



# LEDs in Horticulture

**J. Norman Bardsley**

Bardsley Consulting

Danville, CA

[jnbard@pacbell.net](mailto:jnbard@pacbell.net)

**ISA-BRICS Solid State Lighting Collaboration Working Group**

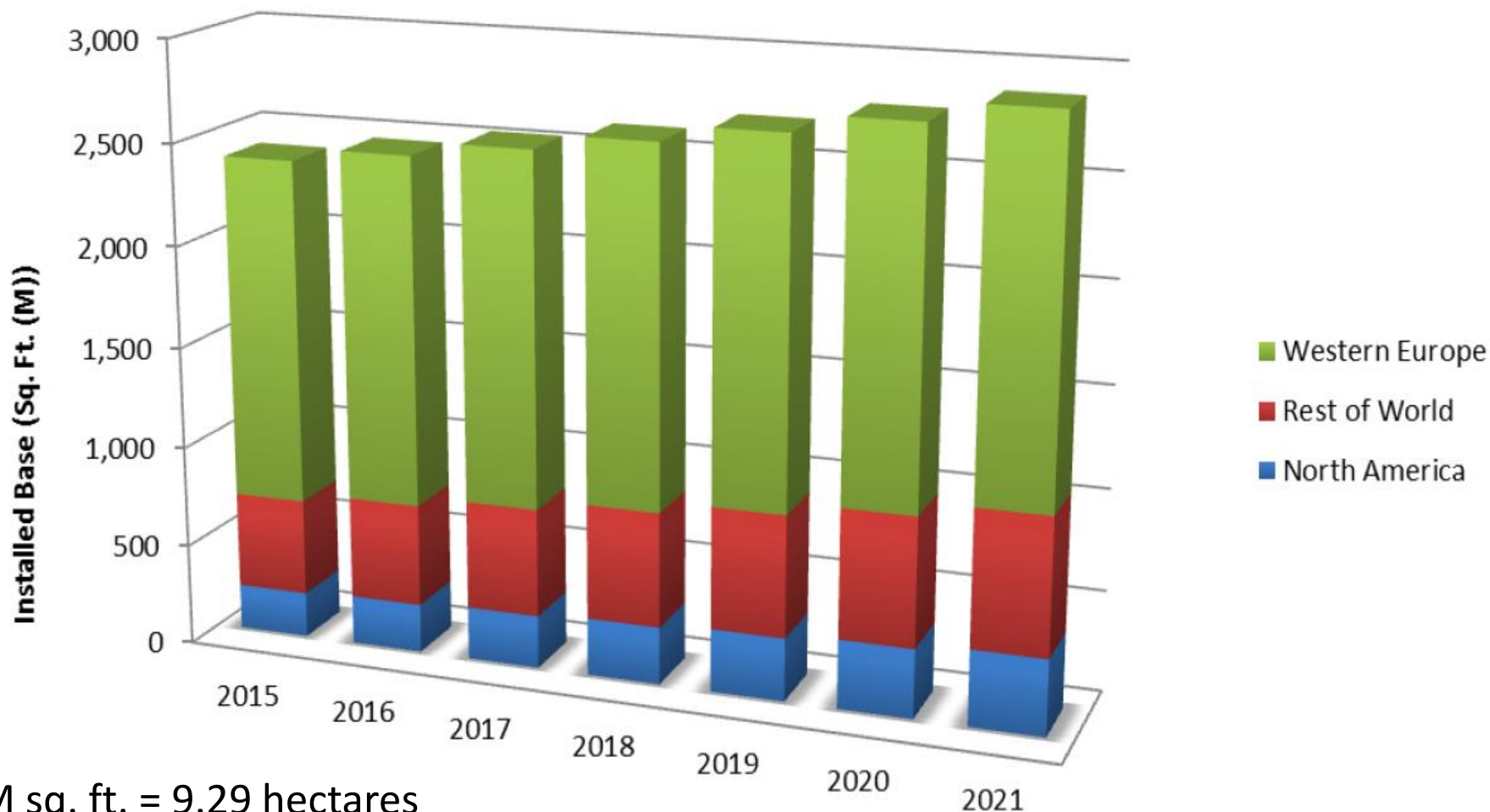
**Hangzhou, China**

**June 21, 2017**

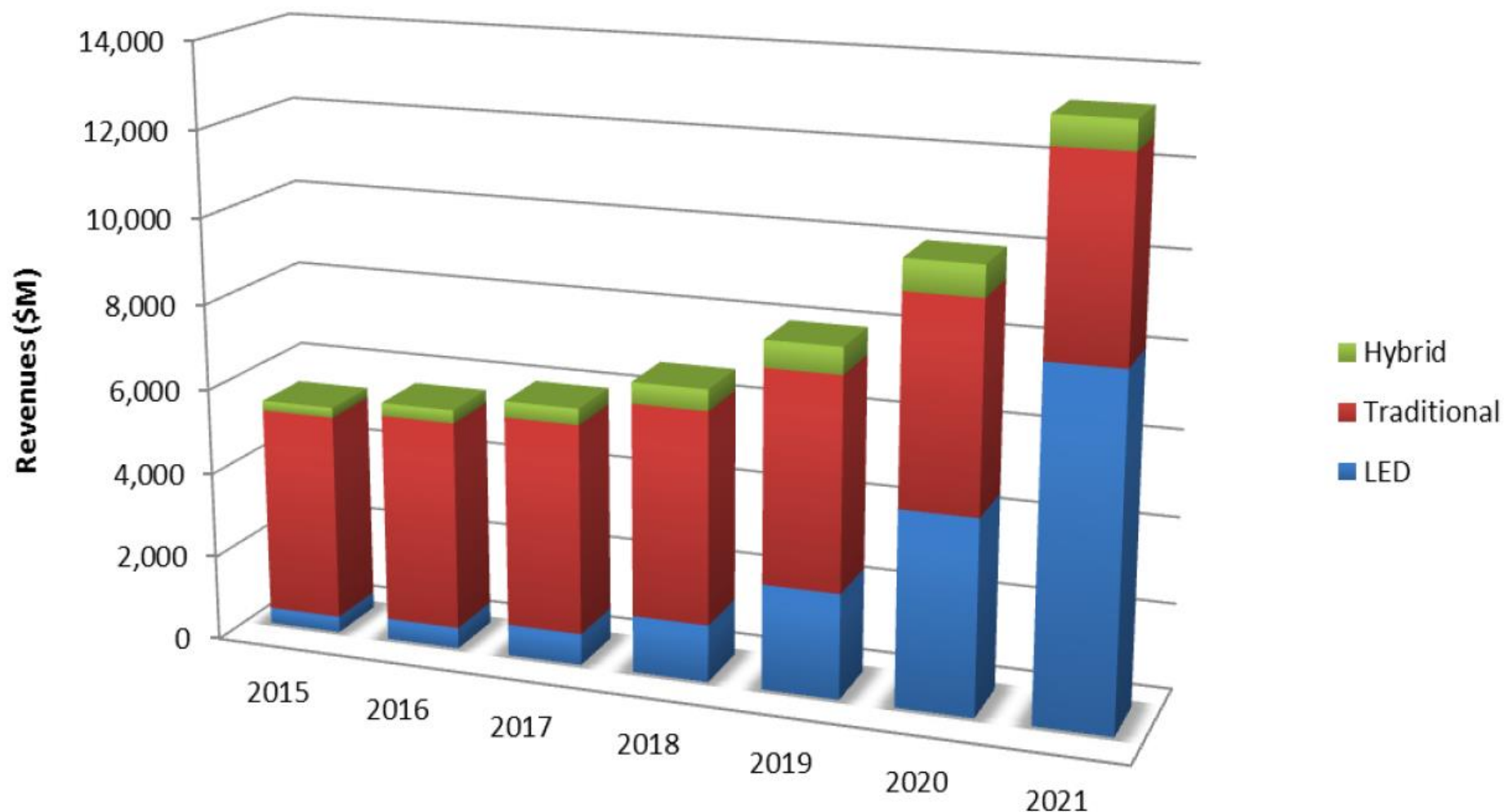
# Outline of Presentation

- Potential Market
  - Supplemental light in greenhouses
  - Factory farming in cities
- Economic Analyses
  - Value of light
  - LED vs HPS
- Spectral Tuning
- System Studies
- Conclusions

# Square Feet of Illuminated Greenhouses (Installed Base) By Region



# Global Greenhouse Supplemental Lighting Market



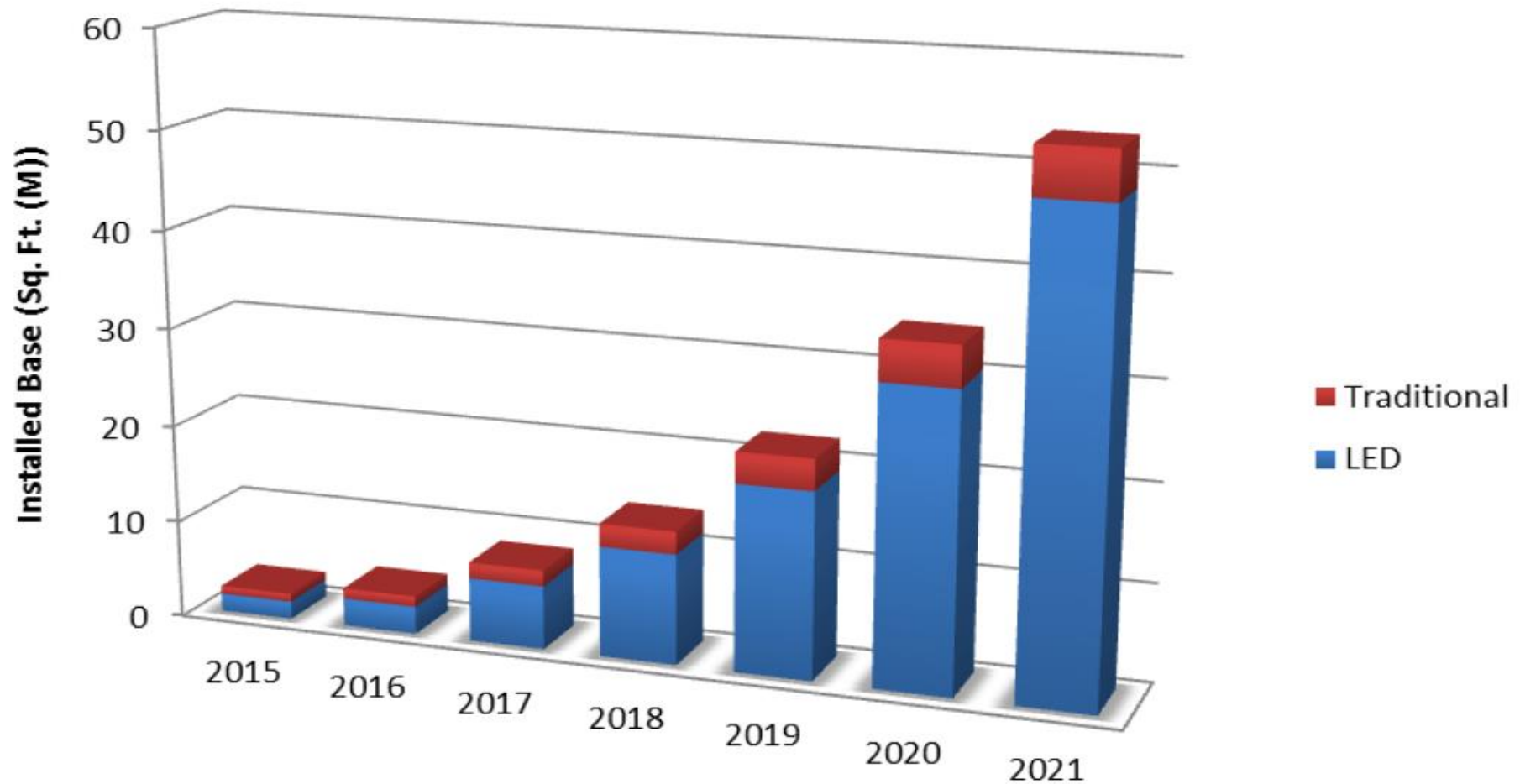
OWNED AND PRODUCED BY:



OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS:



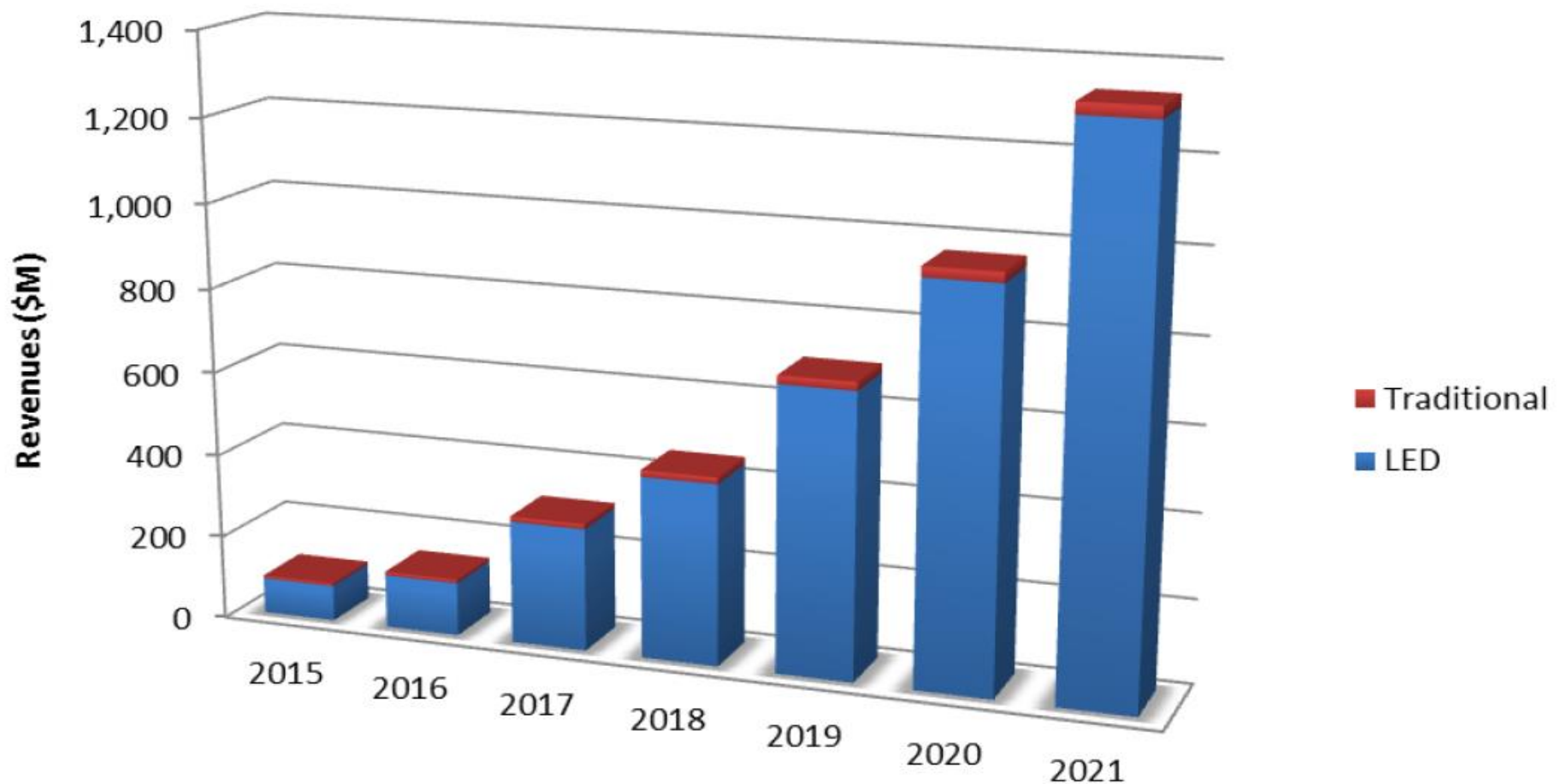
# Global Vertical Farm Square Ft. of Growing Area



1M sq. ft. = 9.29 hectares



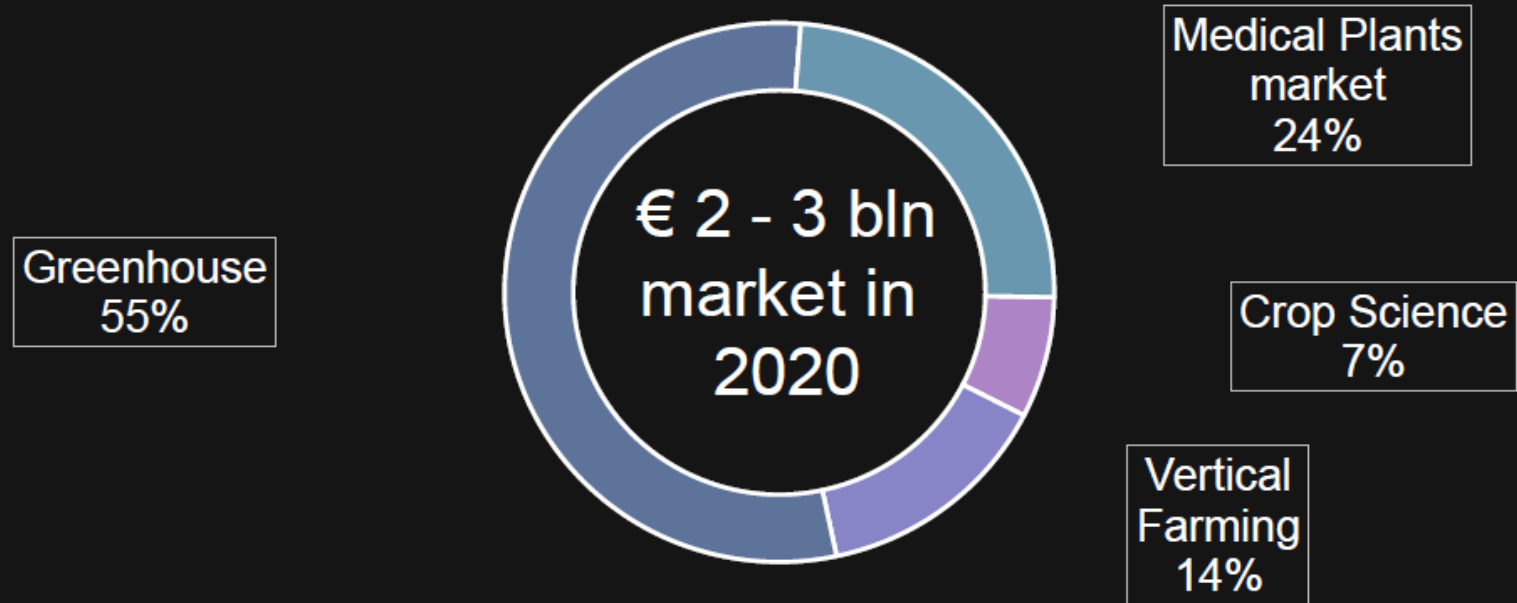
# Vertical Farms Lighting Revenue



# Check of Potential Market Size

- Area of illuminated greenhouses in North America = 25M m<sup>2</sup>
- Average light required for growing vegetables = 400 μmoles/m<sup>2</sup>/s
- Lamp efficiency = 2 μmoles/J
- Lamp power required = 200 W/m<sup>2</sup>
- Total lamp power required in North America is 5000 MW
- With an average life of 5 years, annual sales should provide 1000MW
- Assuming a lamp cost of \$1/W, the annual market is \$1B
- The global market size might then be \$5B

# Global Market Estimate from Europe



Customer segment by illumination type

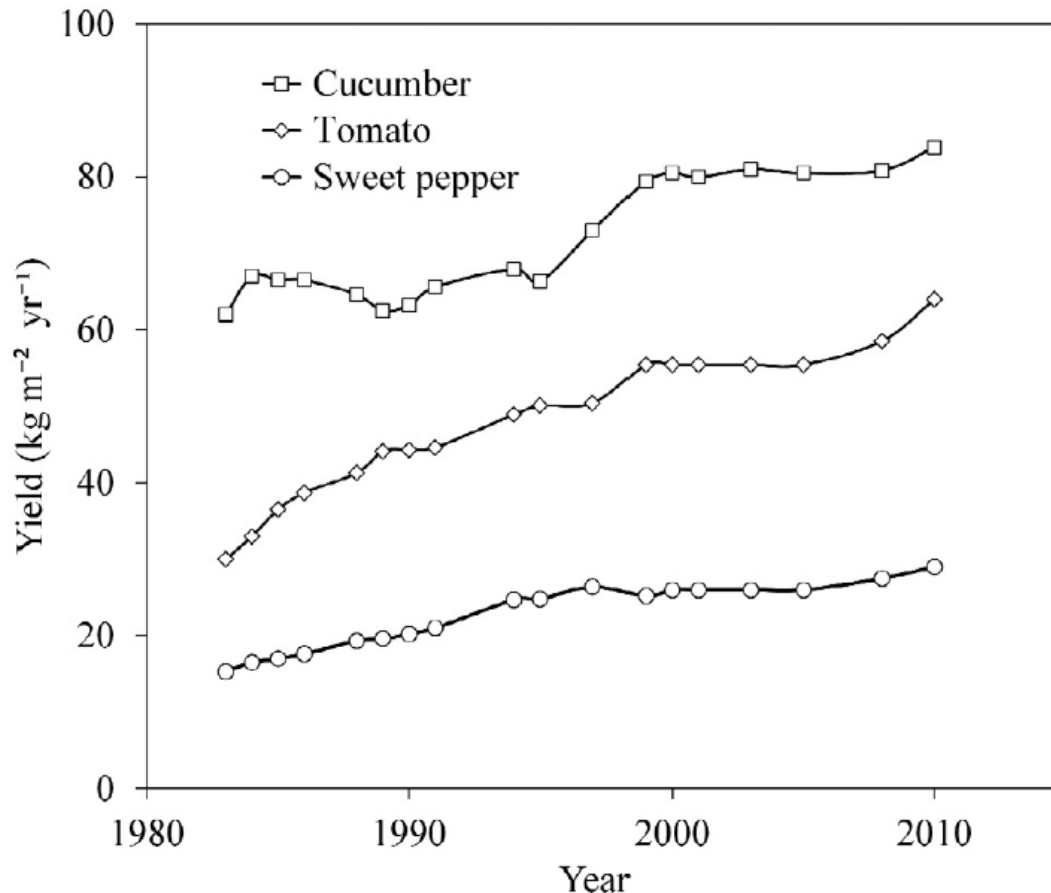
	Supplementary	Sole source
Greenhouse	X	-
Vertical Farming	-	X
Crop Science	X	X
Medical Plants	(x)	X

Source: MarketsandMarkets (with a haricut) + Valoya estimates



# Greenhouse Productivity in the Netherlands

*Source: A De Gelder et al, Wageningen University  
Neil Mattson, Cornell University*



**Yields in  
Production  
( $\text{kg/m}^2$ )**

**Lettuce 110**

**Cucumber 80**

**Tomato 60**

**Pepper 30**

# Greenhouse Production in Canada in 2016

*Source: Statistics Canada: CANSIM Table 001-0006*

Crop	Area	Production		Sales	
		M kg	kg/m <sup>2</sup>	US \$M	\$/m <sup>2</sup>
Tomato	598	276	46	420	70
Pepper	519	136	26	324	62
Cucumber	396	178	45	258	65
Lettuce	17.5	12.2	70	21.7	124
Total	1530	602	39	1024	67

# Indoor Farming in US

In the US there is relatively little indoor farming now,  
but interest is growing rapidly

See Agrilyst report:

<http://stateofindoorfarming.agrilyst.com/stateofindoorfarming-report-2016.pdf>

Area: 2.4M m<sup>2</sup>

Revenues: ~ \$1B

~ 5X Growth  
over next 5 years

## Types of Facilities



### Aeroponic Greenhouse

translucent, climate controllable structure where plant roots are suspended in the air and misted with a nutrient solution



### Indoor Vertical Farm

fully enclosed and opaque room with a vertical hydroponic, aeroponic, and/or aquaponic system. Artificial lights are used.



### Aquaponic Greenhouse

translucent, climate controllable structure where plants are grown in water that has been used to cultivate aquatic organisms (typically, fish)



### Soil-based Greenhouse

translucent, climate controllable structure where plants are grown in soil



### Container Farm

standardized, self-contained growing unit that employs vertical farming systems and artificial lighting.



### In Home Systems

small standardized growing unit for use by consumers in home settings.

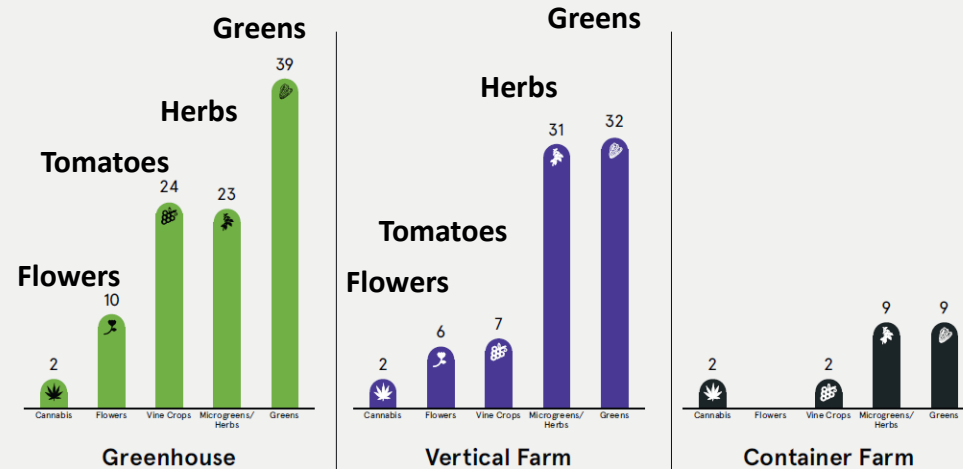


### Hydroponic Greenhouse

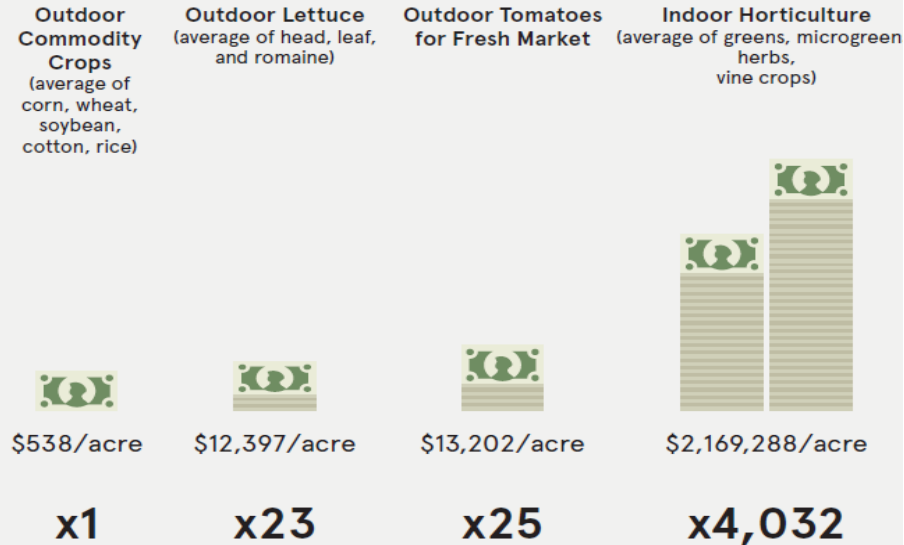
translucent, climate controllable structure where plants are grown in water as opposed to soil

# Data from Agrilyst Report

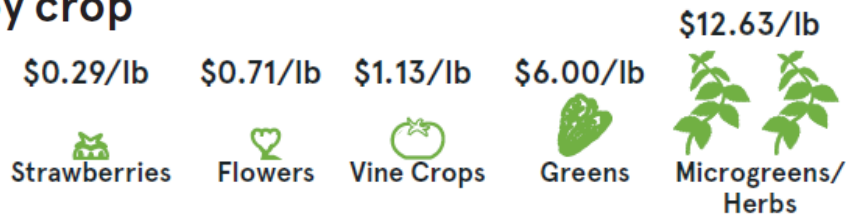
## Crops grown by facility



## Farm productivity



## Annual reported revenue by crop



Many sales are direct to end customer

1 kg = 2.2 lb  
1 hectare = 2.47 acre

## Annual production capacity of indoor crops vs. outdoor crops



# Greenhouse Production in US in 2015

Data from US Department of Agriculture

<https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>

Crop	Area	Annual Sales	
		\$M	\$/m2
Tomato	396	401	101
Herbs	129	71	55
Cucumber	102	78	76
Lettuce	40	56	140
Others	201	191	95
Total	868	797	92

# The Situation in China is Very Different

- Much larger area of protected agriculture
  - Growing from 0.8M hectares in 2015 to 1.5M hectares in 2020
- Plastic sheets more common than glass
- Heating is more important
- Lamps may be less expensive
- Is there reliable data on market size?





# Economics of Horticultural Lighting

- Light measure: 1  $\mu\text{mol}$  implies  $6 \times 10^{17}$  photons
- Lamp output is often expressed in  $1 \mu\text{mol/s}$  (second)
- Lamp efficacy is usually expressed in  $\mu\text{mol/J}$  (Joule)
- For a perfect lamp, 1 Joule could produce
  - 5.5  $\mu\text{mol}$  of deep red light ( $\sim 660\text{nm}$ )
  - 4.6  $\mu\text{mol}$  of green light ( $\sim 550\text{nm}$ )
  - 3.8  $\mu\text{mol}$  of royal blue light ( $\sim 450\text{nm}$ )

# Turning photons into food potentially achievable yield for tomatoes

Input: one mole of photons

1. Absorption of photosynthetic photons by leaves:	0.90	.80
2. Quantum yield: moles of carbon fixed per mole of photons absorbed:	0.07	.06
3. Conversion efficiency in respiration:	0.65	.60
4. Harvest Index:	<u>0.85</u>	<u>.60</u>
	mol C/mol photons	= 0.035
		0.017

Lettuce biomass (minimal protein) can be a low carbon fraction (42%)

$12/0.42 = 28.6$  grams biomass per mole of carbon

$28.6 \times 0.035 =$

1 gram<sub>dry</sub> / mole

0.5 g<sub>dry</sub>/mol



*Bruce Bugbee, Utah State University*

# Theoretical economics

Potential  
efficiency

Cost of electricity (conversion at 4.4  $\mu\text{mol/J}$ )

$$\frac{\$ 0.10}{1 \text{ kWh}} * \frac{1 \text{ kwh}^*}{16 \text{ mol}} = \frac{\$ 0.006}{1 \text{ mole}} * \frac{1 \text{ mole}}{0.5 \text{ g}_{\text{dry}}} = \frac{\$ 12}{\text{kg}_{\text{dry}}}$$

Value of products

Wheat



$$\frac{\$ 9}{1 \text{ bushel}} = \frac{\$ 0.32}{\text{kg}_{\text{dry}}}$$

Tomatoes



$$\frac{\$ 4.54}{1 \text{ lb.}} = \frac{\$ 10}{\text{kg fresh (90\% water)}} = \frac{\$ 100}{\text{kg}_{\text{dry}}}$$

Lettuce



$$\frac{\$ 4.54}{1 \text{ lb.}} = \frac{\$ 10}{\text{kg fresh (95\% water)}} = \frac{\$ 200}{\text{kg}_{\text{dry}}}$$

\* Nelson JA, Bugbee B (2014) Economic Analysis of Greenhouse Lighting: Light Emitting Diodes vs. High Intensity Discharge Fixtures. PLoS ONE 9(6): e99010.

# Best Traditional Technology: HPS

ePapillon by Philips



2100  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from 1060W  
>95% fixture efficiency  
3 year warranty on fixture  
1 year warranty on bulb  
Cost: ~\$520 complete  
~ \$60 replacement bulb  
Efficiency: 2.0  $\mu\text{mol/J}$   
3-year cost: \$0.30/ $\mu\text{mol/s}$

Gavita Pro 1000 E-Series



2100  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from ~1050W  
>95% fixture efficiency  
3 year warranty on fixture  
1 year warranty on bulb  
Cost: ~\$450 complete  
~ \$95 replacement bulb  
Efficiency: 2.0  $\mu\text{mol/J}$   
3-year cost: \$0.30/ $\mu\text{mol/s}$

# LED Fixtures – GE ARIZE Life



Technical Specifications

## Growth Spectrums:

- **Reproductive:** Higher red content to promote flowering and fruit generation.
- **Vegetative:** Higher blue content to promote healthy and thick leafy plants.
- **Balanced:** Balanced red to blue ratio for overall growth.

8 ft tube replacement

85  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from 30W at 2.8  $\mu\text{mol/J}$

L80 of 36,000 hours

5 year warranty

5 year price \$360\* or \$4.26/ $\mu\text{mol/s}$

*\*Price in small volumes*



Bardsley  
Consulting

# LED Fixtures – Philips Production Module

Blue (B)	positive effects on compactness and hardening
White (W)	working light / full spectrum
Deep red (DR)	most efficient for photosynthesis, vegetative reproduction and stimulating shoot development
Far red (FR)	positive effect on generative properties, flower formation and rooting

Easy to install

up to  
**2.2**  
 $\mu\text{mol/J}$

**25,000**  
hours lifetime

Specifications	Value	
	DR/B/FR	DR/W/FR
Photosynthetic efficacy	2.2 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	2.0 $\mu\text{mol/J}$
Power consumption	37 W	41 W
Dimensions (LxWxH)	151.3 x 40.5 x 40.2 cm / 59.57 x 1.594 x 1.583 inch	
Weight (driver included)	1.7 kg / 3.7 lbs	
Initial Photon Flux	83 $\mu\text{mol/s}$	
Power input	120-277 V AC, 50-60 Hz	
Power factor	> 0.95	
Lifetime	25.000 hrs, L90B50 (90% flux maintenance) ( $T_a$ 25 °C / 77 °F)	
Ingress protection rating	IP66, UL suitable for wet locations	
Cooling	Passively air-cooled	
Approval marks	UL, CE, RoHS, ISO	
Accessories	Comprehensive range of accessories available for easy and quick installation	
Warranty	3 years	

3-year price \$176 or **\$2.12/ $\mu\text{mol/s}$**



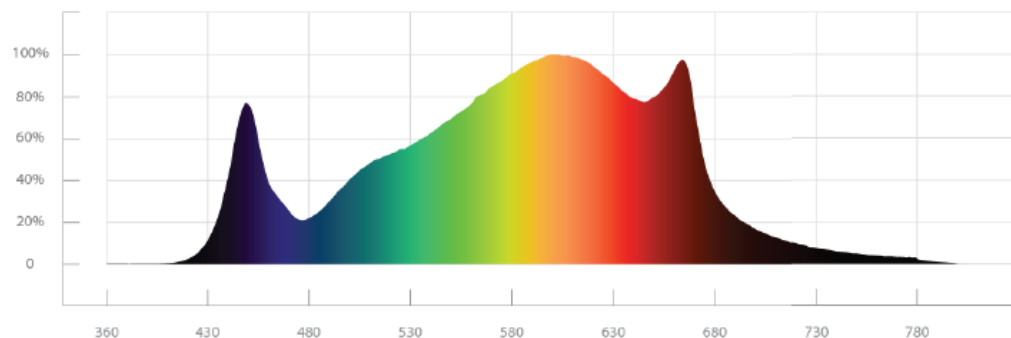
Bardsley  
Consulting



# LED Fixtures – SPYDRx Plus Full Spectrum



PhysioSpec Indoor™



1410  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from 660W at 2.1  $\mu\text{mol/J}$

L70 100,000 hours

Warranty 3 years

3 year price \$1350 at \$0.96/  $\mu\text{mol/s}$



Bardsley  
Consulting

# LED Fixtures – LumiGrow Pro 650 Series E



Blue Light (400-500nm)	20%
Green Light (501-600nm)	5%
Red Light (601-700nm)	75%

1100  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from 580W at 1.9  $\mu\text{mol/J}$

5 year warranty

5 year price \$1370 or \$1.29/ $\mu\text{mol/s}$

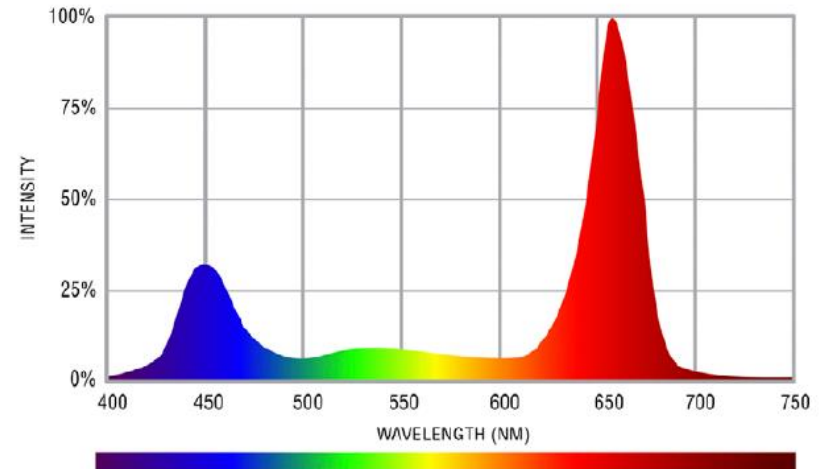
Spatial Distribution



# LED Fixtures – Illumitex Power Harvest



F3 SPECTRUM



F3 WAVELENGTH MIX

Blue (400 - 499 nm)	22.4 ± 1.3%
Green (500 - 599 nm)	13.4 ± 0.6%
Red (600 - 699 nm)	63.9 ± 0.8%
Far Red (700 - 780 nm)	0.4 ± 0.1%

1000  $\mu\text{mol/s}$  from 565W at 1.8  $\mu\text{mol/J}$

L70 50,000 hours

5 year warranty

5-year price \$1199 or \$1.20/  $\mu\text{mol/s}$

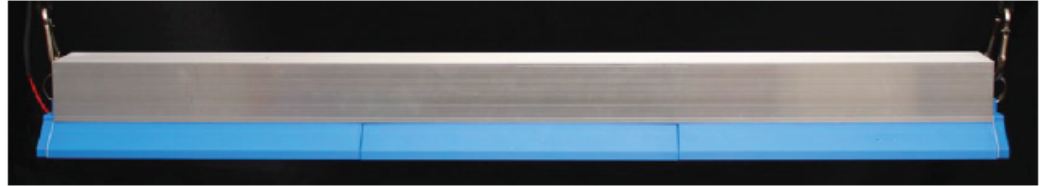
# LED Fixtures – Status

- Several choices of spectrum offered by most vendors
- Efficacy up to 40% higher than best HPS
- Most products have similar efficacy to best HPS
- Most prices are much higher than HPS for same output
- Value seems to depend on
  - Lamps outlasting the warranty
  - Greater productivity achieved through color tuning
  - More uniform distribution of light

# LED Sources– Cree Red & Blue Mix

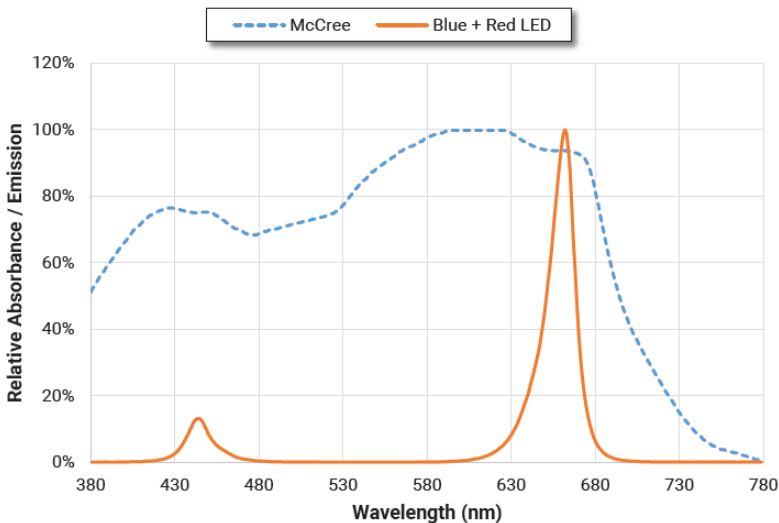
## REFERENCE DESIGN: BLUE + RED LINEAR

Small, lightweight linear luminaire optimized for chlorophyll response with uniform spectral output @ 6" distance



## System Measurements (Steady-State) - Excludes Driver Losses

Output Mode	Low	Medium	High
Blue LED Current	350 mA	700 mA	1000 mA
Red LED Current	175 mA	350 mA	500 mA
PPF	144 $\mu\text{mol/s}$	240 $\mu\text{mol/s}$	311 $\mu\text{mol/s}$
PPF/W	3.2 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	2.9 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	2.6 $\mu\text{mol/J}$
Power	45 W	82 W	119 W
LED Tsp	45 °C	65 °C	90 °C



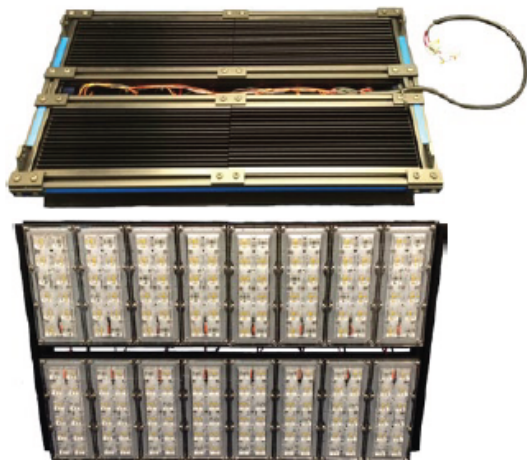
Cost of 108 chips –  
\$124 at  $\text{\textcircled{\$0.40 } \mu\text{mol/s}}$

# LED Sources– Cree White & Red Mix

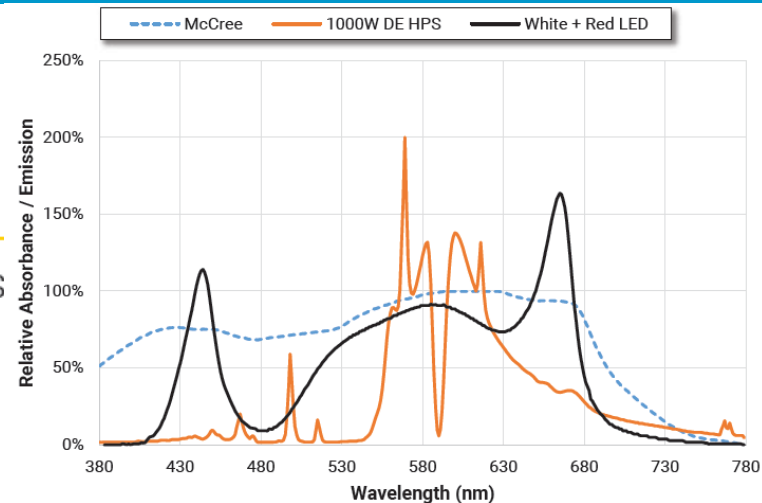
## REFERENCE DESIGN: WHITE + RED HIGH BAY

Modular design employing 4 engines - designed to match PPFD of 1000-W DE HPS

### System Measurements (Steady-State)



PPFD Average	320 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ @ 4.9 ft
PPF/W	1.82 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{J}$
Power	553 W
Dimensions (LWH)	25" x 15" x 3" / 63 cm x 38 cm x 8 cm
Weight	27 lbs / 12.2 kg



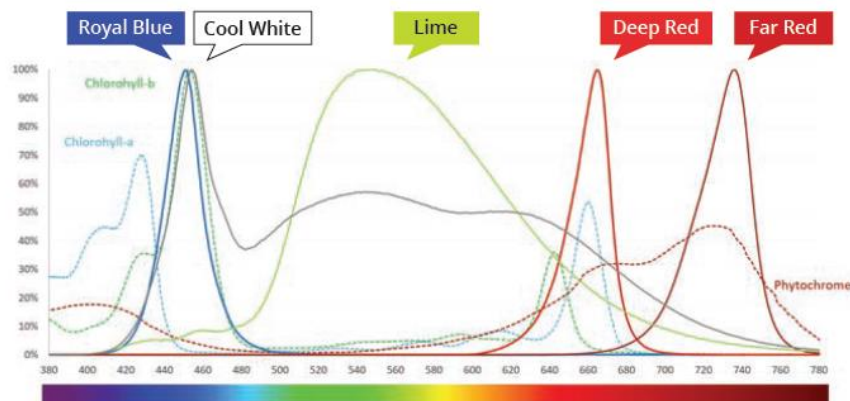
Cost of 192 chips - \$188 at  $\$0.19 \mu\text{mol}/\text{s}$



# LED Sources– Lumileds SunPlus Series




LUXEON SunPlus Series product performance at test conditions.

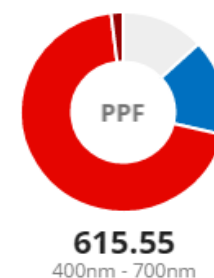
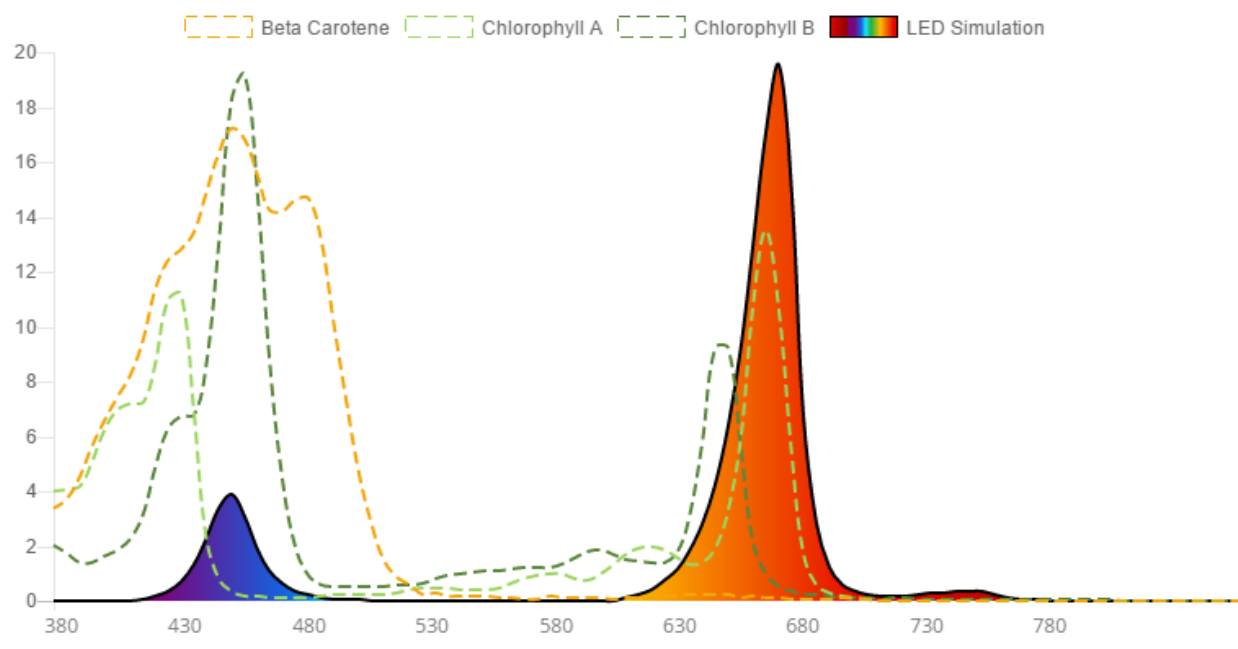
PRODUCT	COLOR	PEAK WAVELENGTH (nm)		PPF ( $\mu\text{mol/s}$ ) <sup>[1]</sup> in PAR (400 to 700nm) <sup>[2]</sup>		PPF/W TYPICAL ( $\mu\text{mol/J}$ )
		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	TYPICAL	
LUXEON SunPlus 20 Line	Far Red	720	750	1.10	1.19 <sup>[3]</sup>	1.97
	Deep Red	655	670	1.60	1.72	2.56
	Royal Blue	445	455	1.90	2.04	2.11
	Lime	–	–	1.50	1.59	1.66
	Cool White	–	–	1.40	1.51	1.57



Cost of 360 chips - \$545

# LED Sources – SunPlus On-Line Design Guide

Color	Part Number	# LEDs	Current [mA]	Tj [°C]		Forward Voltage	Photosynthetic Photon Efficacy	Electrical Power
	L1SP-DRD0002000000 (Deep Red) ▼	300	350 [50 - 1200]	85 [-25 - 135]	⊖	1.92 V	2.55 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	201.99 W
	L1SP-RYL0002000000 (Royal Blue) ▼	50	350 [10 - 1200]	85 [0 - 135]	⊖	2.73 V	2.08 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	47.69 W
	L1SP-FRD0002000000 (Far Red) ▼	10	350 [100 - 1200]	85 [-25 - 135]	⊖	1.73 V	0.18 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	6.05 W



$\mu\text{mol/J}$	WPE
2.41 $\mu\text{mol/J}$	48.0 %
Elec. Power	R-B Ratio
255.73 W	4.46

TOTAL	380nm - 850nm	630.61 $\mu\text{mol/s}$
Blue	420nm - 480nm	95.96 $\mu\text{mol/s}$
Red	620nm - 670nm	427.64 $\mu\text{mol/s}$
FarRed	710nm - 750nm	11.53 $\mu\text{mol/s}$

# LED Sources – SunPlus Design Guide Results

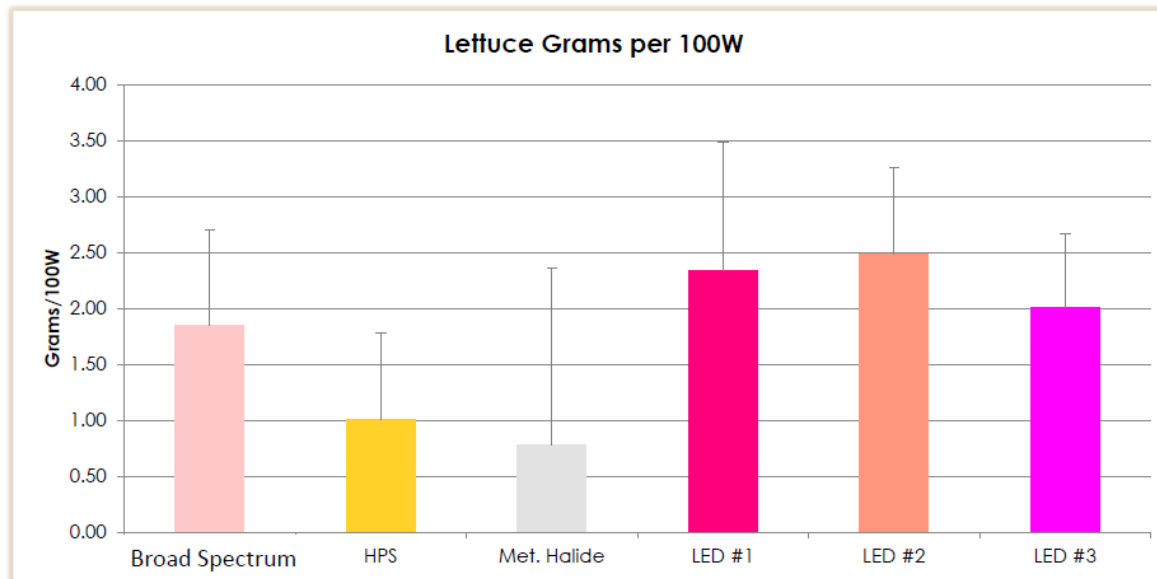
Using fewer chips at high current reduces purchase cost,  
but increases cost of electricity  
and reduces lifetime

Current	T <sub>j</sub>	Power	Light	B/R	Efficiency		Cost
mA	°C	W	μmol/s	ratio	μmol/J	WPE	\$/μmol/s
350	85	256	631	4.5%	2.41	48%	0.86
700	85	559	1218	4.8%	2.13	42%	0.44
1050	85	902	1753	5.0%	1.9	38%	0.31
1050	25	1000	2006	5.5%	1.96	39%	0.27
1050	135	859	1338	4.0%	1.52	30%	0.40

# Effect of Color Tuning on Plant Size

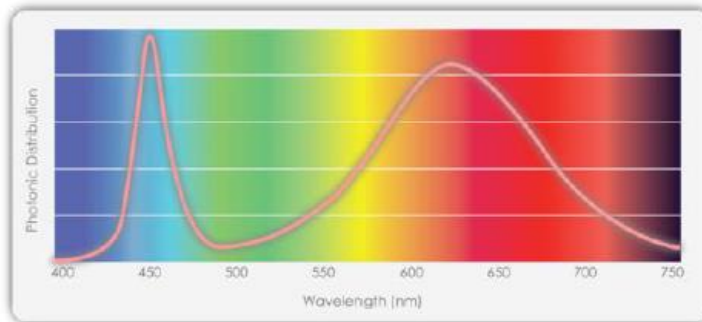
- LED 1 (1/3 Blue, 2/3 Red),
- Led 2 (30% Blue, 25% White, 45% Red),
- LED 3 (60% Blue, 40% Red),
- Broad Spectrum (Blue 18%, Green 24%, Red 51%, Far Red 7%)

## West Virginia University Testing - Results

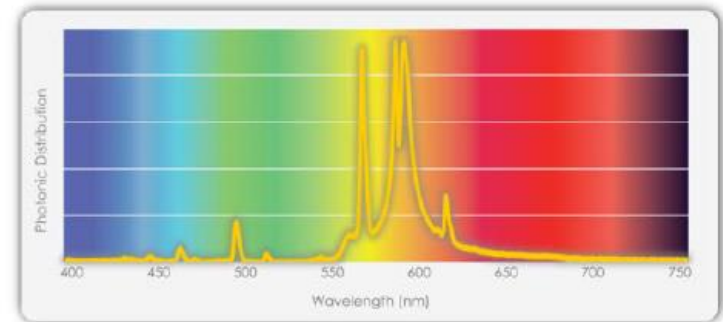


# Effect of Color Tuning on Plant Size

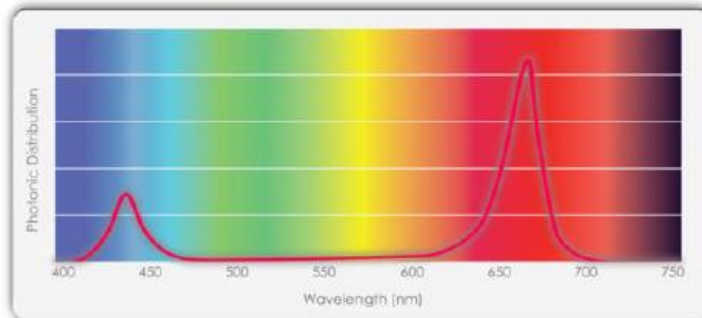
## West Virginia University Testing - Spectra



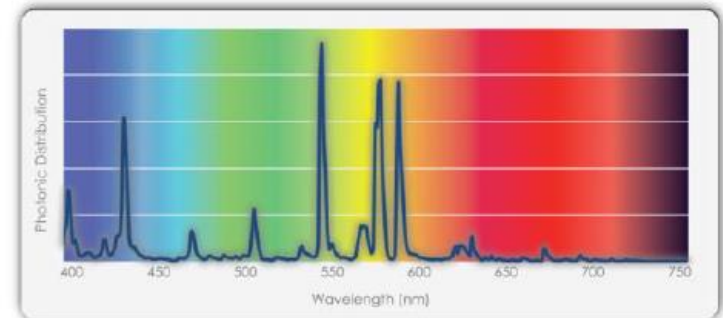
Broad Grow Spectrum



High Pressure Sodium Spectrum



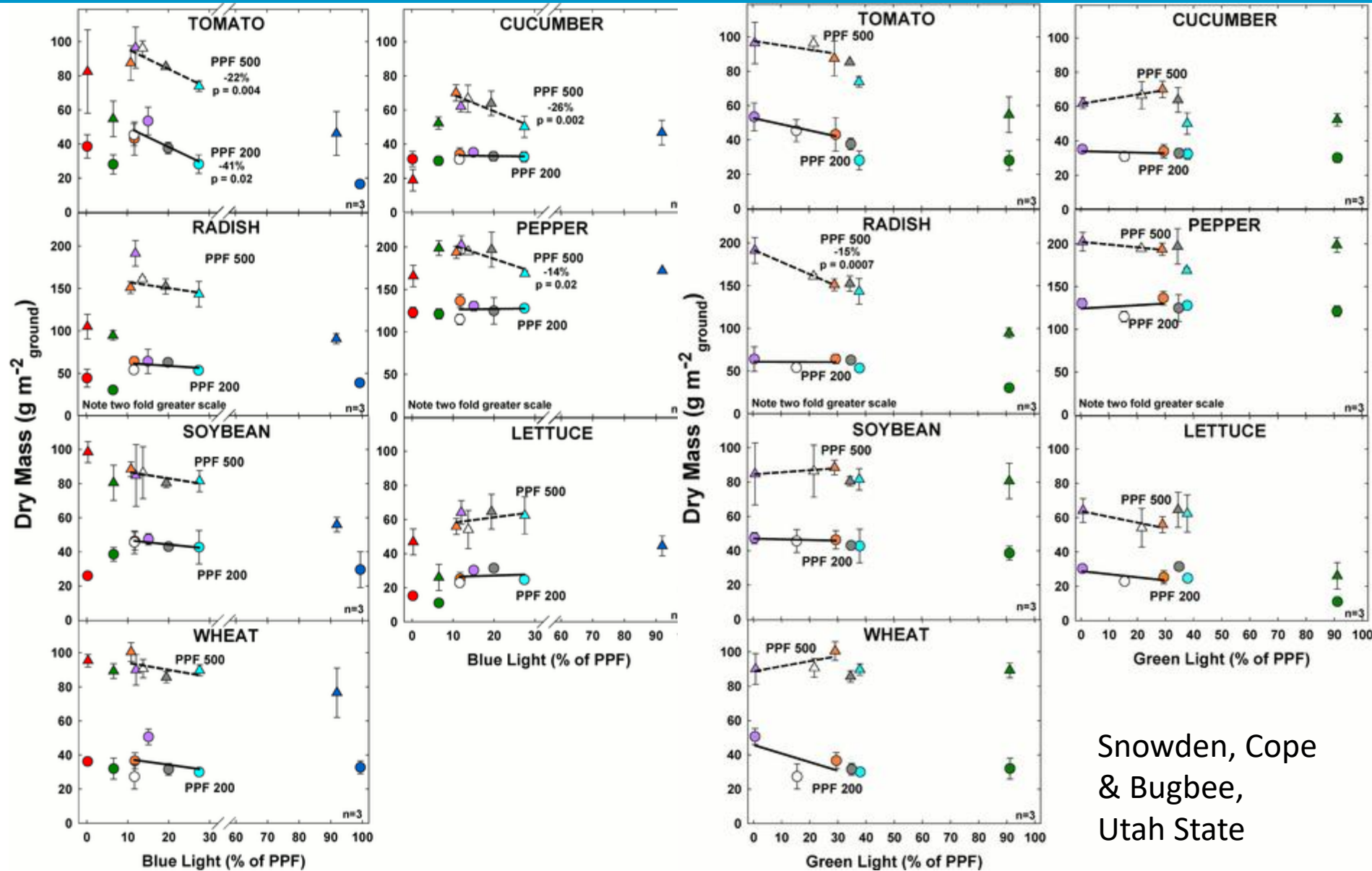
Typical LEDs (multiple versions)



Metal Halide Spectrum

Preliminary Tests— *“All plants we have tested (petunia, basil, and tomato) looked healthier under Broad Spectrum lighting and used far less energy than the competing light sources”*

# Effect of Color Tuning on Plant Size



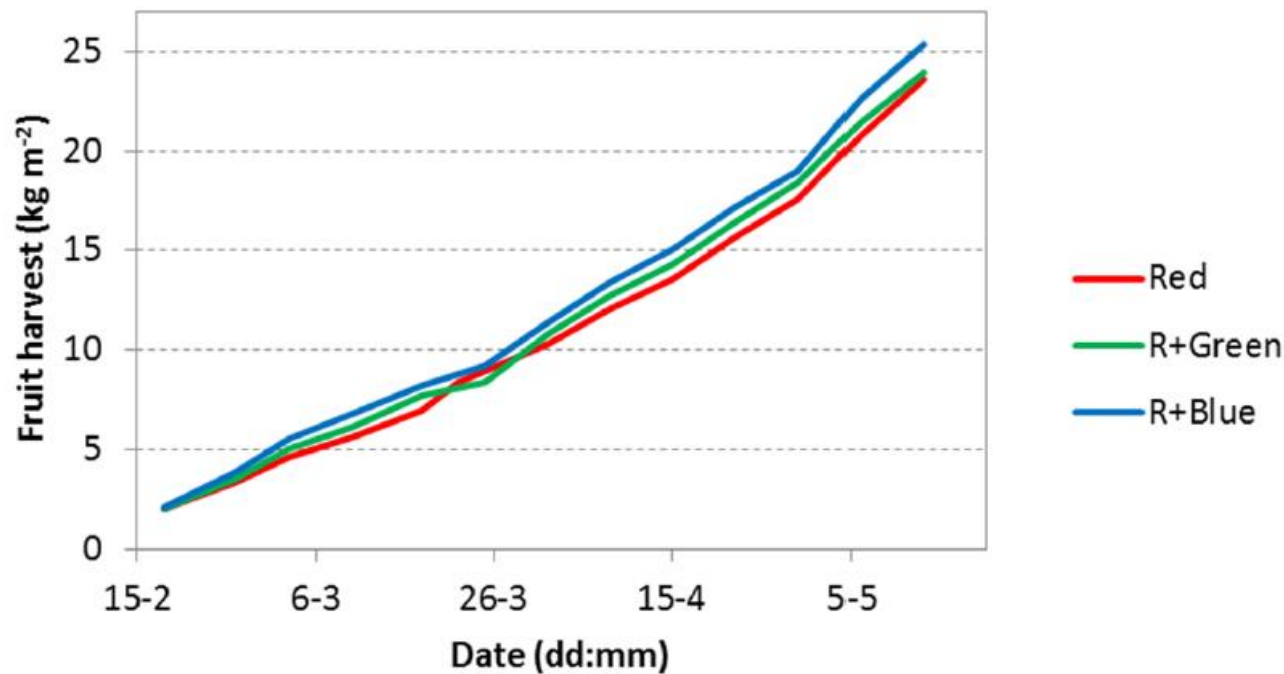
Snowden, Cope  
& Bugbee,  
Utah State



# Effect of Color Tuning on Plant Size

Dynamic lighting strategies: start the day with 3 h blue or green light, proceed with red light (tomato)

- Effect on plant architecture and light interception
- Production increase (especially blue: 8%)

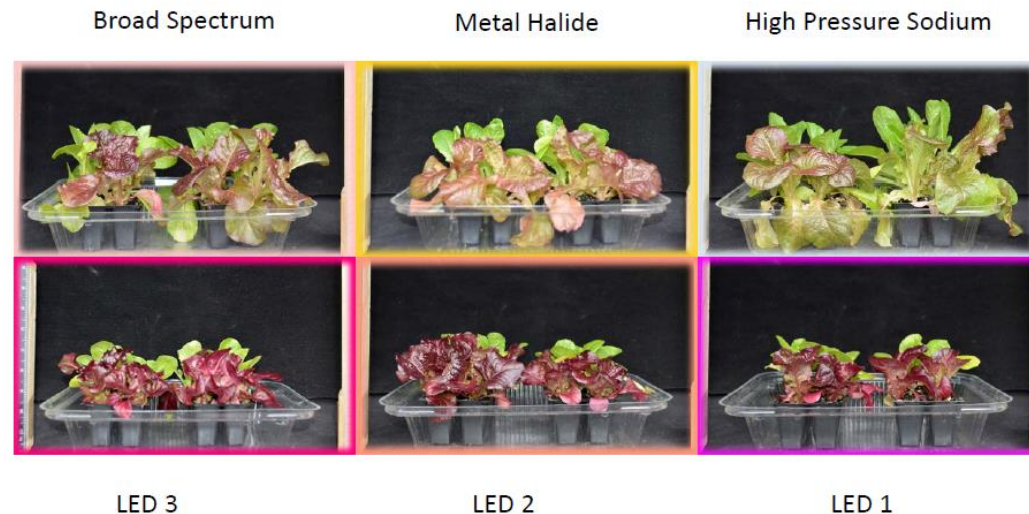
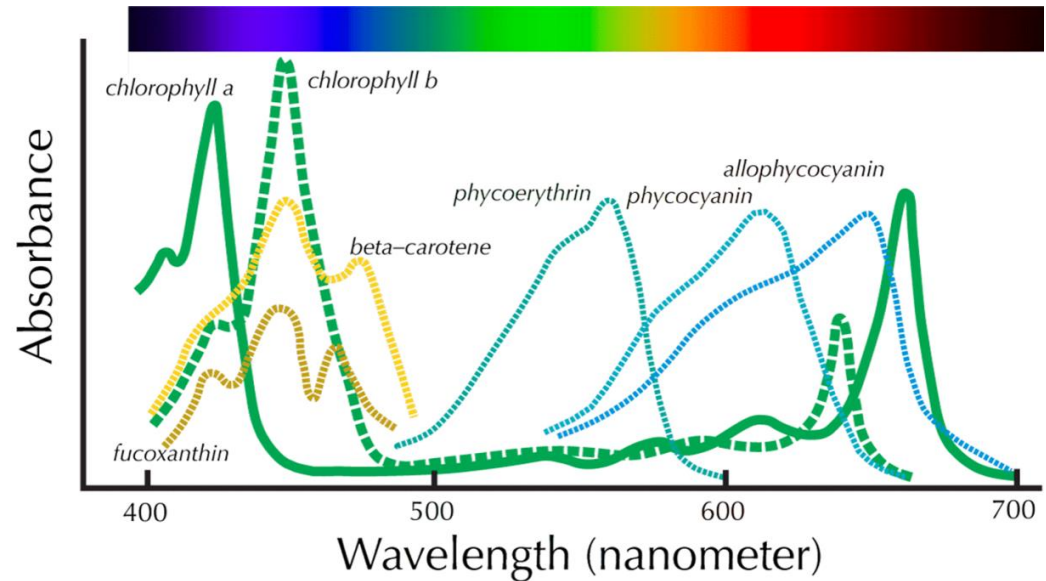




# Plant Quality and Nutritional Value

- Chlorophyll content
- Antioxidant
- Carotenoid
- Vitamin C
- Anthocyanin
- Polyphenol
- Lutein
- Nitrates
- Root development
- Stomatal (pore) opening
- Flavor
- Sugar content
- Color
- Disease resistance

## Pigment Absorption



# System Integration

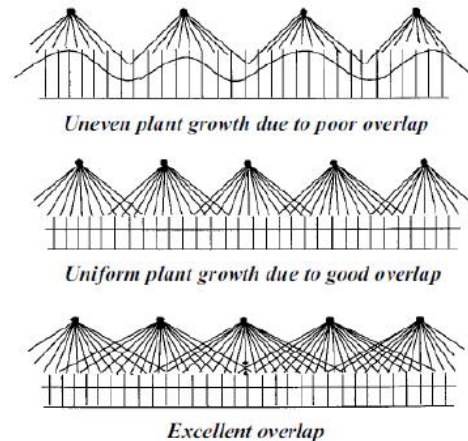
*Nadia Sabeh – Dr Greenhouse at Strategies in Light 2017*

## Lighting Impacts on Facility Design

- Electrical Panel Size and Service
- Structural Support of Equipment
- Lighting Plan
  - spacing, height, number
- Interior reflectors/Interlighting
- **HVAC System**
- **Irrigation System**
- Renewable Energy System
- Generator Size

*See also*

*<http://urbanagnews.com/magazine/issue-16>*

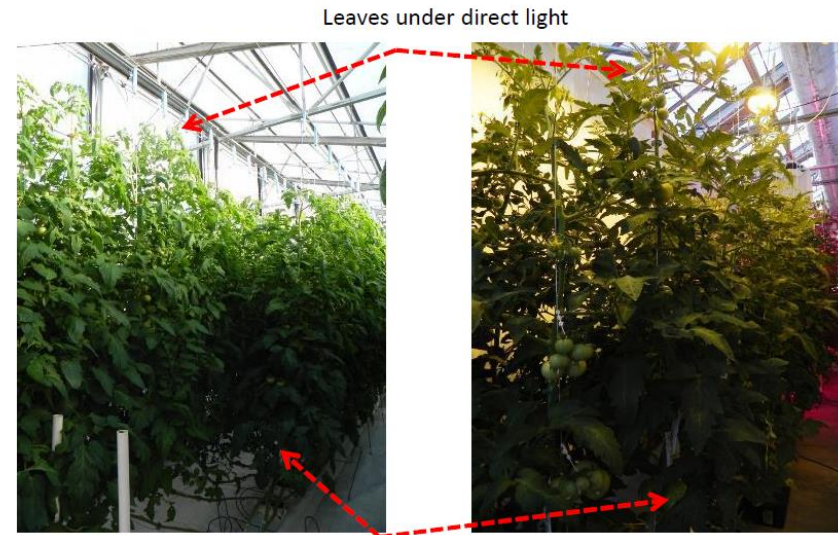
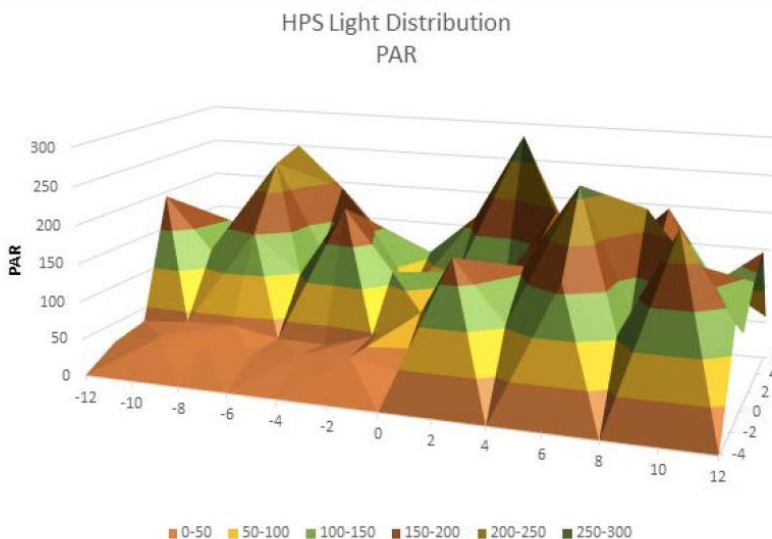
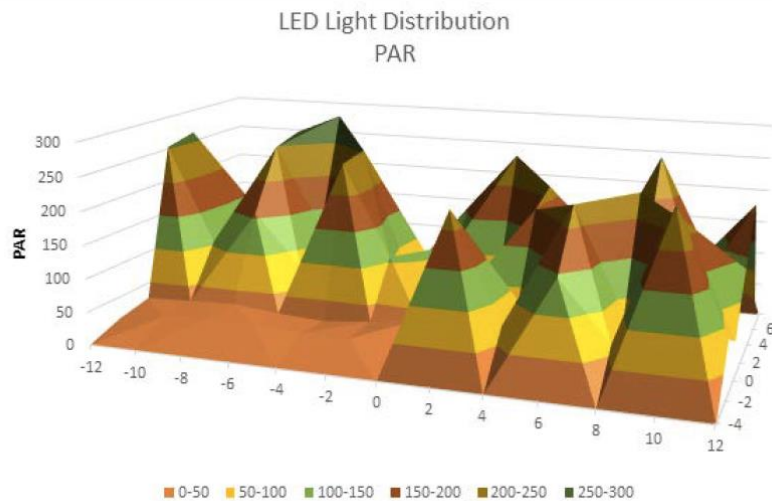




# Light Distribution

*Conservation Applied Research & Development  
Minnesota Department of Commerce*

*Source: Celina Gomez & Cary Mitchell  
(U Purdue)  
Lamps from Orbitec*



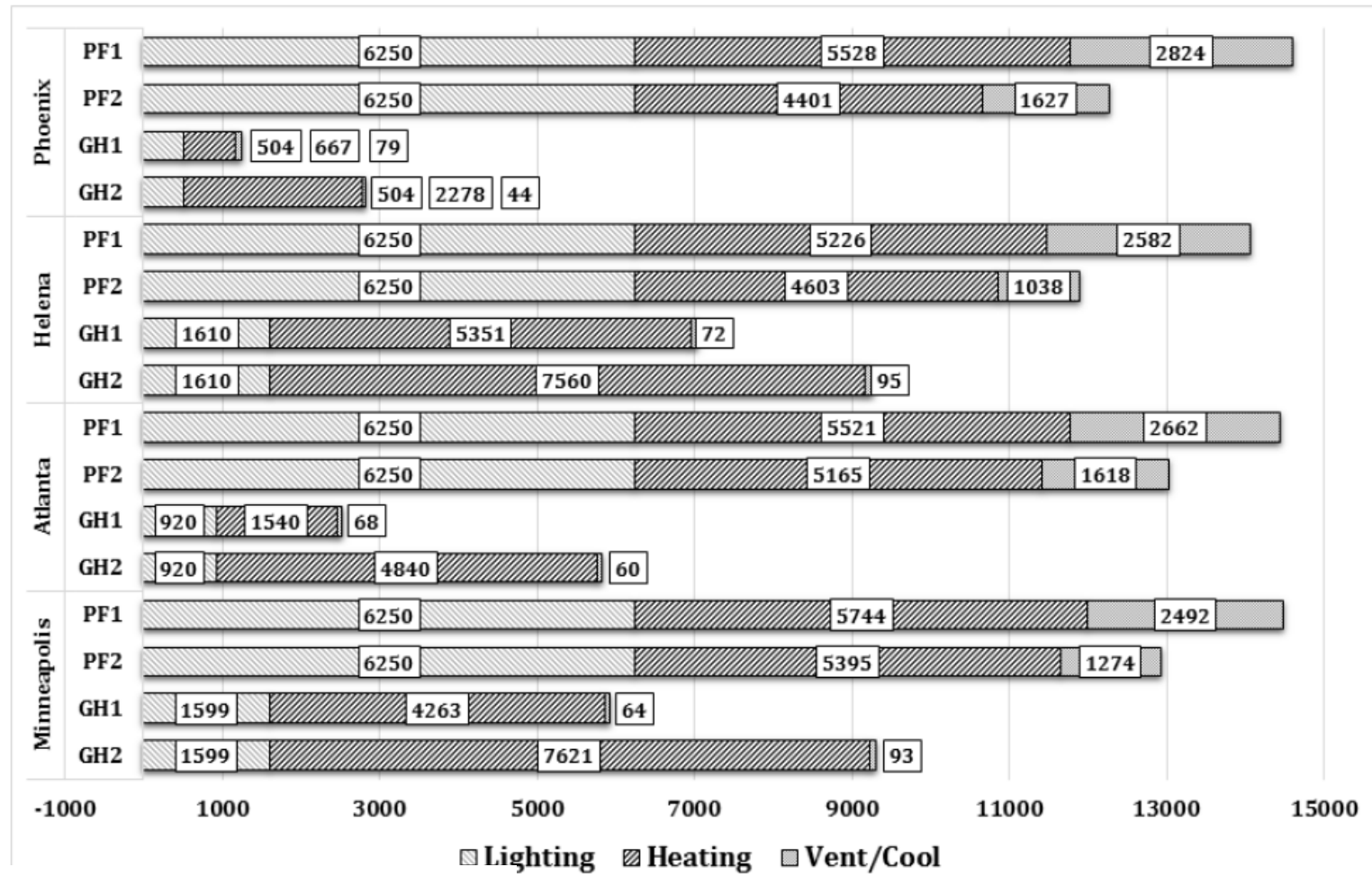
# Energy Use in Greenhouses & Plant Factory

K. Harbick and L.D. Albright, Cornell University

Energy in GJ  
( 278 kWh)

Area of 1712m<sup>2</sup>

LED or HPS with  
efficacy of  
1.7  $\mu\text{mol/J}$





# Focus on Energy

2<sup>nd</sup> largest production input (after labor)

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

Imported to NY

Transport 2,963 miles

0.7 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>/lb lettuce



Locally Grown

Central NY light/heat

2.0 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>/lb lettuce



Advances in

- Lighting
- Reducing heat loss
- Greenhouse control

0.6 lbs CO<sub>2</sub>/lb lettuce



*Neil Mattson, Cornell University*



# Conclusions

- Horticultural applications are very challenging for LEDs
- More research on effects on specific plants is needed
- Plant health and nutritional value are important
- LED efficiency needs to be increased and price reduced
- LED reliability and lifetime are critical
- Effects on total system must be taken into account
- Environmental effects must be further evaluated
- Be skeptical about expectations for market growth

# With Thanks to the Experts

- Kale Harbick & Neil Mattson, Cornell University
- Nadia Sabeh, Dr. Greenhouse
- Chris Higgins, Hort Americas
- Eri Hayashi & Toyoki Kozai, Japan Plant Factory Association
- R.G. Lopez & Erik Runkle, Michigan State University
- John Burr and Cary Mitchell, Purdue University
- Tessa Pocock, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Bruce Bugbee, Utah State University
- Bob Koontz and Jeff Mastin, Venntis
- Anja Dieleman, Wageningen University



# Questions for BRICS Representatives

- How large is the market for expensive produce in your country?
- How much is artificial lighting used in growing plants?
- How much do your farmers pay for electricity?
- What is the typical efficiency of horticultural lamps?
- What is the typical cost of horticultural lamps?
- Would you be willing to help to analyze your market?
- If so please contact me at

[jnbard@pacbell.net](mailto:jnbard@pacbell.net)

Back-up Slides

# Rationale for Urban Plant Factories

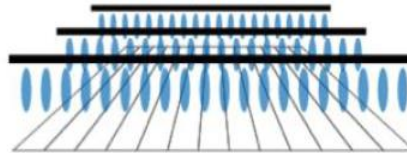
## Four Global Agriculture Challenges we can Address

#1 Pesticide use



leading to:  
Agricultural runoff  
Ocean Acidification

#2 Fresh water use



80 % of all freshwater  
is used in agriculture

#3 Food transport



leads to:  
Significant food waste  
Greenhouse gas emissions

#4 Rapid urbanization



Expected 10 billion people globally by 2050  
80% urban population by 2050  
Increasing demand for food in cities

Explore our infographic to learn  
more about vertical farming and  
the problems it can solve:  
[vertical-farming.net/info/](https://vertical-farming.net/info/)

# Promises of Urban Plant Factories

## Vertical Farming Benefits II

- Less food waste
- Less land use
- Less food miles
- Faster to consumer (fresher)
- Guaranteed food safety
- No heavy metals/pesticides
- Up to 98% less water
- 2-3x faster growth rates
- High vitamin and mineral content
- Uniform and exceptional flavor
- Uniform yield

