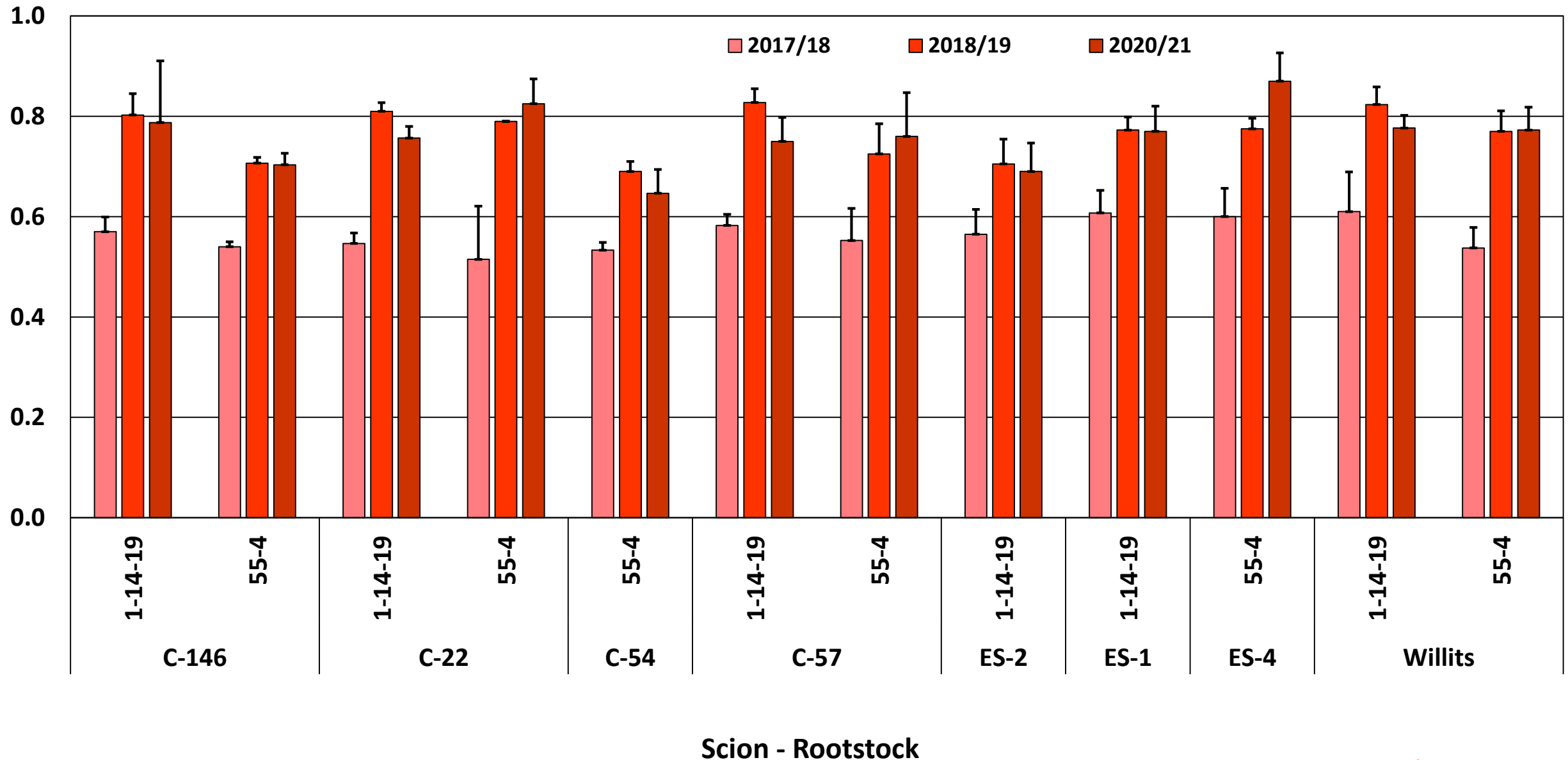


Fig. 3. Valencia rootstock trial – juice Ratio: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

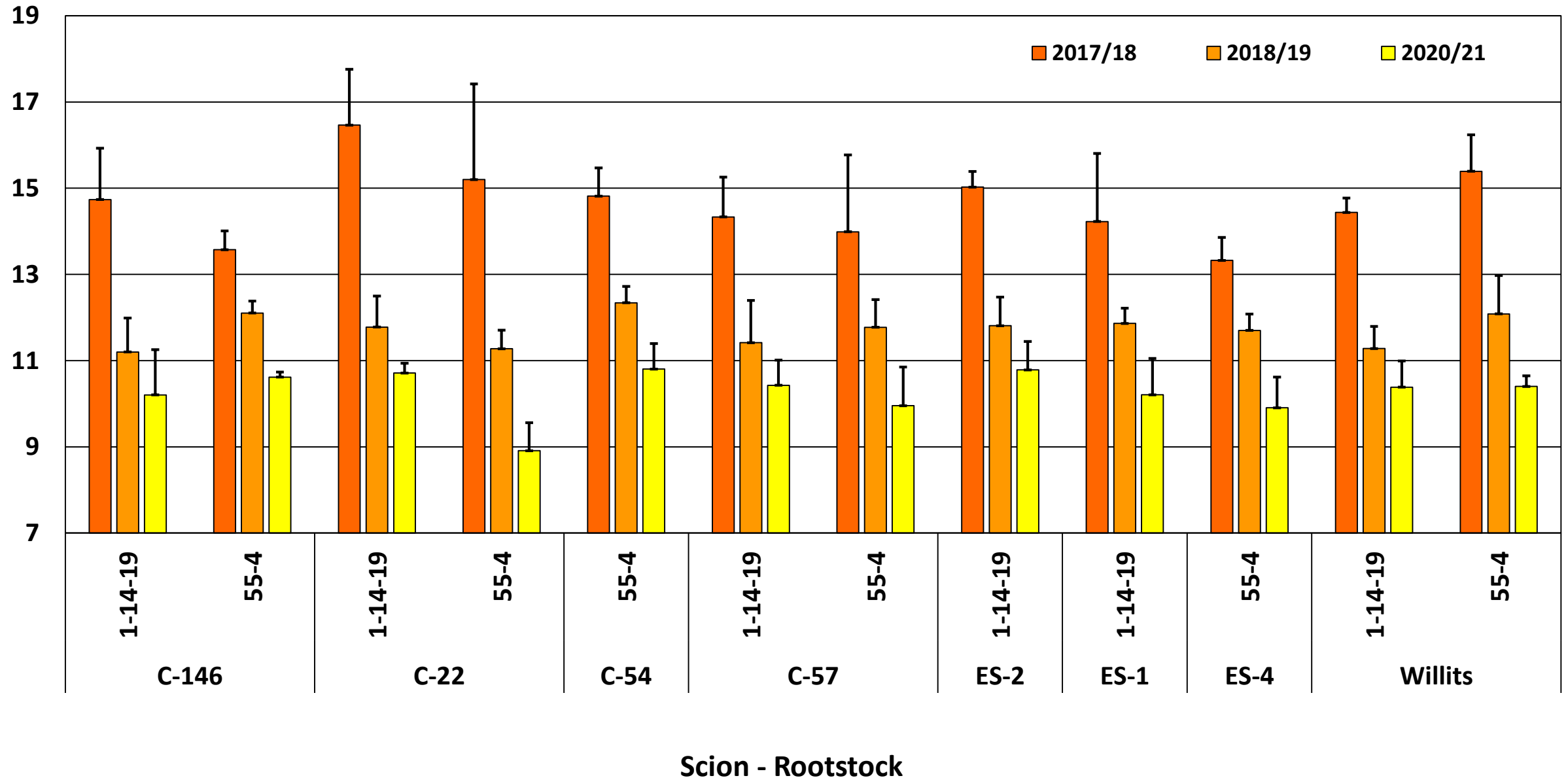


Fig. 4. Valencia rootstock trial – juice PS/box: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

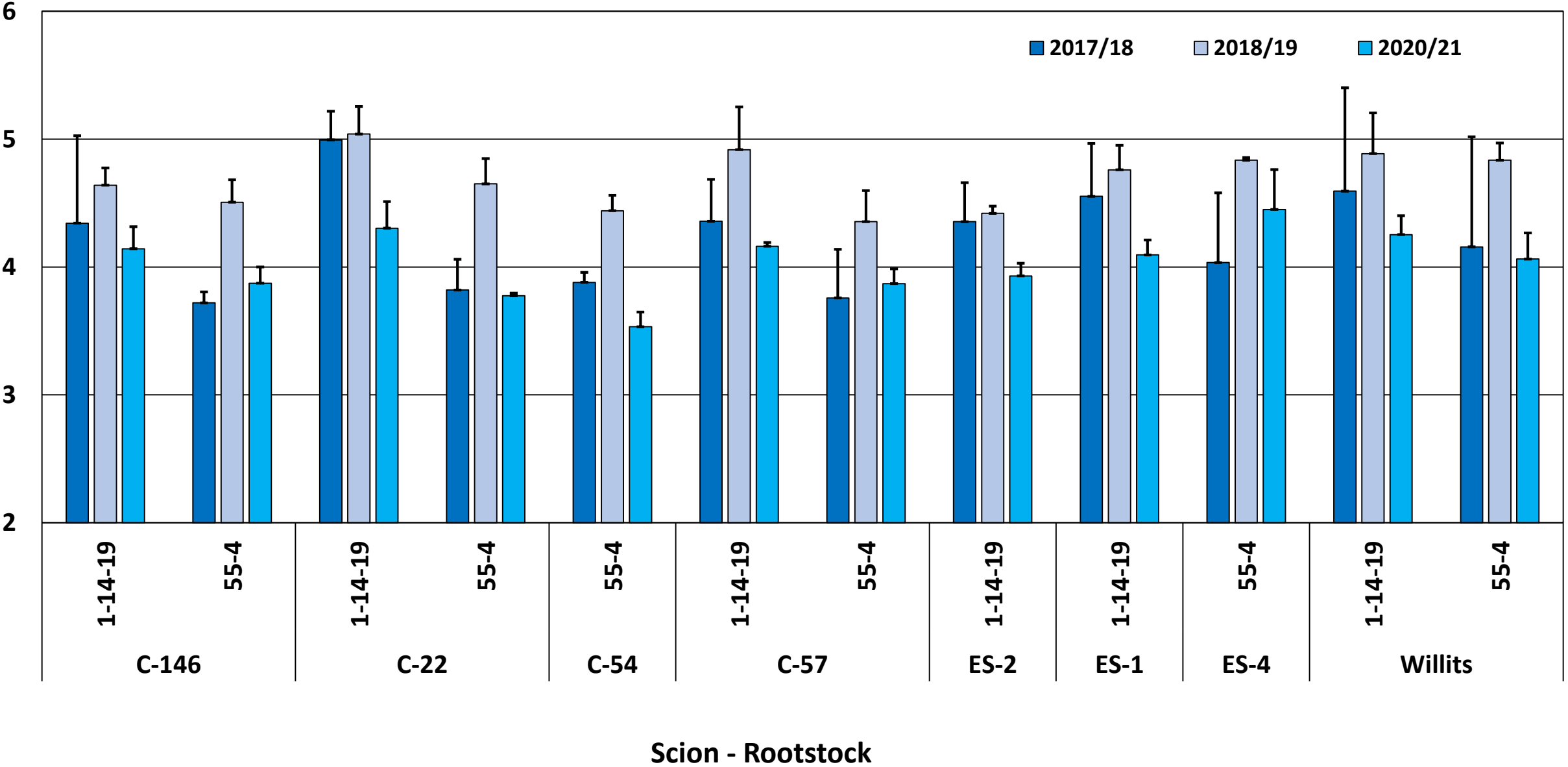


Fig. 5. Valencia rootstock trial – juice Color: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

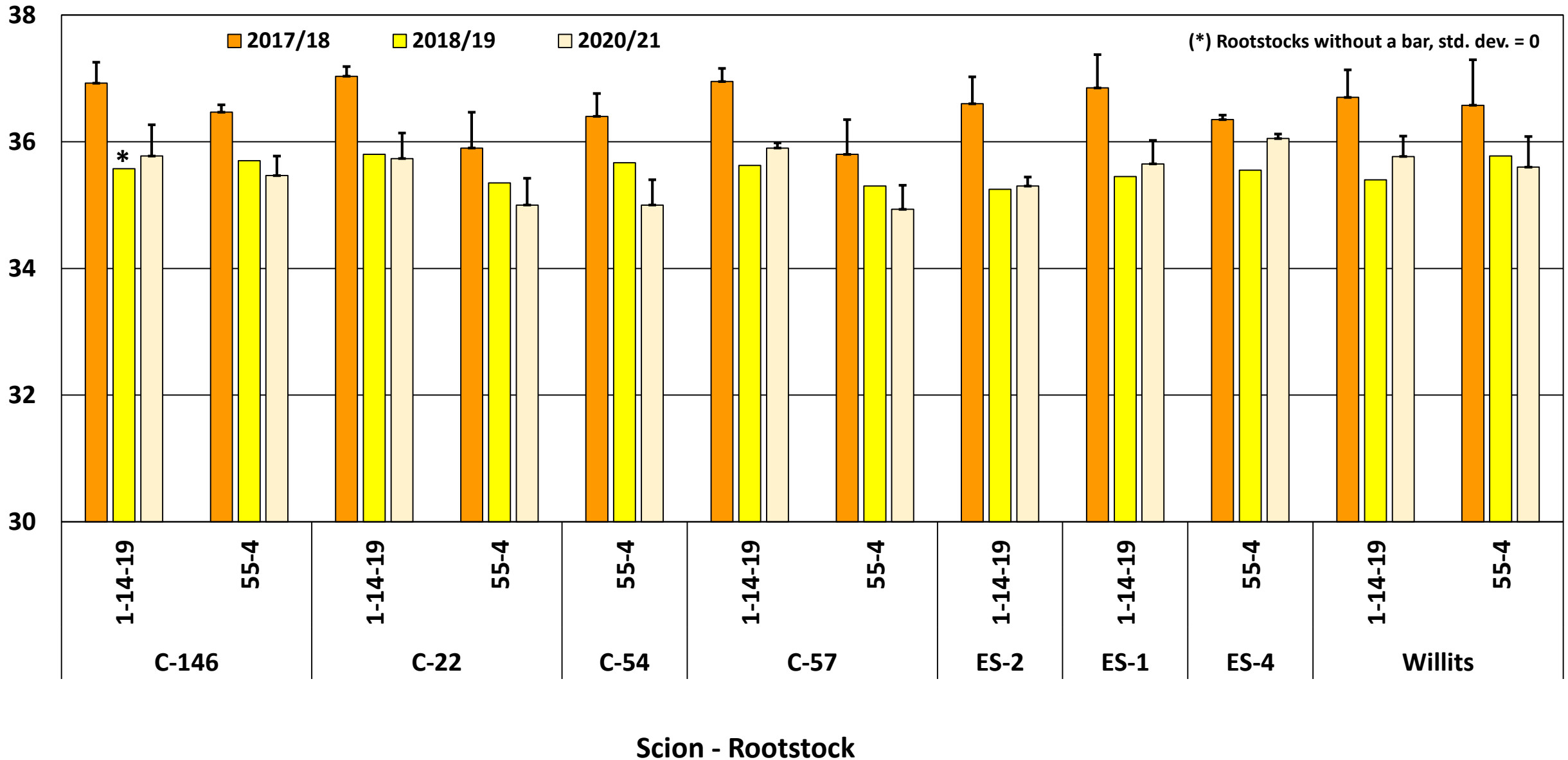


Fig. 6. Valencia rootstock trial – Juice Brix combined over the two clones: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

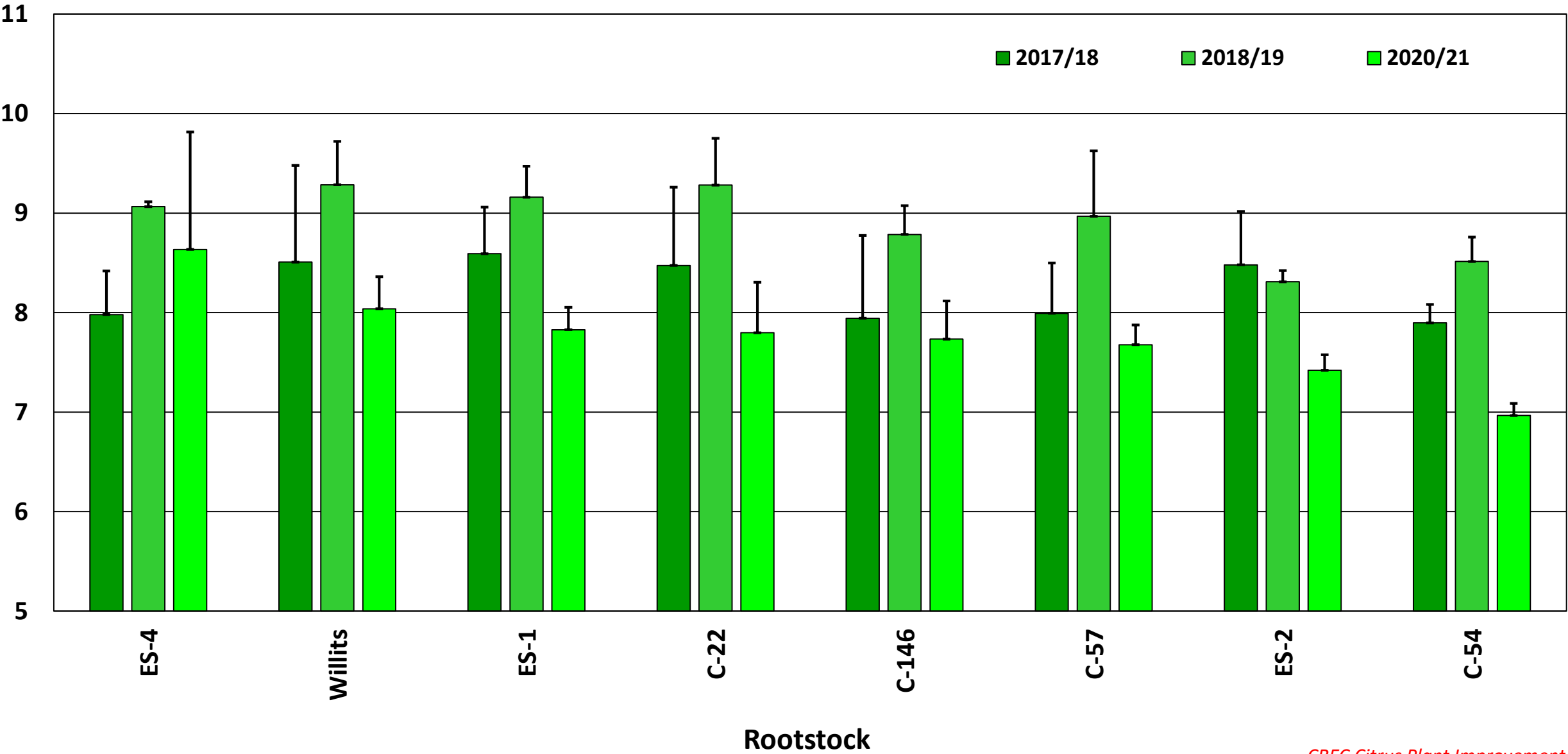


Fig. 7. Valencia rootstock trial – Juice acid combined over the two clones: mean + std. dev.
[March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

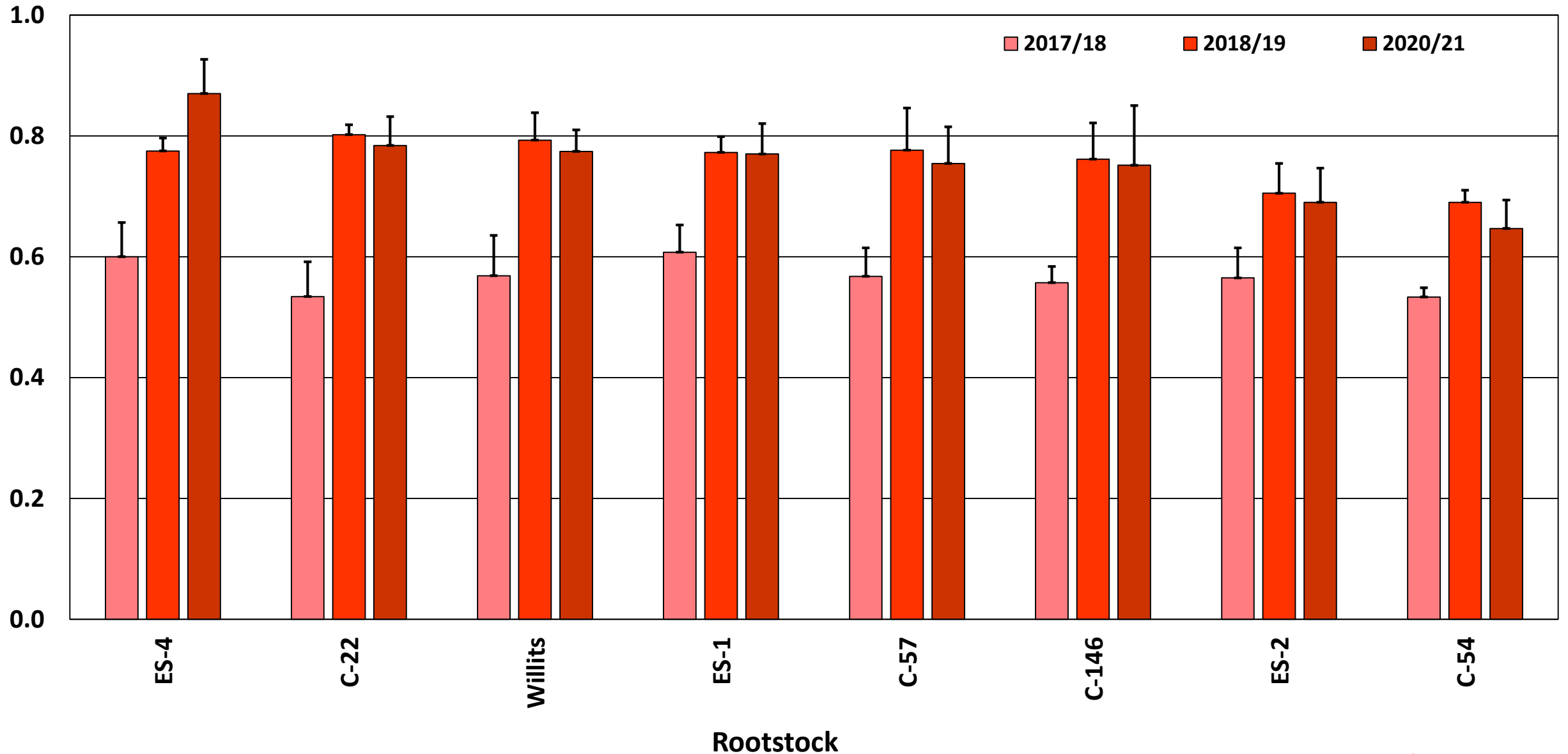


Fig. 8. Valencia rootstock trial – Juice ratio combined over the two clones: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

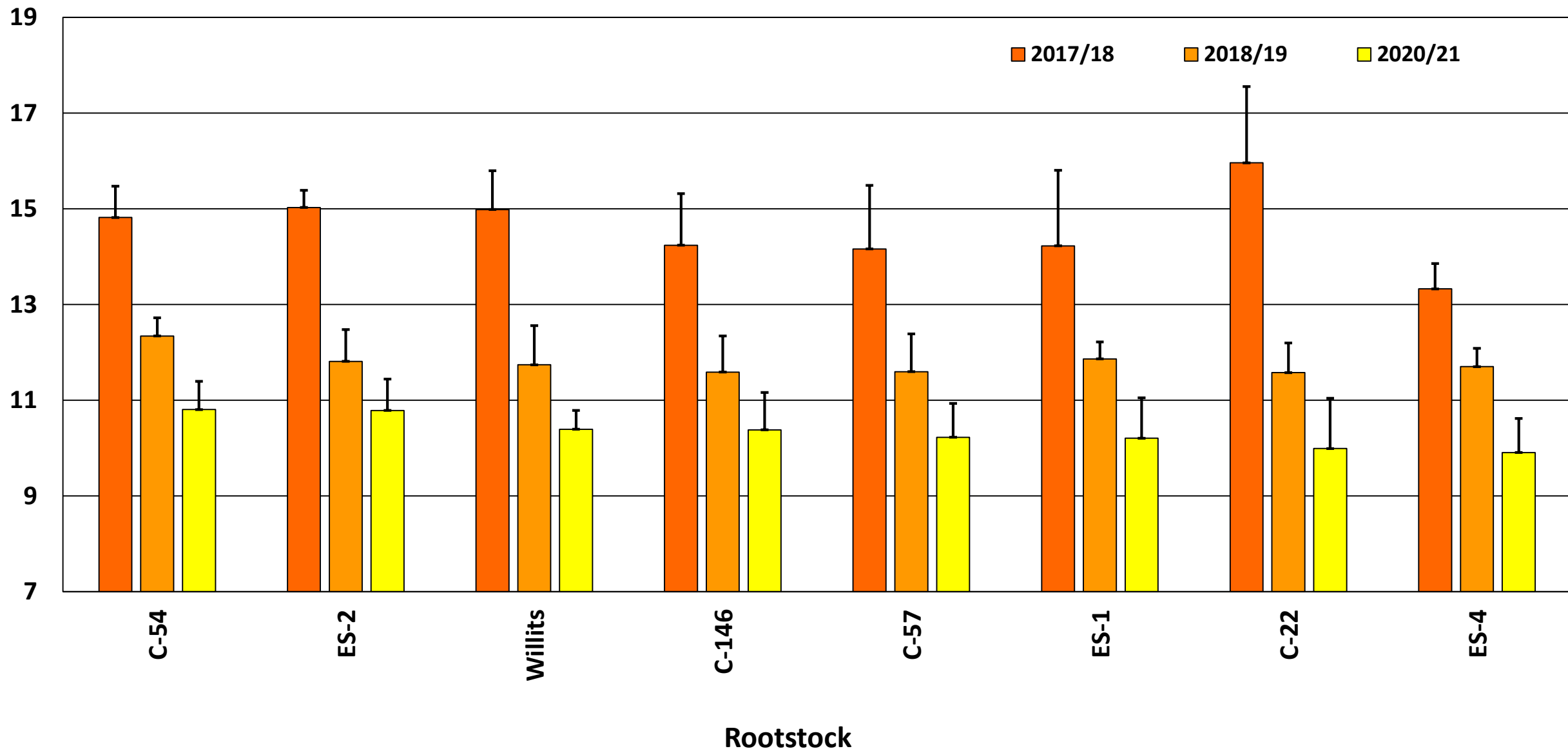


Fig. 9. Valencia rootstock trial – Juice PS/box data combined over the two clones: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

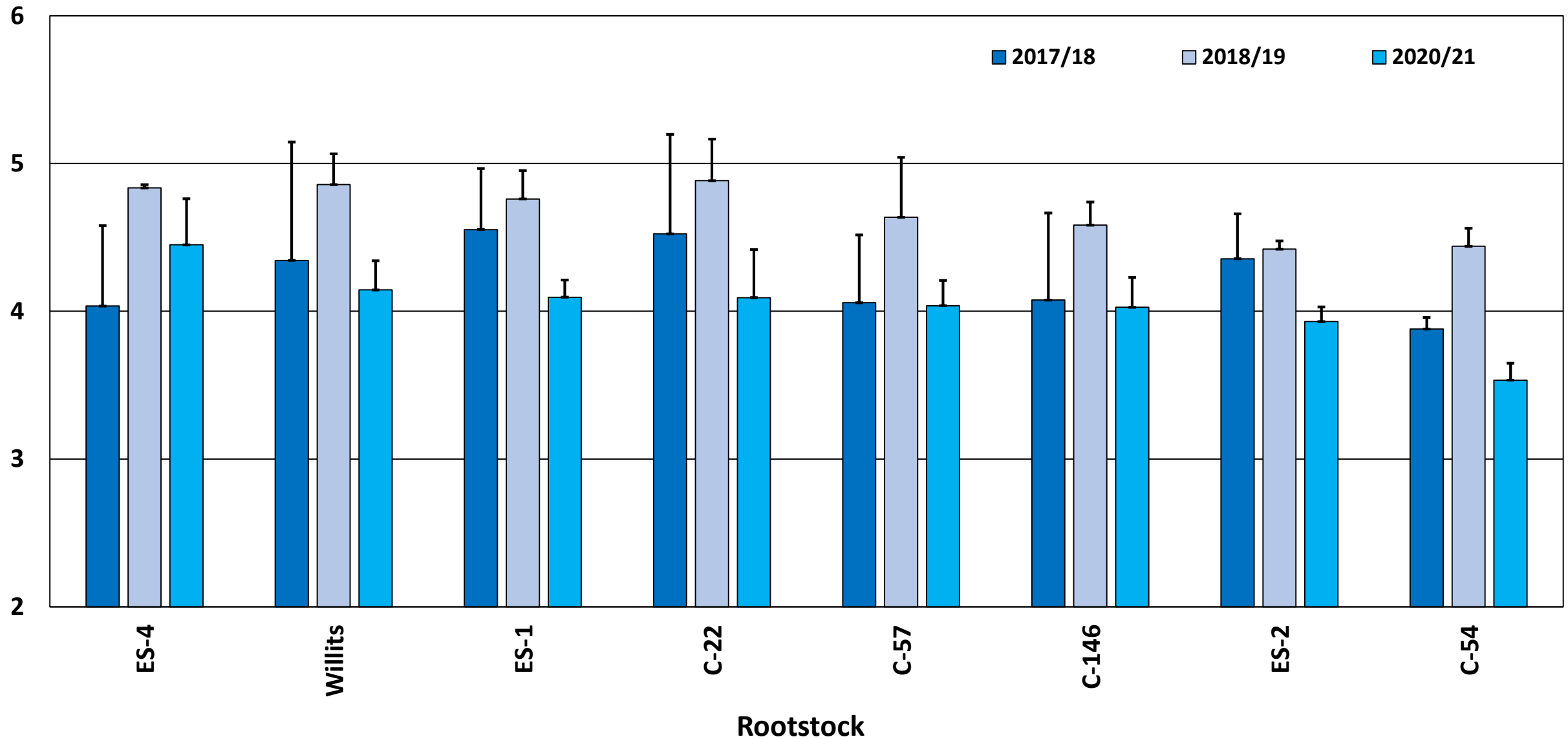


Fig. 10. Valencia rootstock trial – Juice color combined over the two clones: mean + std. dev. [March 2018, January 2019 & February 2021].

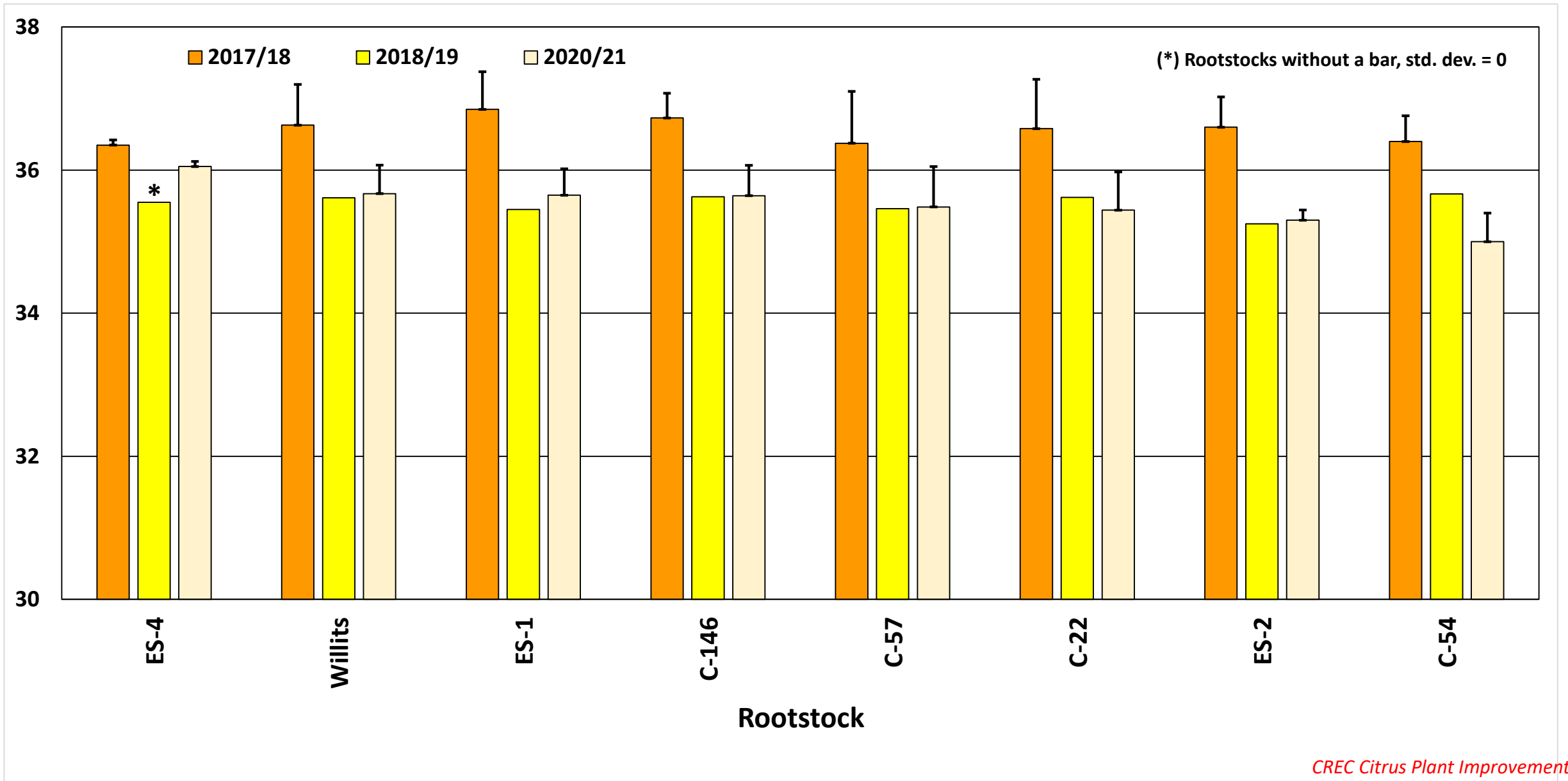


Fig. 11. Valencia rootstock trial – Yield: mean + std. dev. [boxes/tree, March 2019].

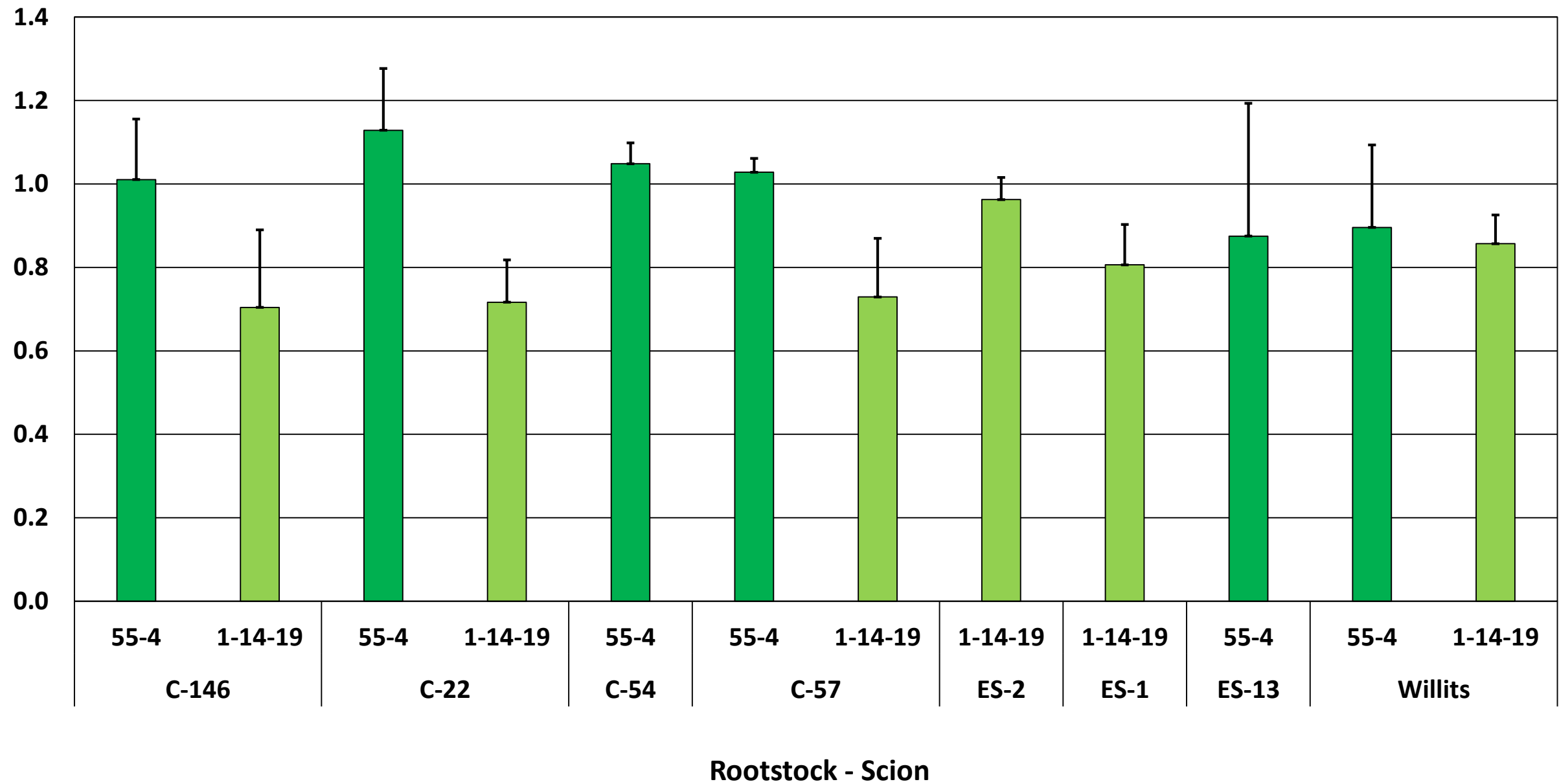


Fig. 12. Valencia rootstock trial – Yield: mean + std. dev. [boxes/tree, March 2020].

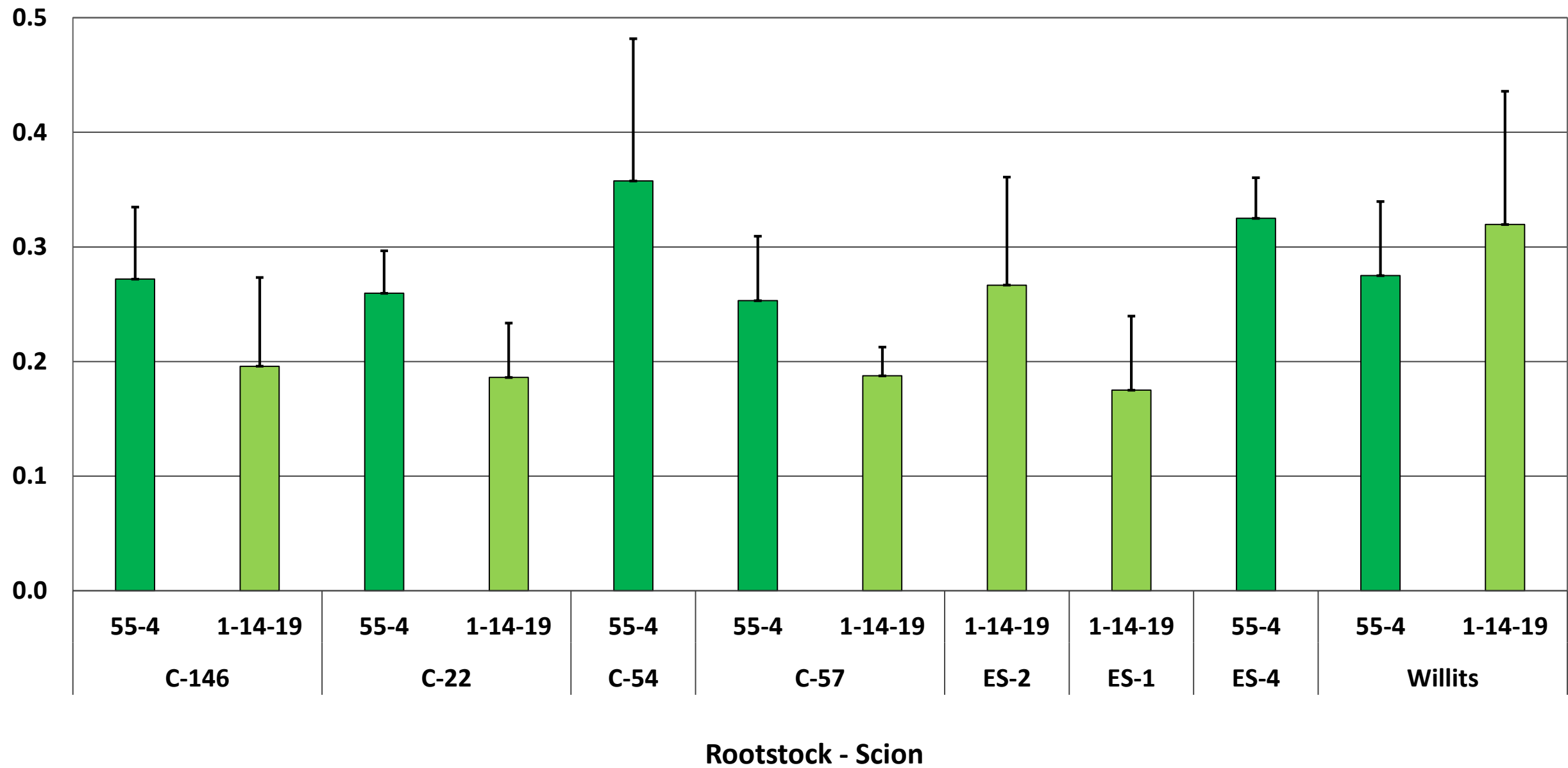


Fig. 13. Valencia rootstock trial – Yield: mean + std. dev. [March 2019 & March 2020].

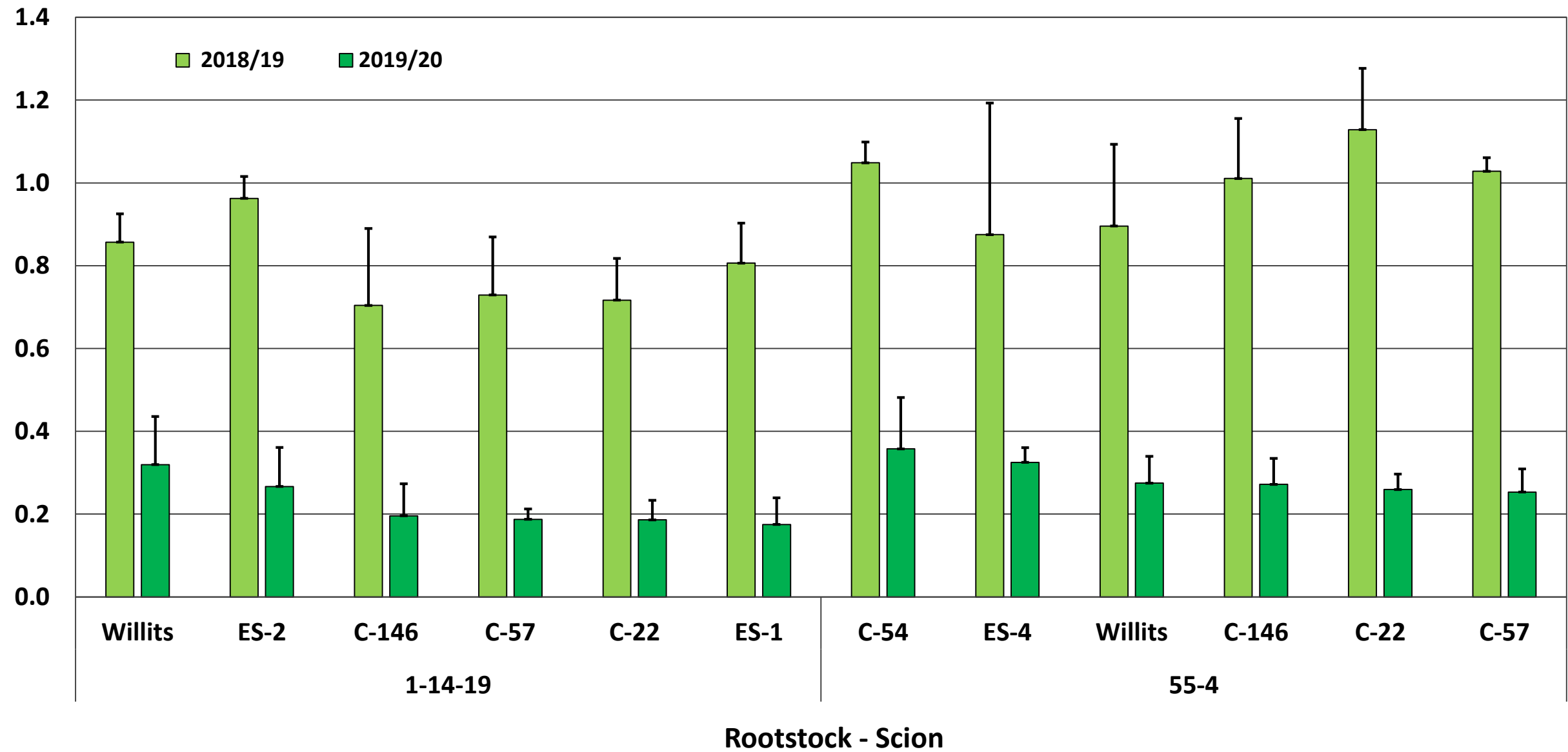


Fig. 14. Valencia rootstock trial – tree size and HLB rating: mean + std. dev. [October 2018].

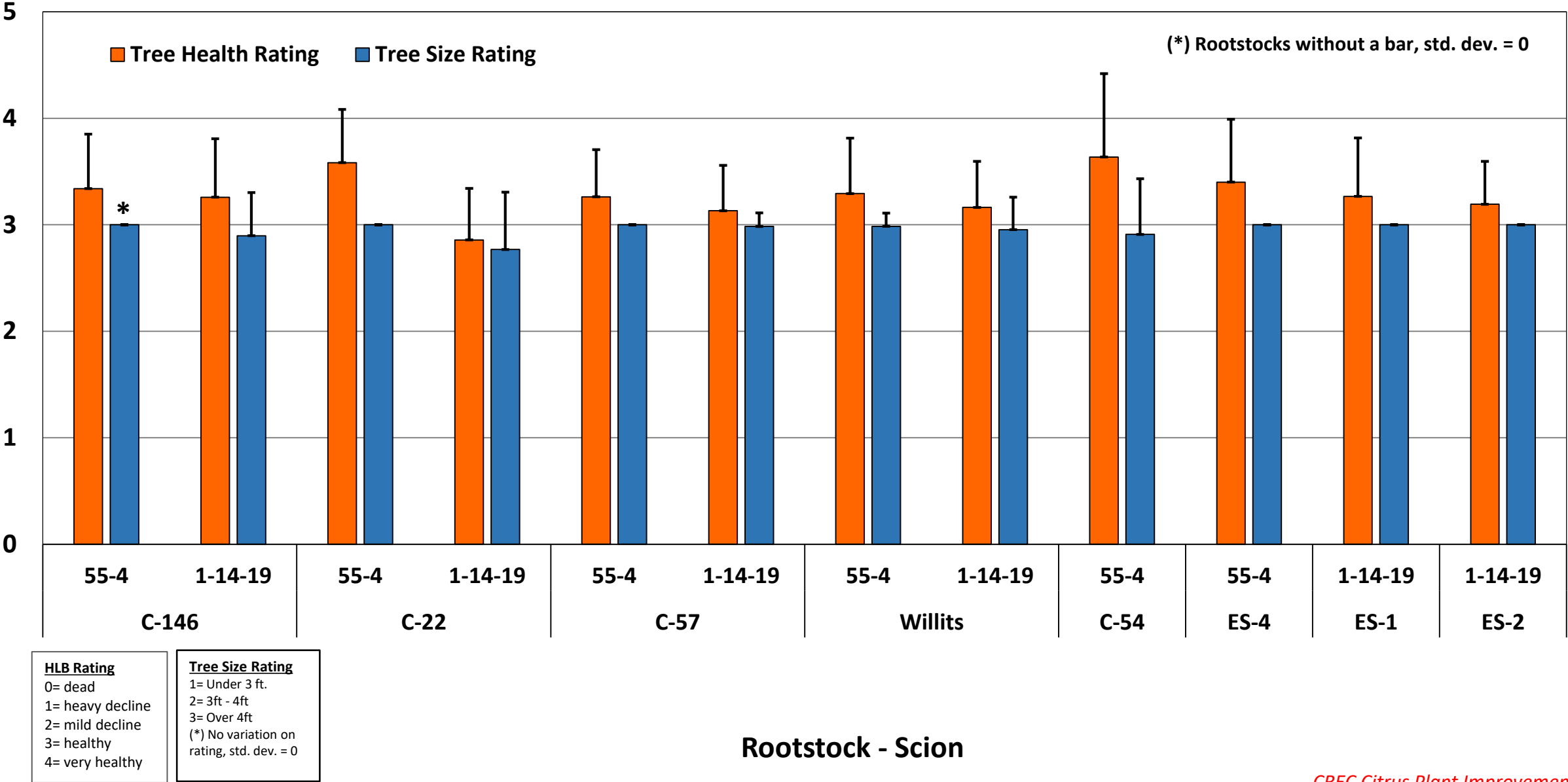


Fig. 15. Valencia rootstock trial – Tree height: mean + std. dev. [ft., October 2019 & May 2021].

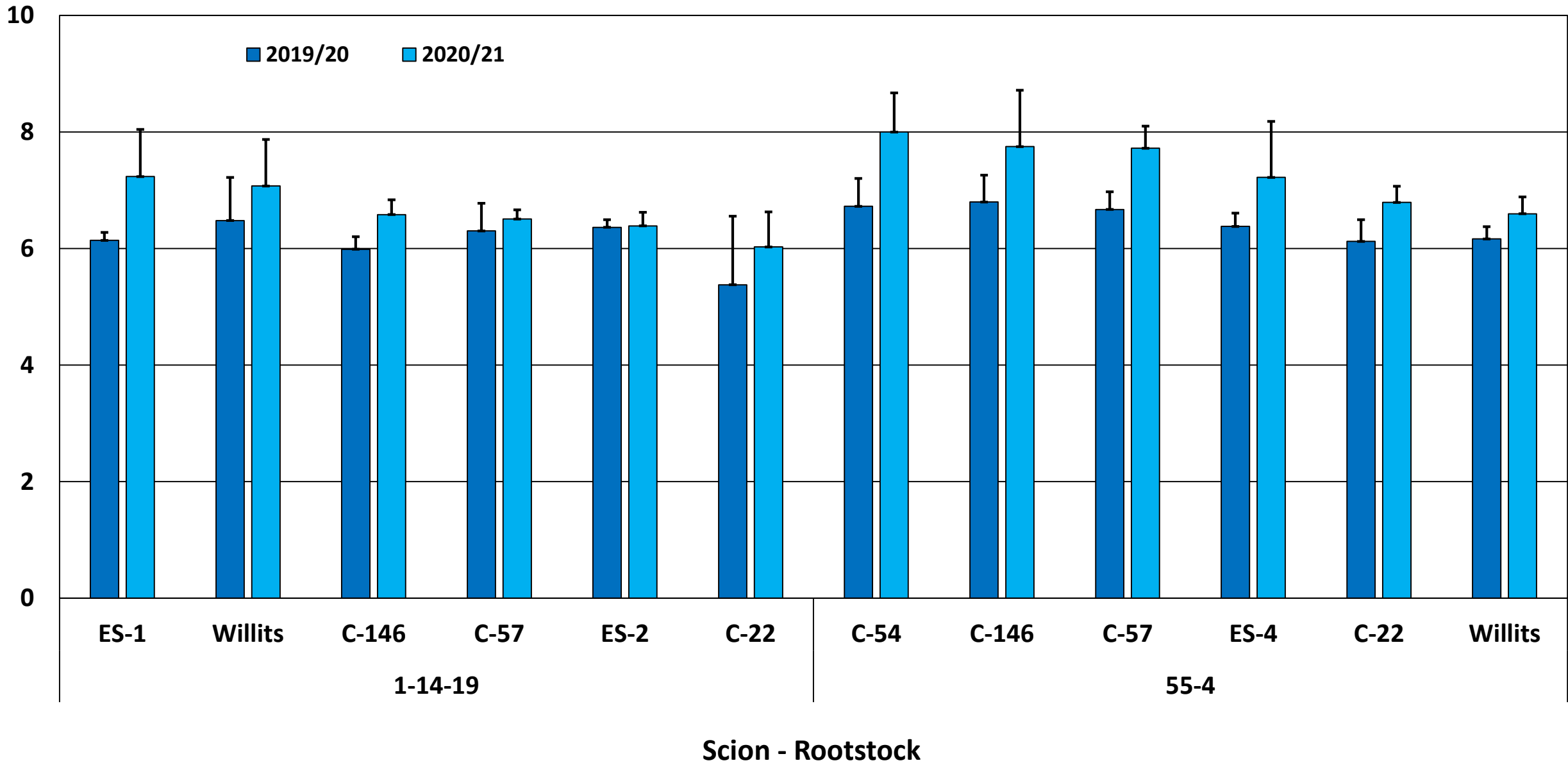


Fig. 16. Valencia rootstock trial – HLB rating: mean + std. dev. [October 2019].

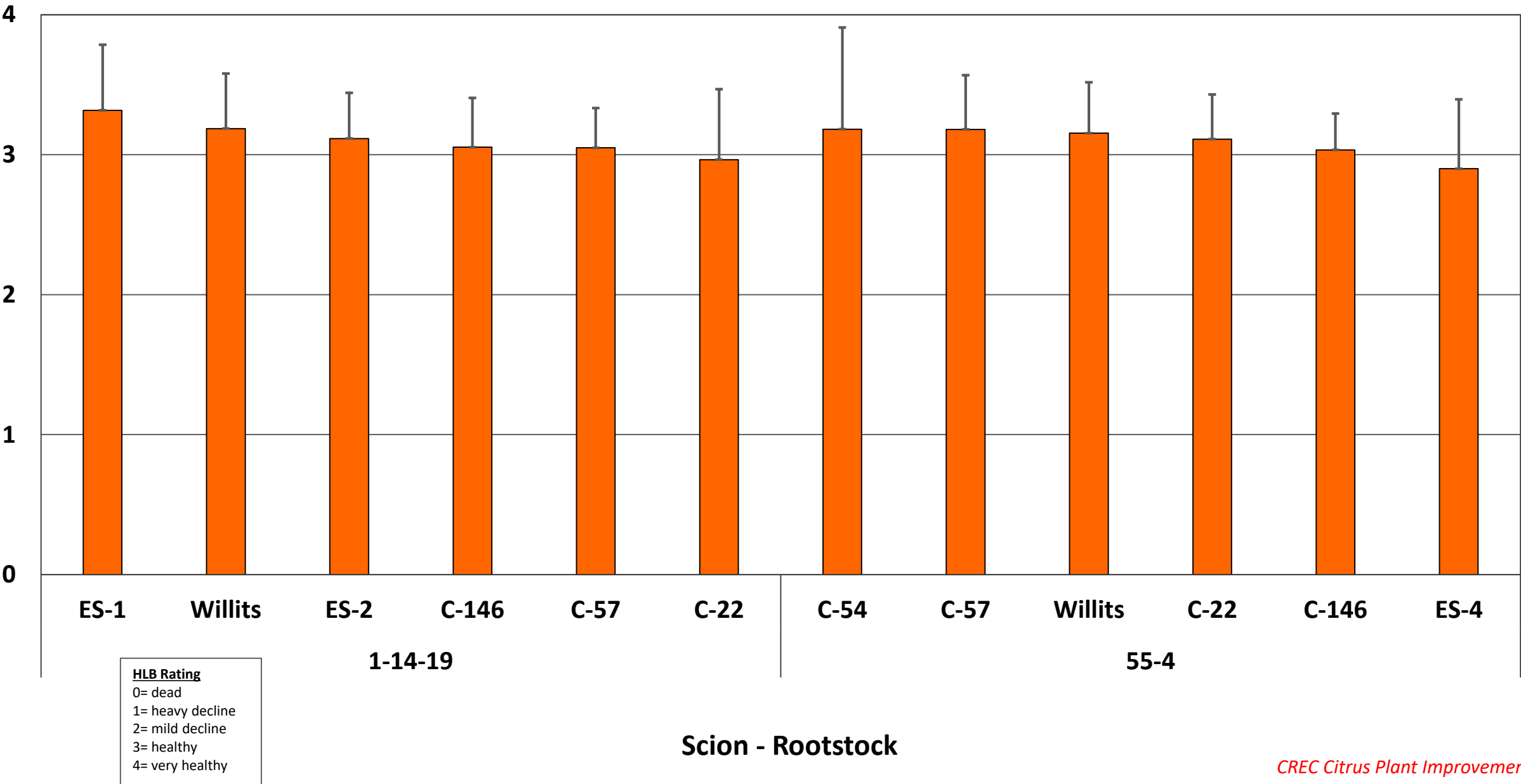


Fig. 17. Valencia rootstock trial – Fruit drop [%]: mean + std. dev. [March 2019].

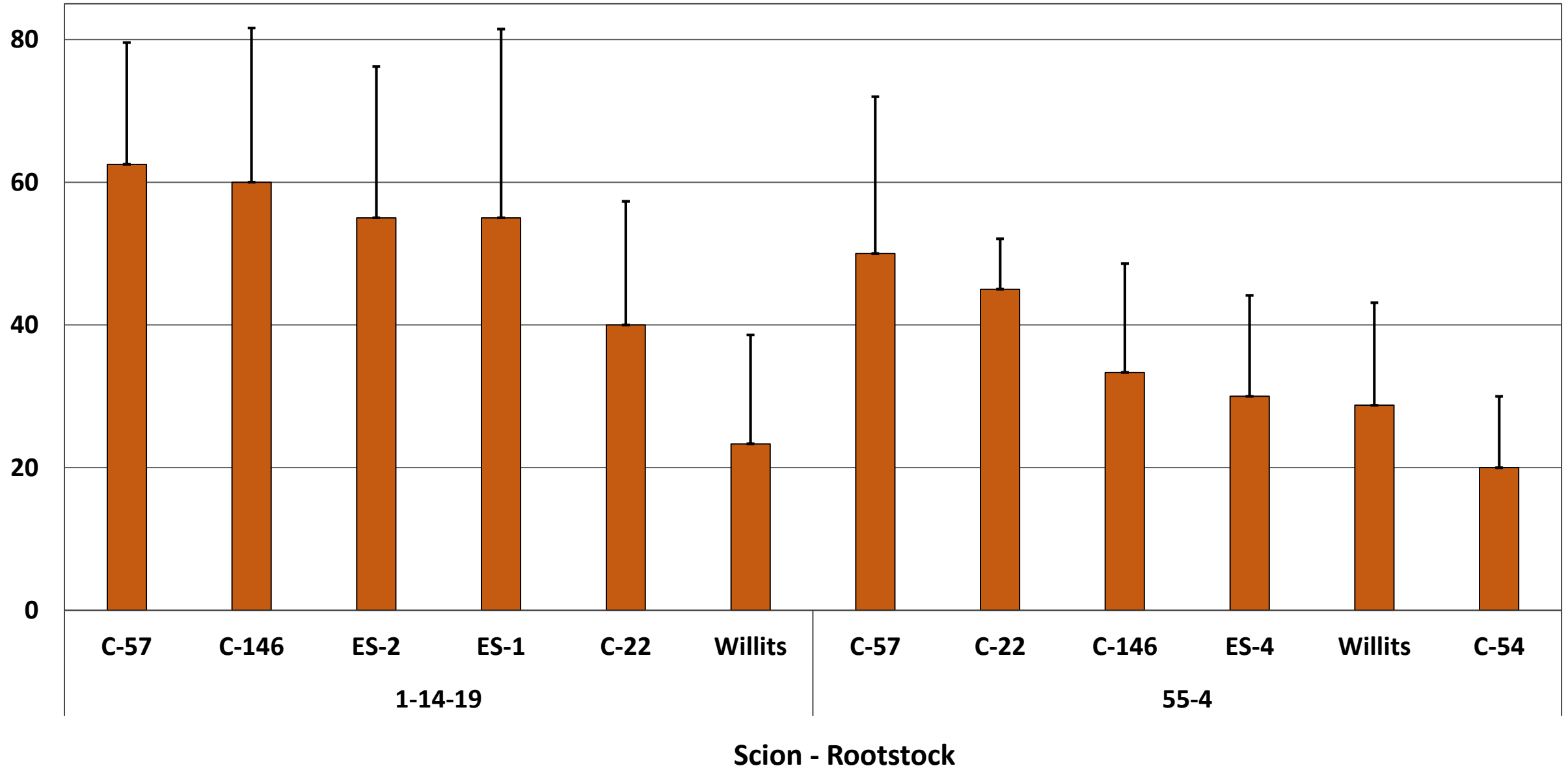


Fig. 18. Valencia rootstock trial – HLB rating: mean + std. dev. [October 2020].

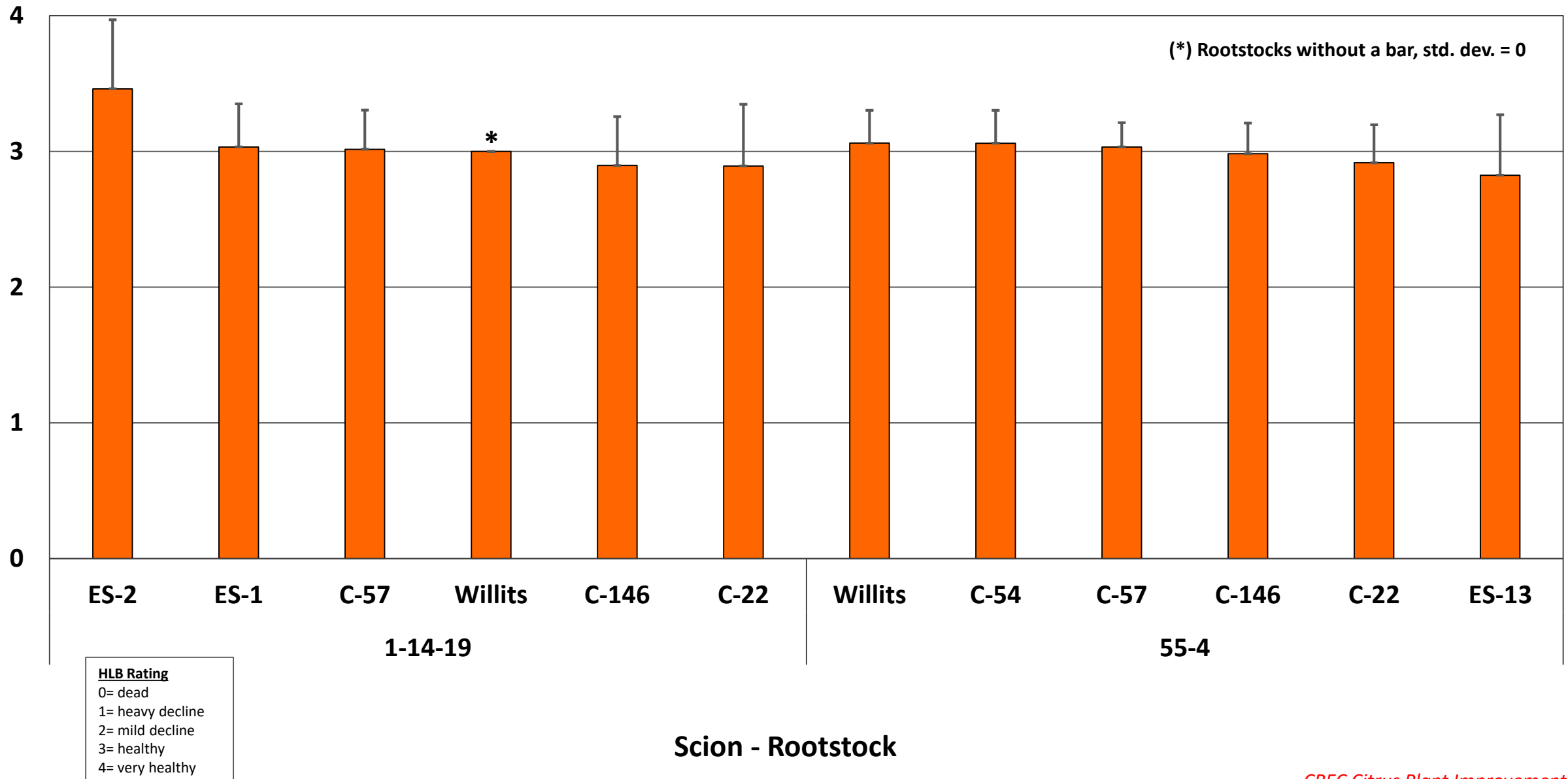


Fig. 19. Valencia rootstock trial – HLB rating: mean + std. dev. [2018/19; 2019/20 & 2020/21].

