



Critical Soil Test Values of Phosphorus and Potassium for Corn and Soybean in North Carolina

Luke Gatiboni

Associate Professor and Soil fertility Extension Specialist

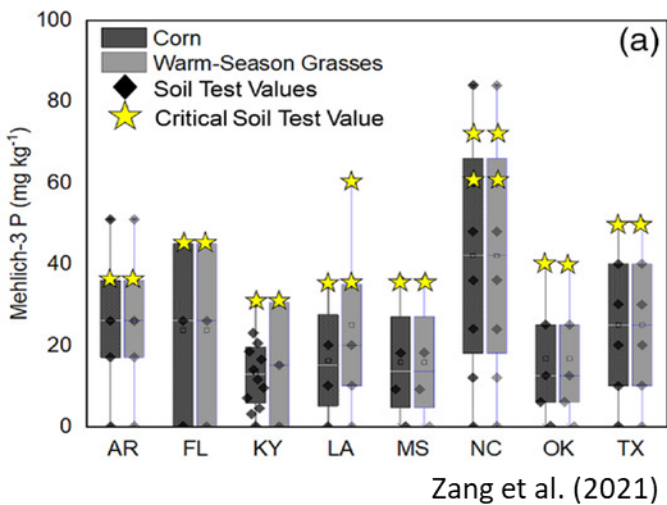
Crop and Soil Sciences Department

NC State University

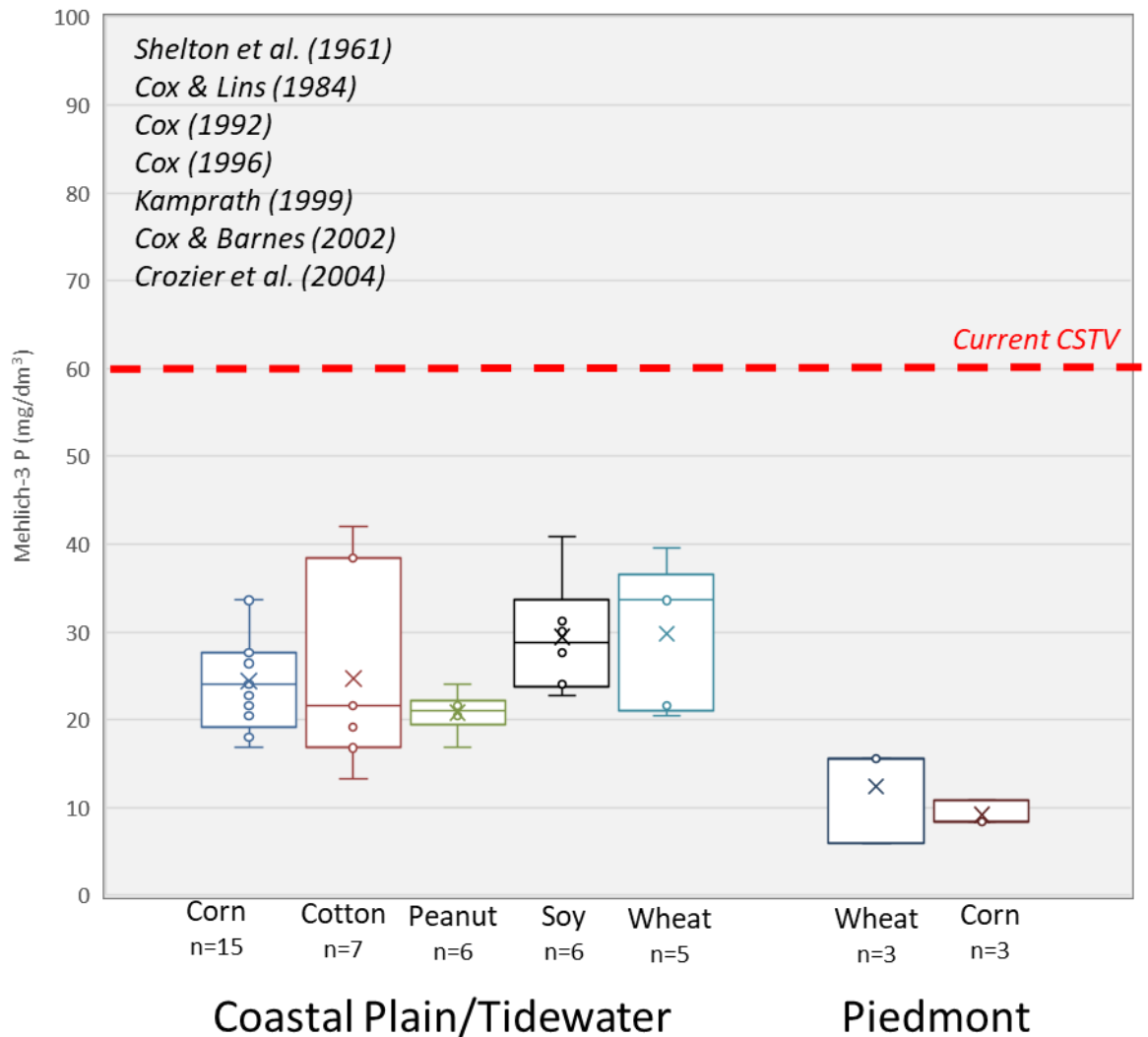
Luke_Gatiboni@ncsu.edu

P CSTVs in NC soils and Crops

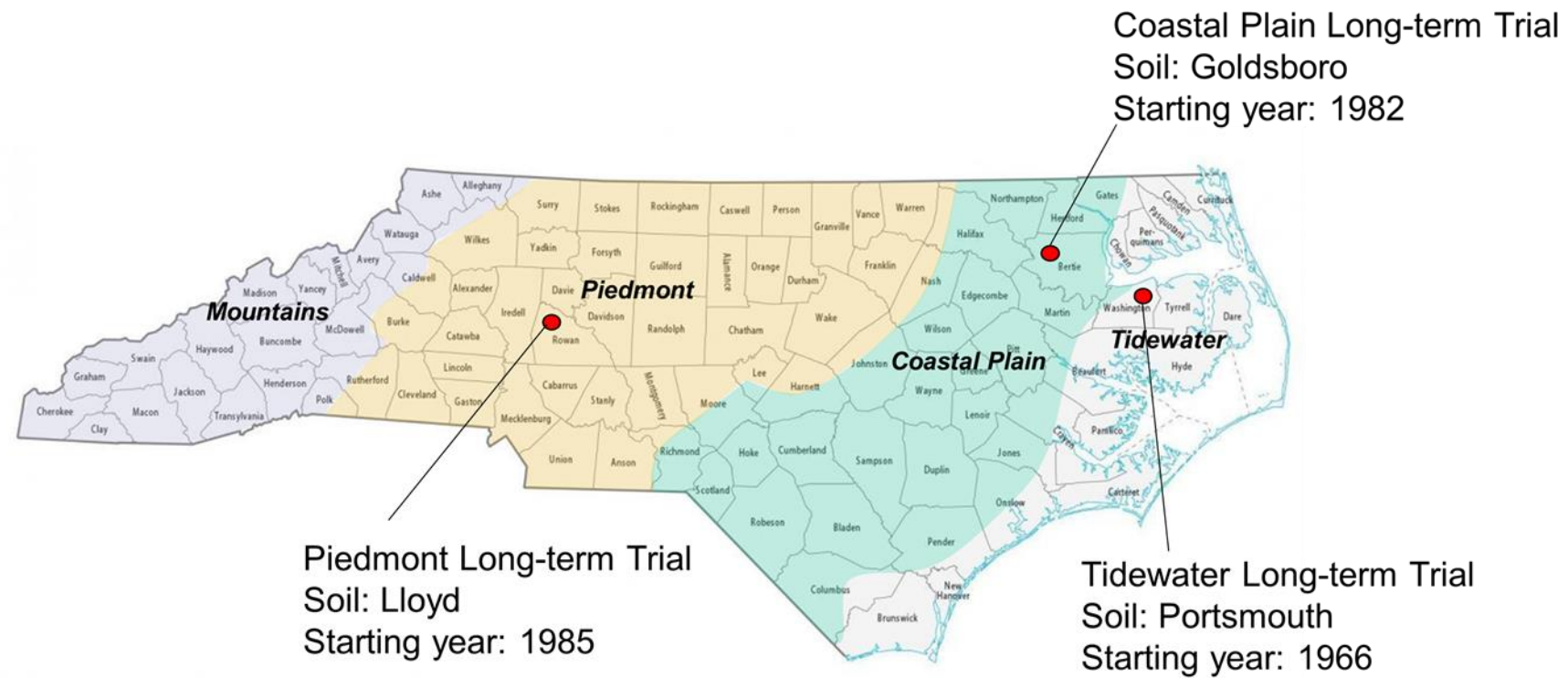
Range of CSTVs in the Southern U.S.



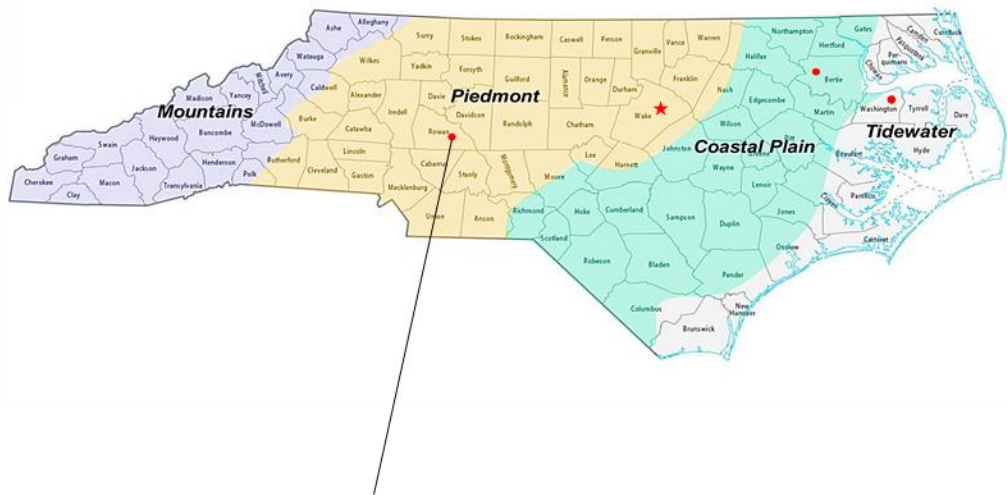
Zang et al. (2021)



Long-term soil fertility trials in North Carolina



Piedmont Long-term Trial



Location: Piedmont Res. Station

County: Rowan

Soil: Lloyd (**50% clay**)

Starting year: 1985 (39 years)

Tillage system: No-till

Total acreage: 0.55 acres



Piedmont Long-term Trial

Fertilization and sampling

Rates of P and K in 2022 and 2023

Treatment	Cropping year	
	2022	2023
	P rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
P1	0	0
P2	5	7
P3	10	15
P4	20	29
	K rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
K1	0	0
K2	37	37
K3	75	75
K4	112	149

- Soil Sampling: 0-10 cm depth
- Tissue sampling at VT (corn) or R1/R2 (soybean)



Phosphorus - Piedmont Site

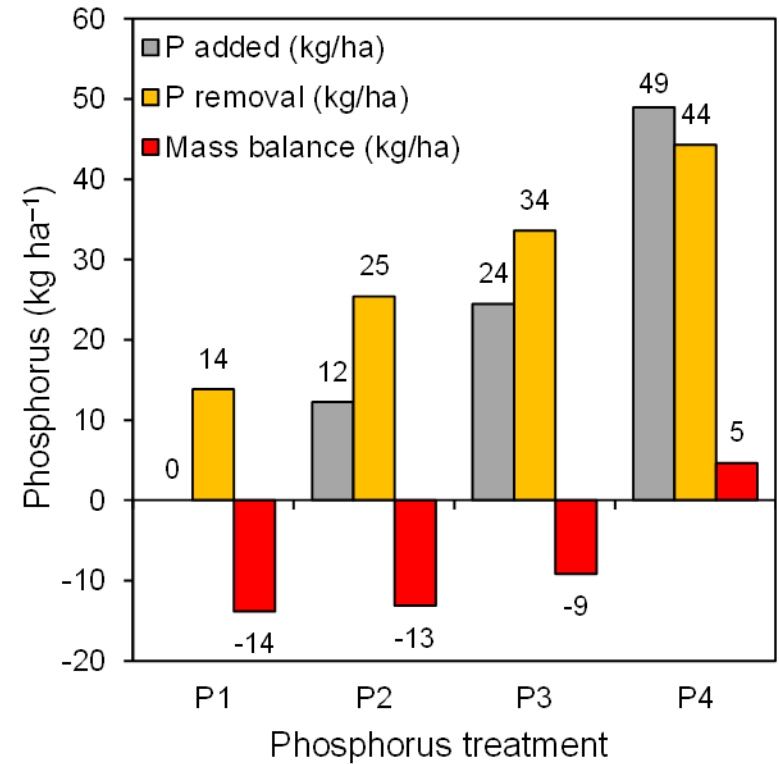
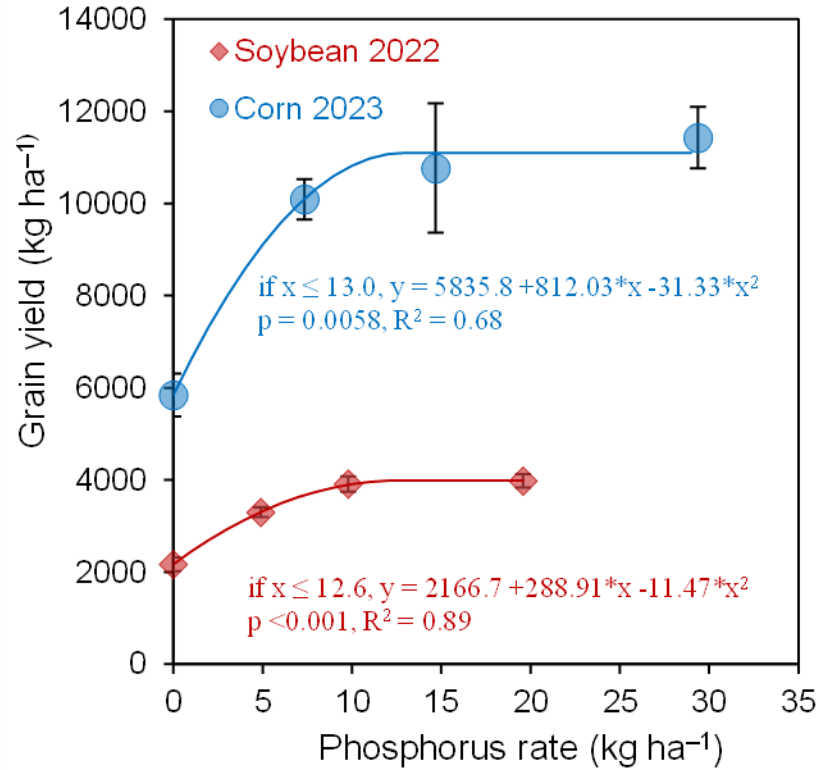
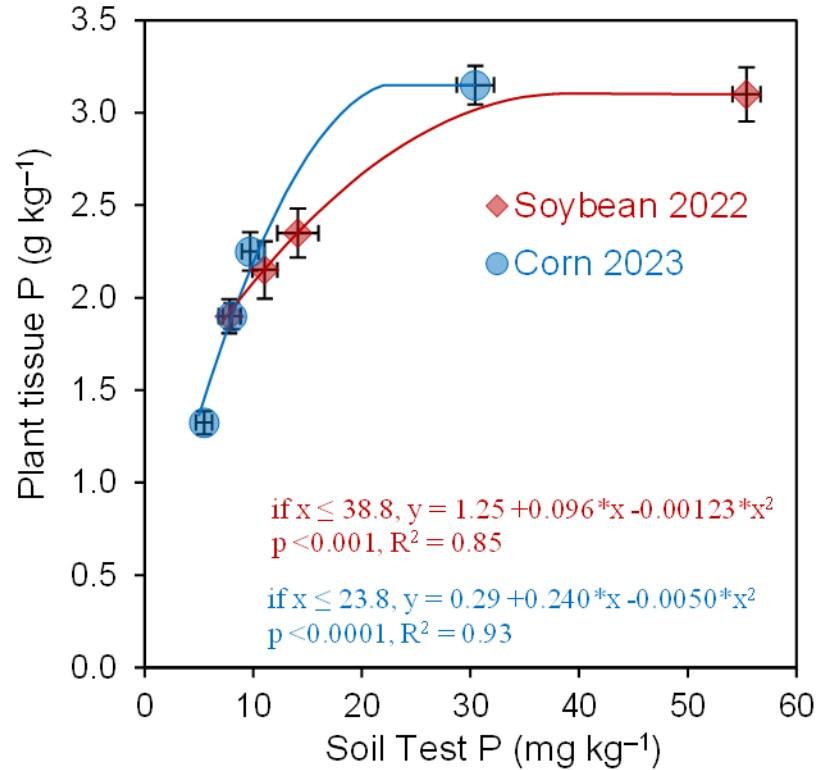


P1 = 0 kg ha⁻¹



P4 = 29 kg ha⁻¹

Effect of P rates on tissue P, yield, and mass balance

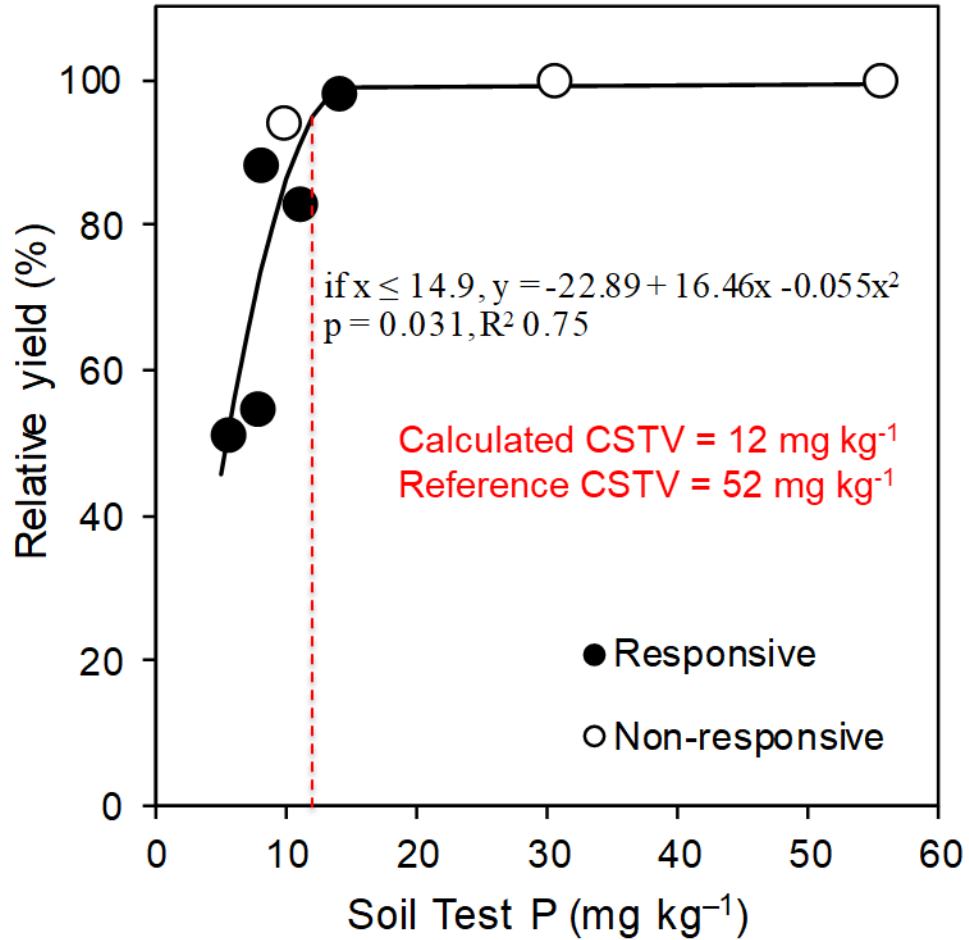


Average grain yield NC

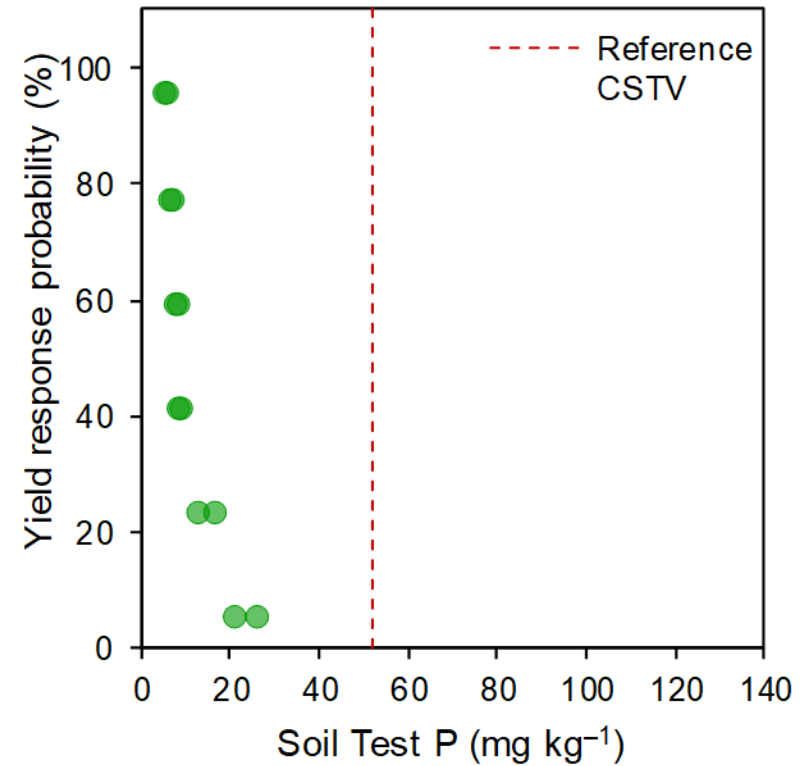
Soybean (2022) = 2589 kg ha⁻¹ (38.5 bu ac⁻¹)

Corn (2023) = 9227 kg ha⁻¹ (147 bu ac⁻¹)

Relative Yield and P-CSTV



Response Frequency



Potassium - Piedmont Site

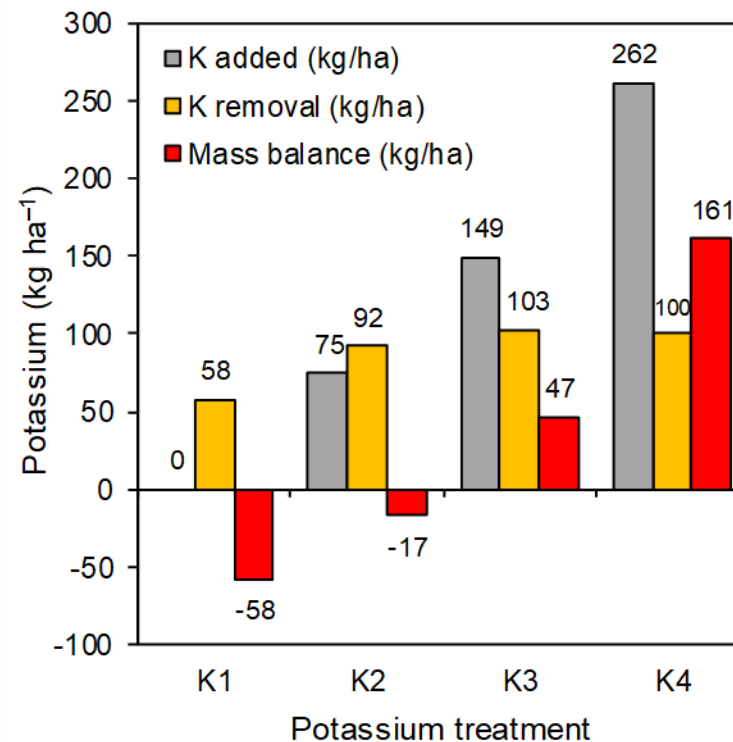
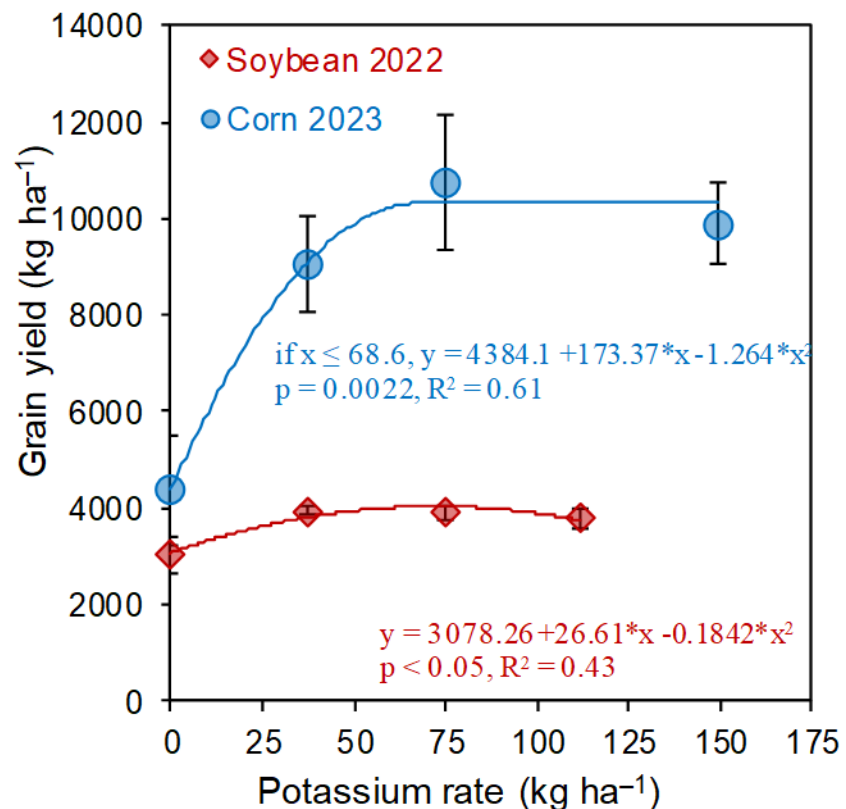
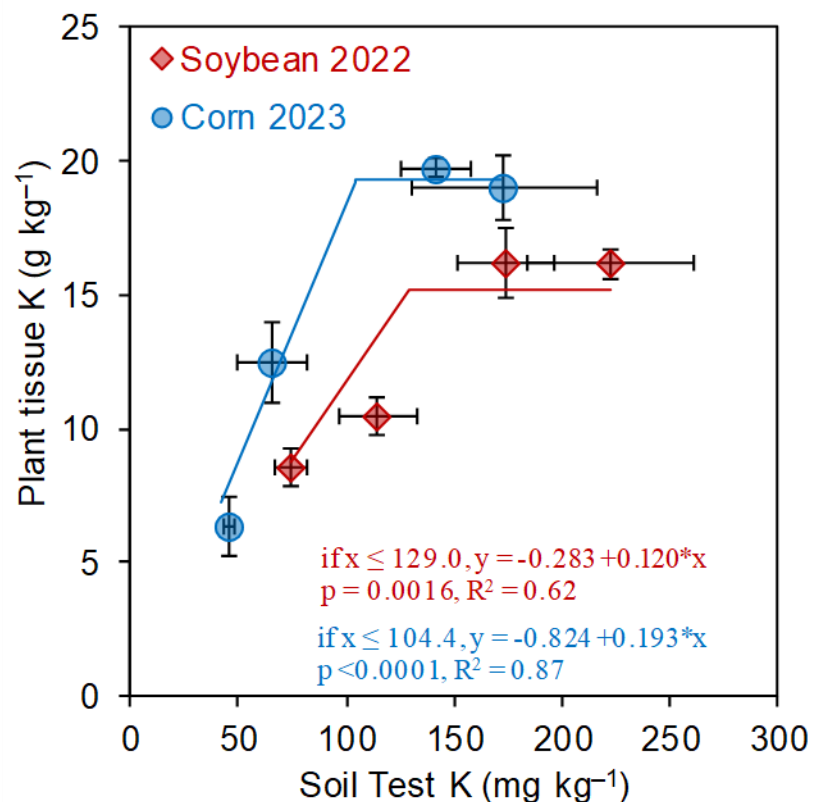


K1 = 0 kg ha⁻¹



K4 = 149 kg ha⁻¹

Effect of K rates on tissue K, yield, and mass balance

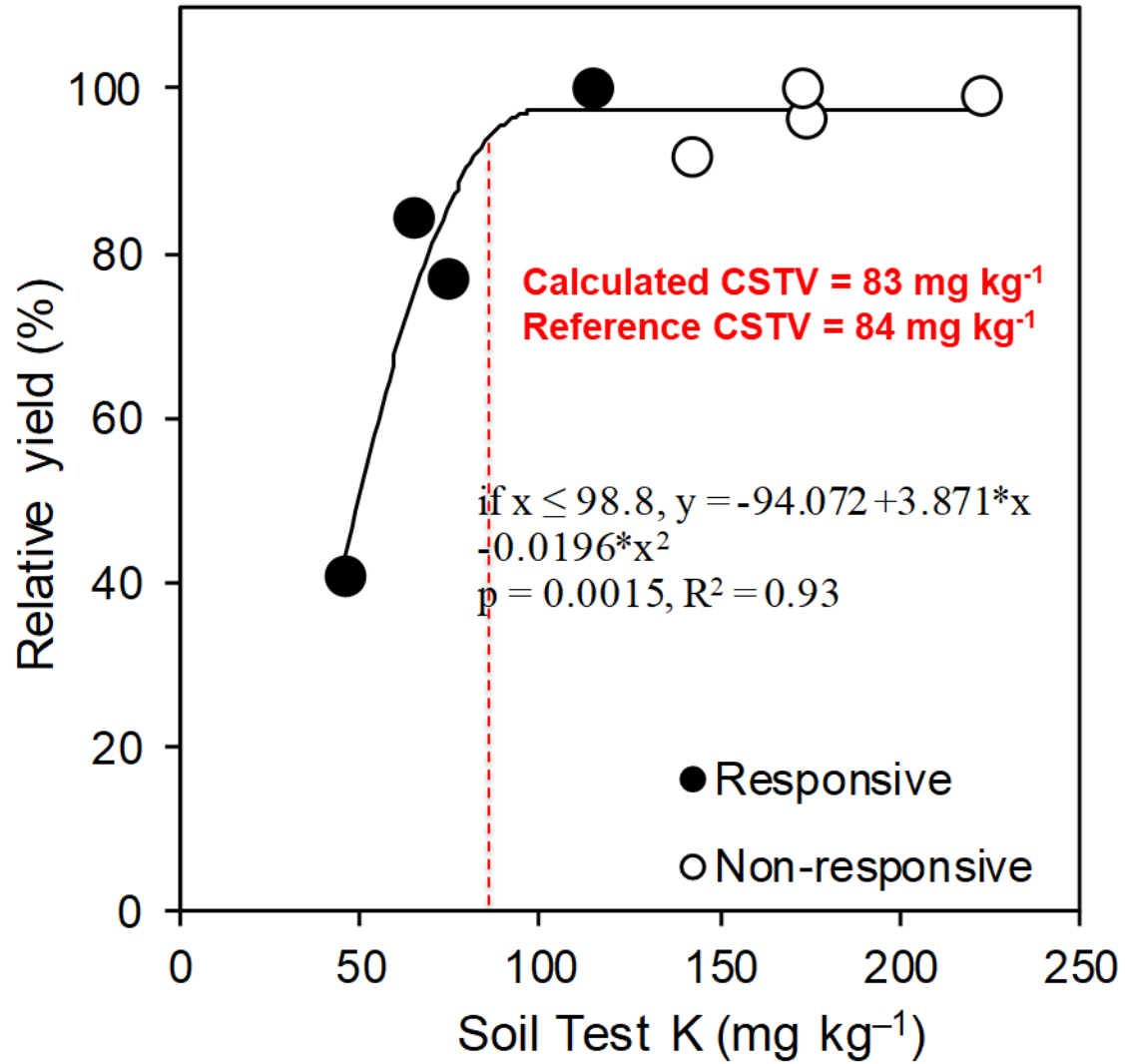


Average grain yield NC

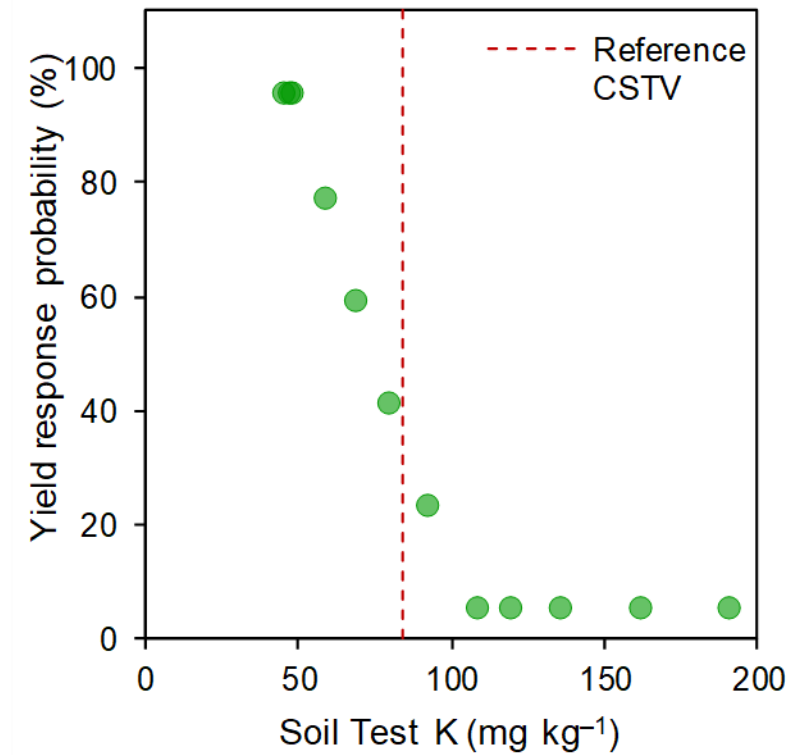
Soybean (2022) = 2589 kg ha⁻¹ (38.5 bu ac⁻¹)

Corn (2023) = 9227 kg ha⁻¹ (147 bu ac⁻¹)

Relative Yield and K-CSTV



Response Frequency



Coastal Plain Long-term Trial

Location: Peanut Belt Res. Station

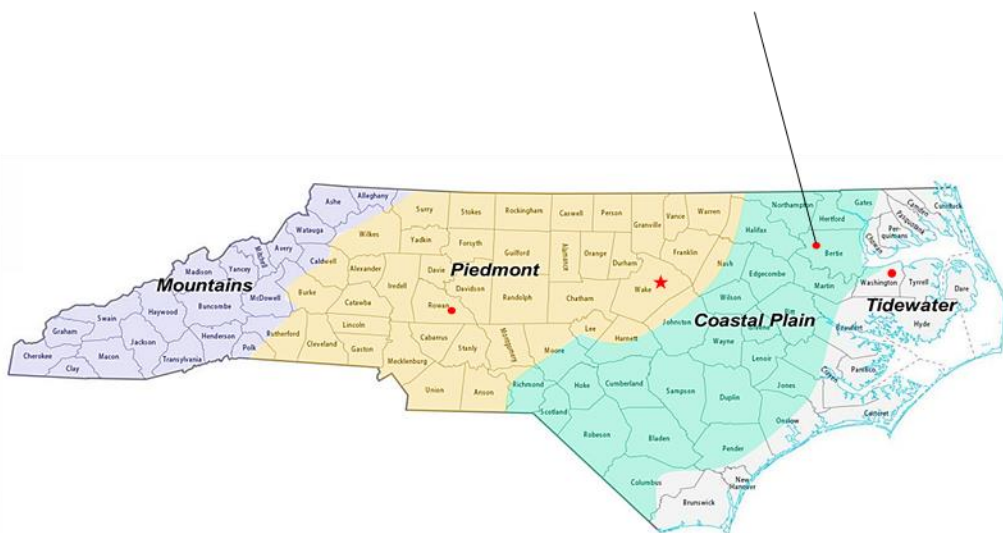
County: Bertie

Soil: Goldsboro (10% clay)

Starting year: 1982 (42 years)

Tillage system: Conventional tillage

Acreage: 1.3 acres



Coastal Plain Long-term Trial Description

Rates of P and K applied in 2022 and 2023

Treatment	Cropping year	
	2022	2023
	P rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
P1	0	0
P2	11	10
P3	22	20
P4	44	39
	K rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
K1	0	0
K2	37	37
K3	75	75
K4	112	112

- Soil Sampling: 0-20 cm depth
- Tissue sampling at VT (corn) or R1/R2 (soybean)

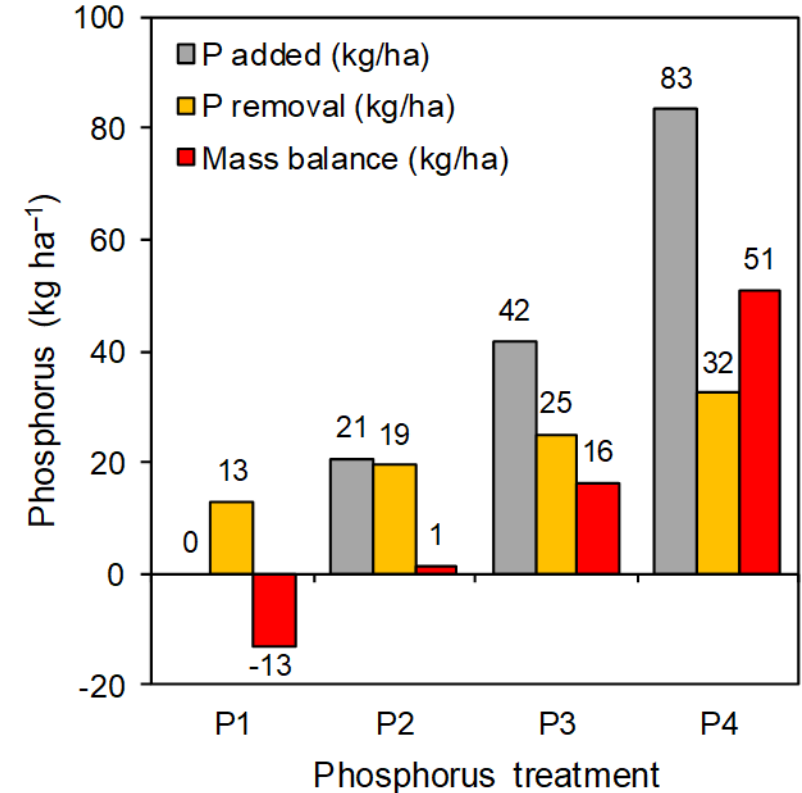
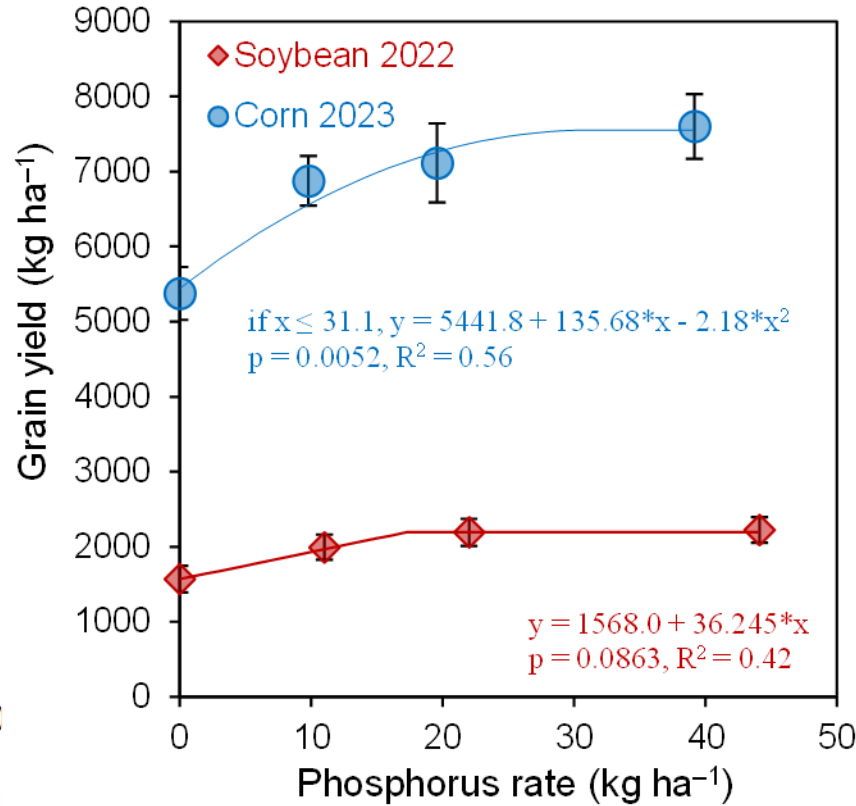
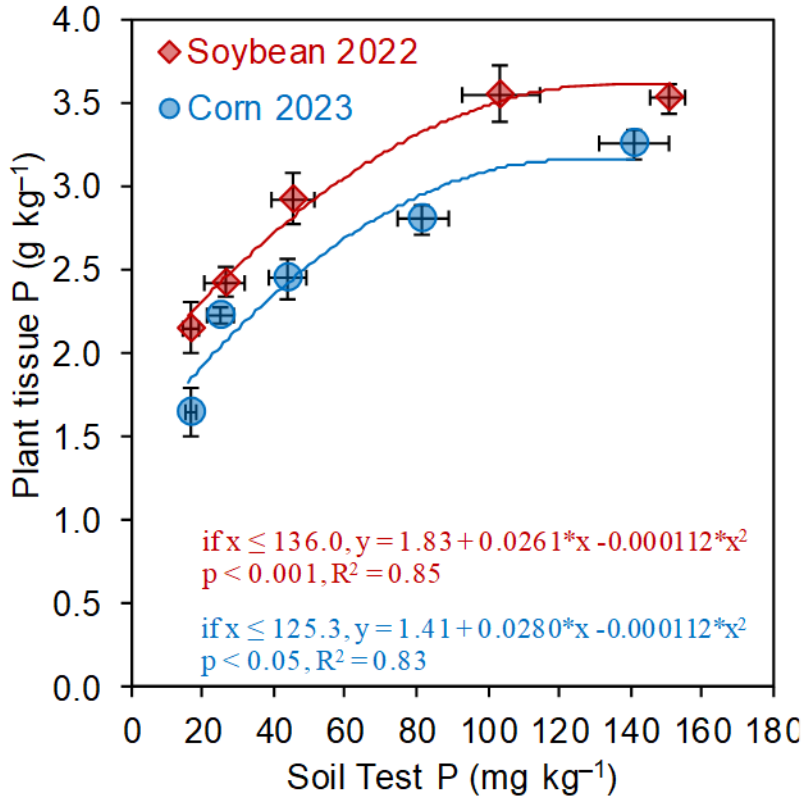


Phosphorus - Coastal Plain Site



P1	P2	P3	P4
0 kg ha⁻¹	10 kg ha⁻¹	20 kg ha⁻¹	39 kg ha⁻¹

Effect of P rates on tissue P, yield, and mass balance

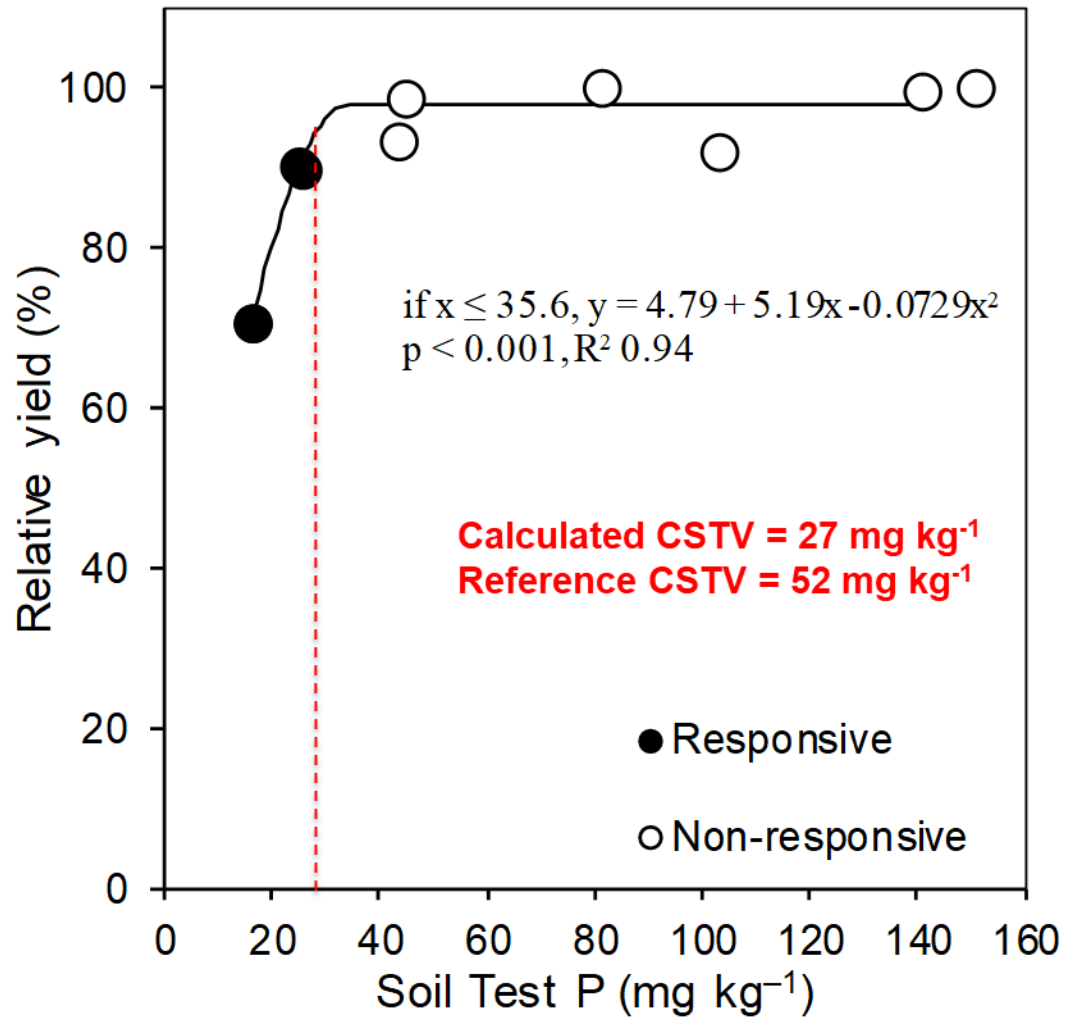


Average grain yield NC

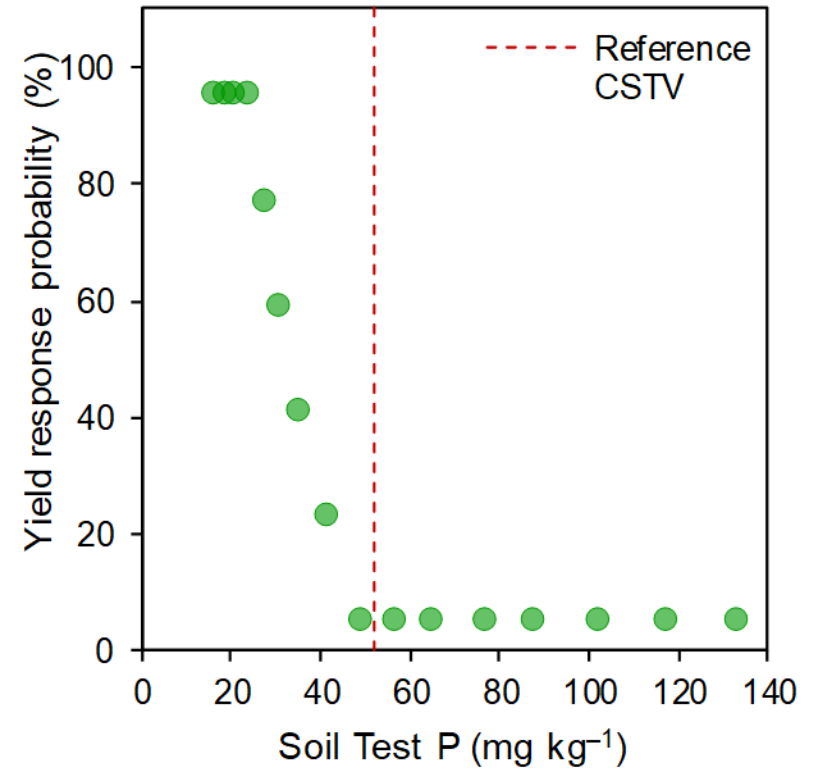
Soybean (2022) = 2589 kg ha⁻¹ (38.5 bu ac⁻¹)

Corn (2023) = 9227 kg ha⁻¹ (147 bu ac⁻¹)

Relative Yield and P-CSTV



Response Frequency



Potassium - Coastal Plain Site

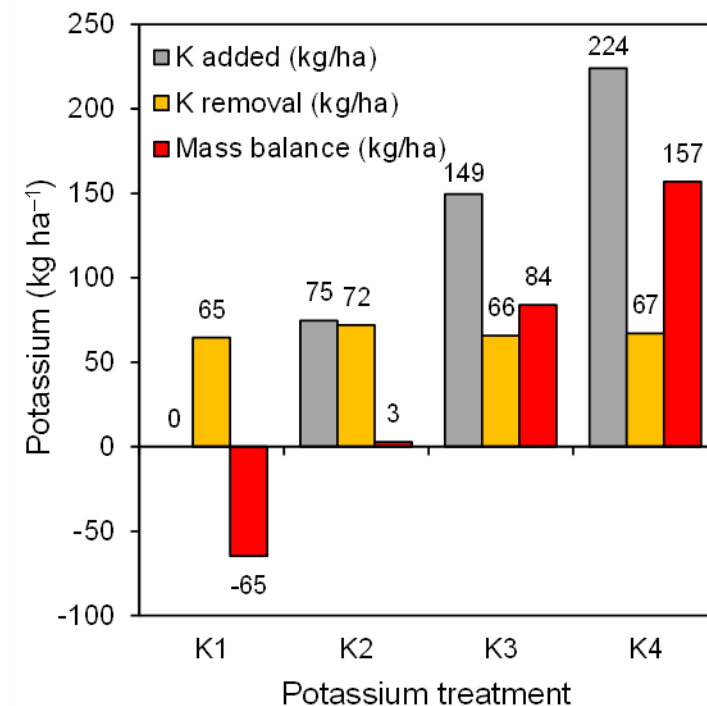
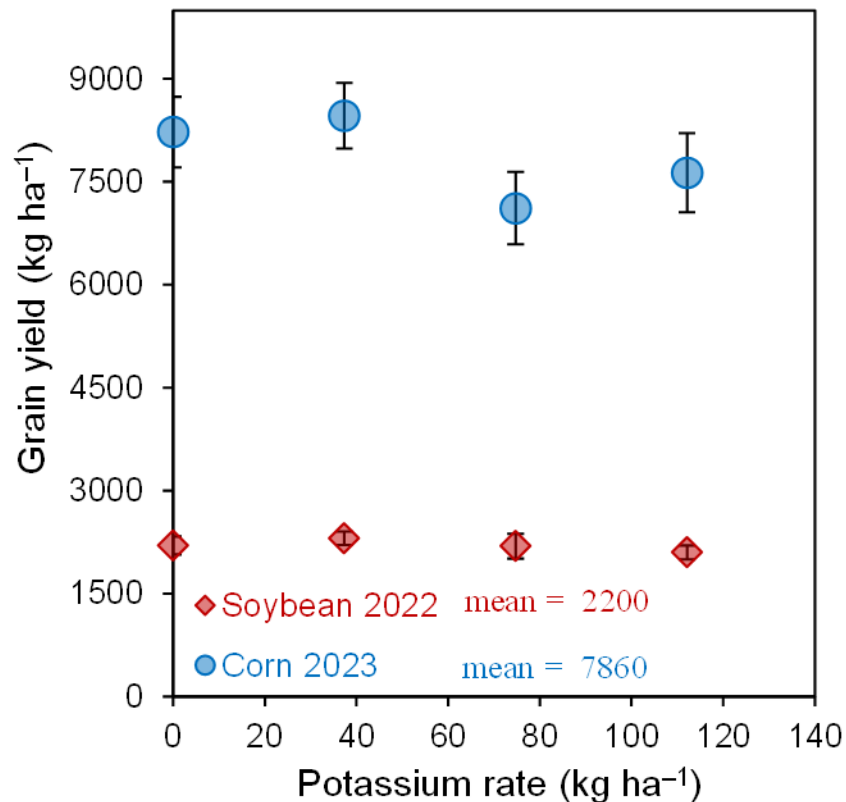
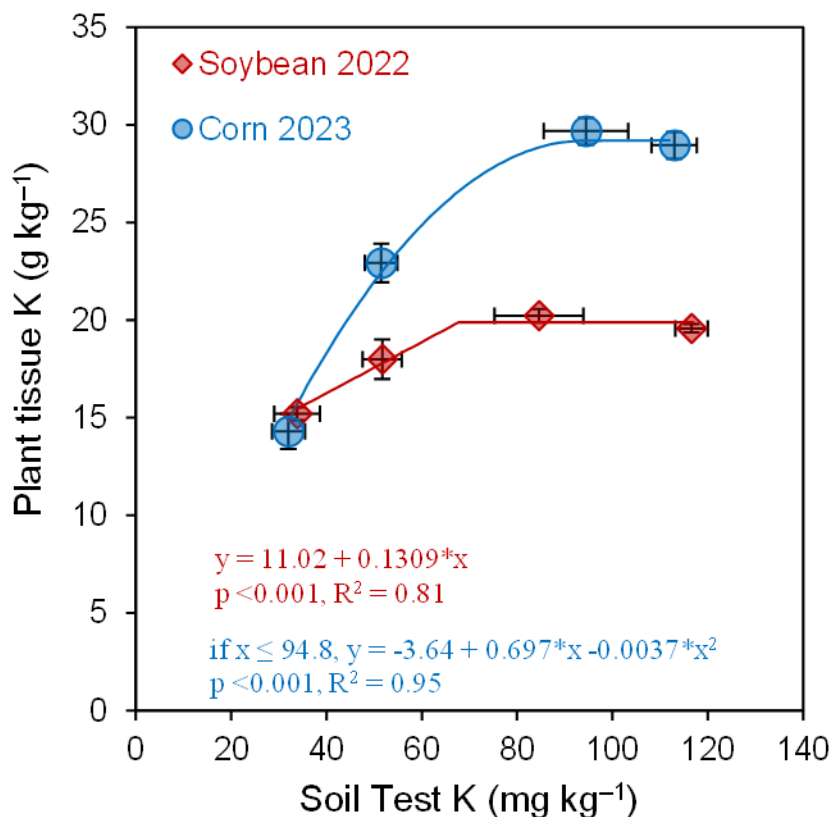


K1 = 0 kg K ha⁻¹



K4 = 112 kg K ha⁻¹ (100 lb K ac⁻¹)

Effect of K rates on tissue K, yield, and mass balance

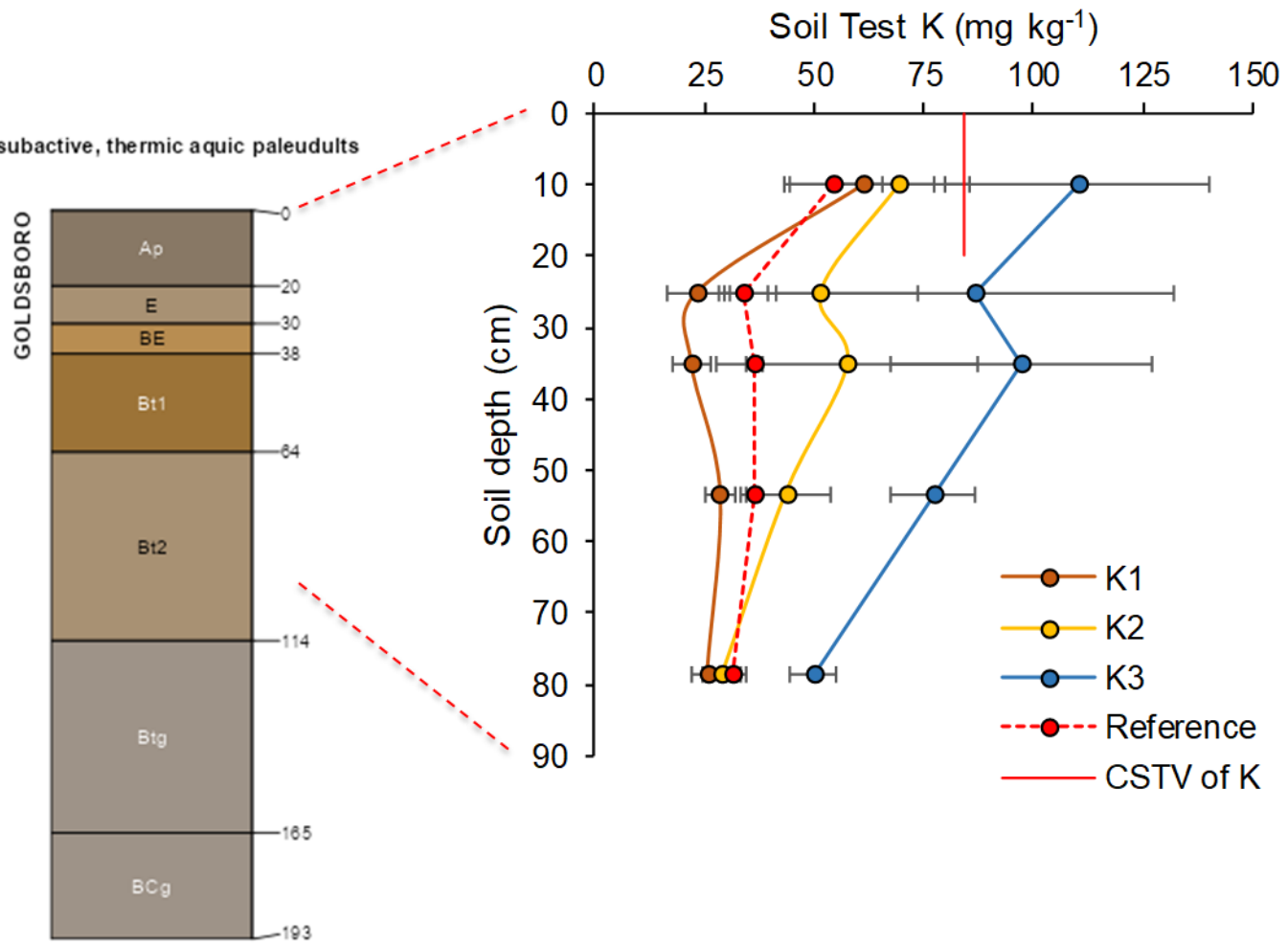


Average grain yield NC

Soybean (2022) = 2589 kg ha^{-1} (38.5 bu ac^{-1})

Corn (2023) = 9227 kg ha^{-1} (147 bu ac^{-1})

fine-loamy, siliceous, subactive, thermic aquic paleudults



Ongoing Investigation

- Accumulation of K in the subsoil
- Quantification of non-available K

Tidewater Long-term Trial

Description

Location: Tidewater Res. Station

County: Washington

Soil: Portsmouth (**20% clay**)

Starting year: 1966 (58 years)

Tillage system: Minimum tillage

Acreage: 5.5 acres



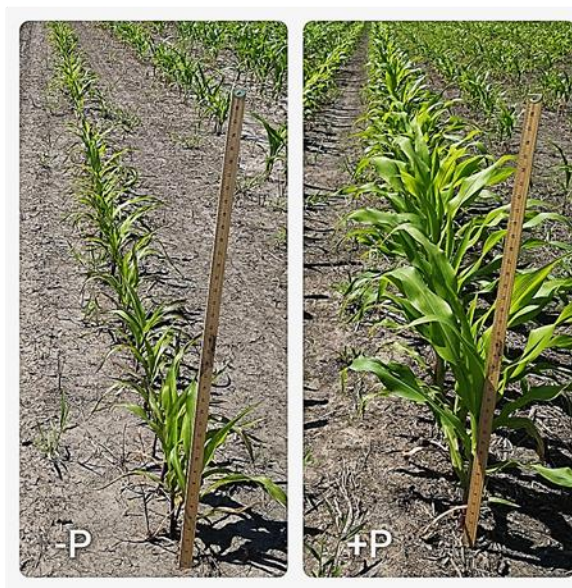
Tidewater Long-term Trial

Description

Rates of P and K 2022 and 2023

- Soil Sampling: 0-20 cm depth
- Tissue sampling at VT (corn) or R1/R2 (soybean)

Treatment	Cropping year	
	2022	2023
	P rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
P1	0	0
P2	5	7
P3	10	14
P4	29	27
P5	73	55
	K rate (kg ha ⁻¹)	
K1	0	0
K2	0	28
K3	0	56
K4	20	84
K5	40	112



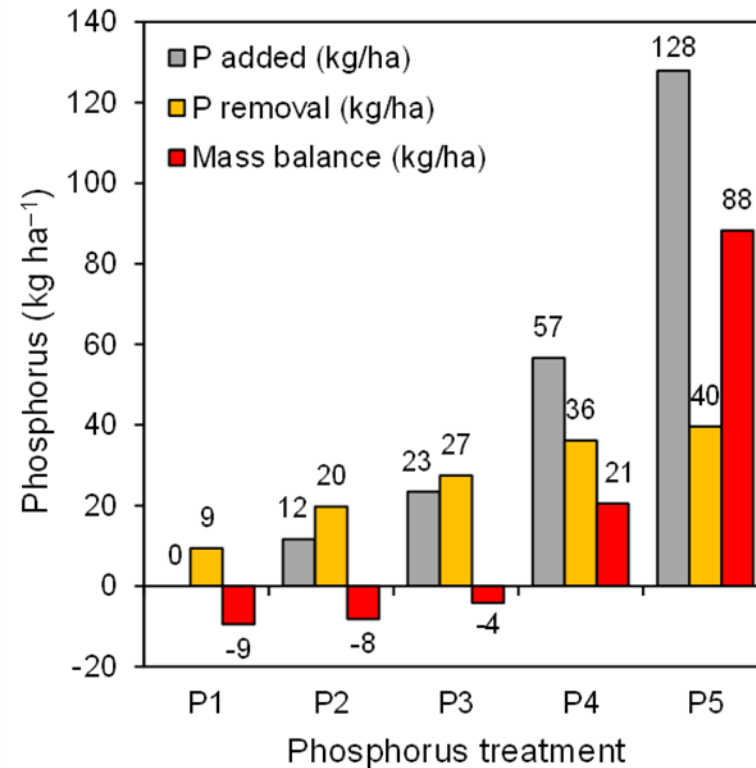
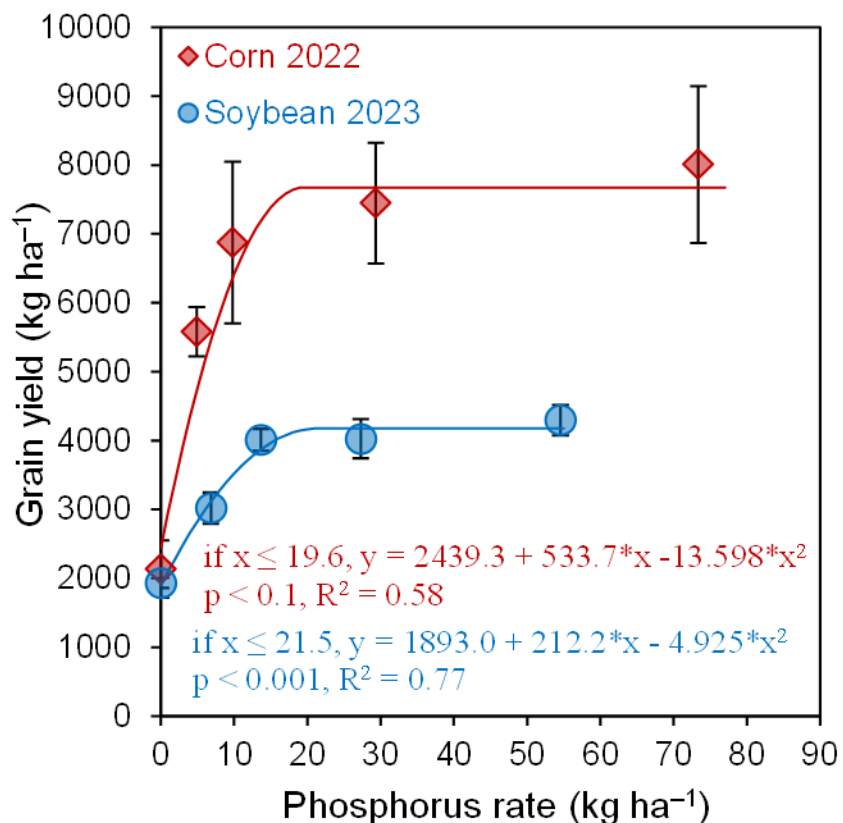
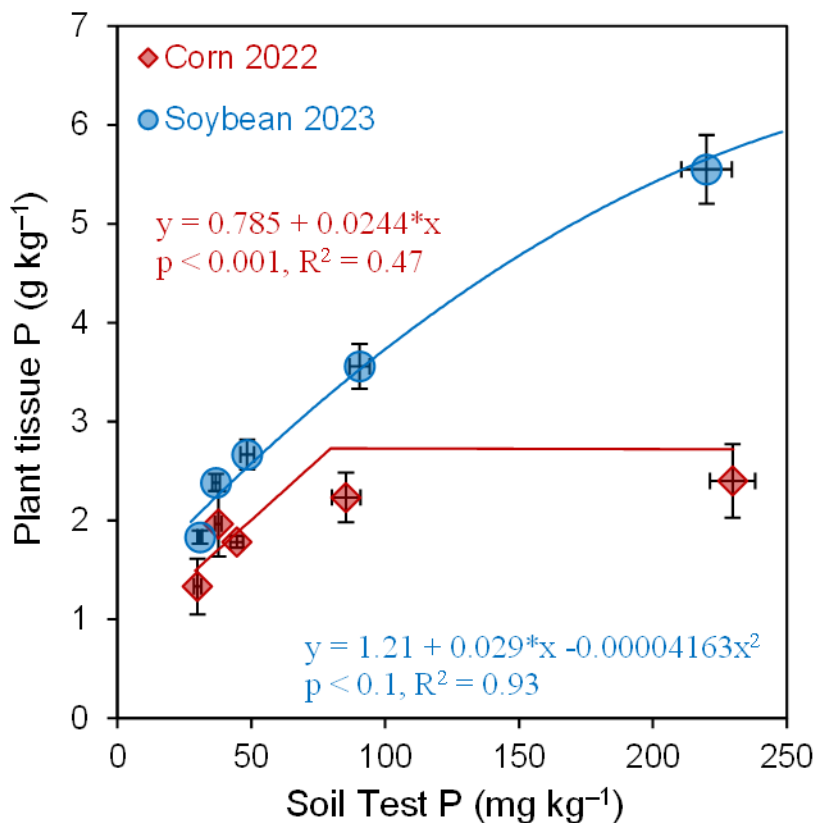
Phosphorus - Tidewater Site



P5 (55 kg P ha⁻¹)

P1 (0 kg P ha⁻¹)

Effect of P rates on tissue P, yield, and mass balance

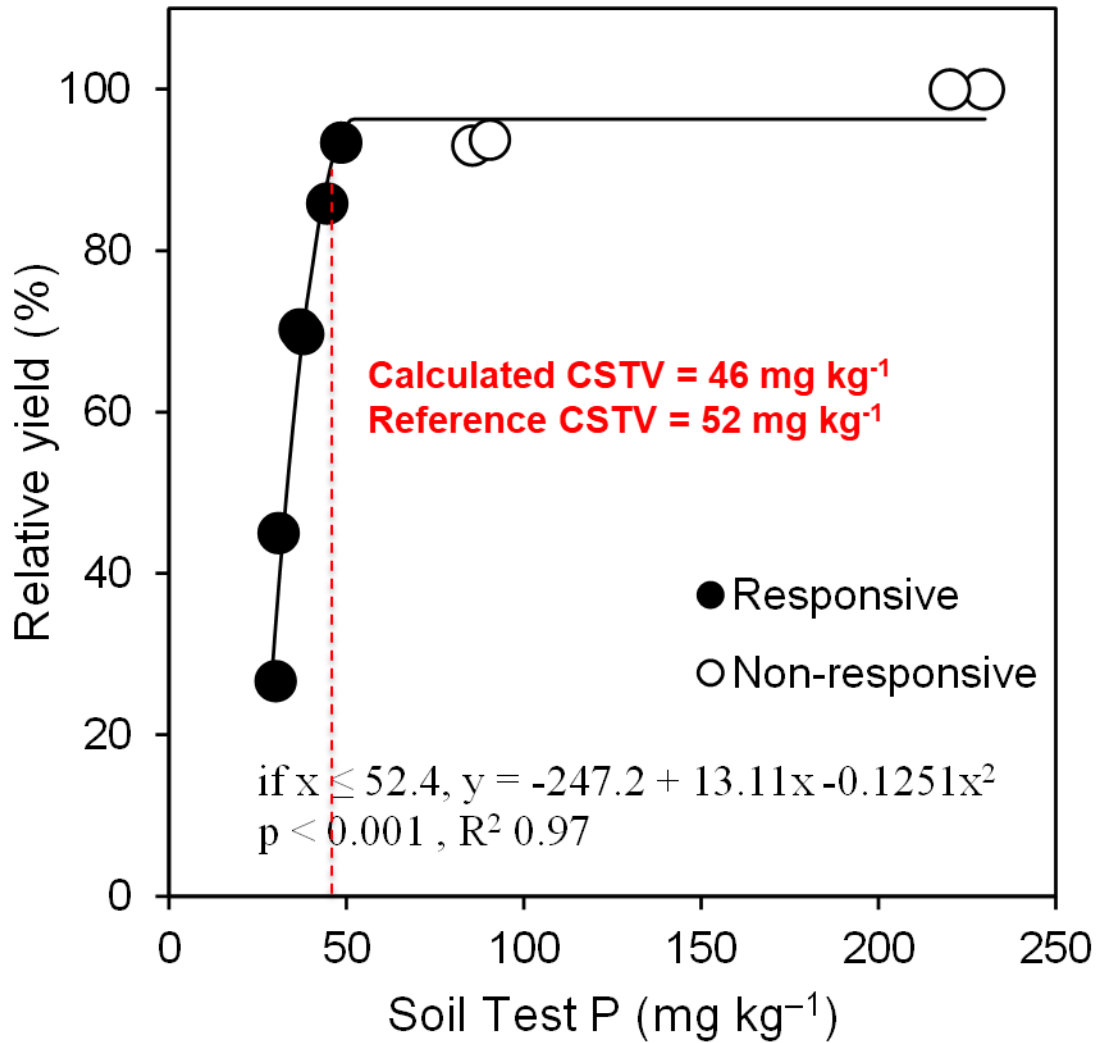


Average grain yield NC

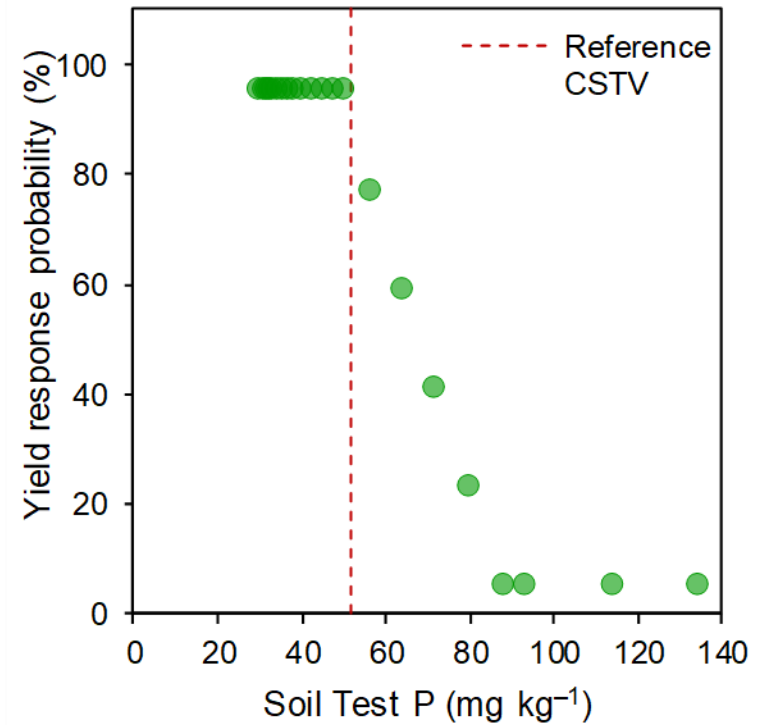
Corn (2022) = 7909 kg ha^{-1} (126 bu ac^{-1})

Soybean (2023) = 2589 kg ha^{-1} (38.5 bu ac^{-1})

Relative Yield and P-CSTV



Response Frequency



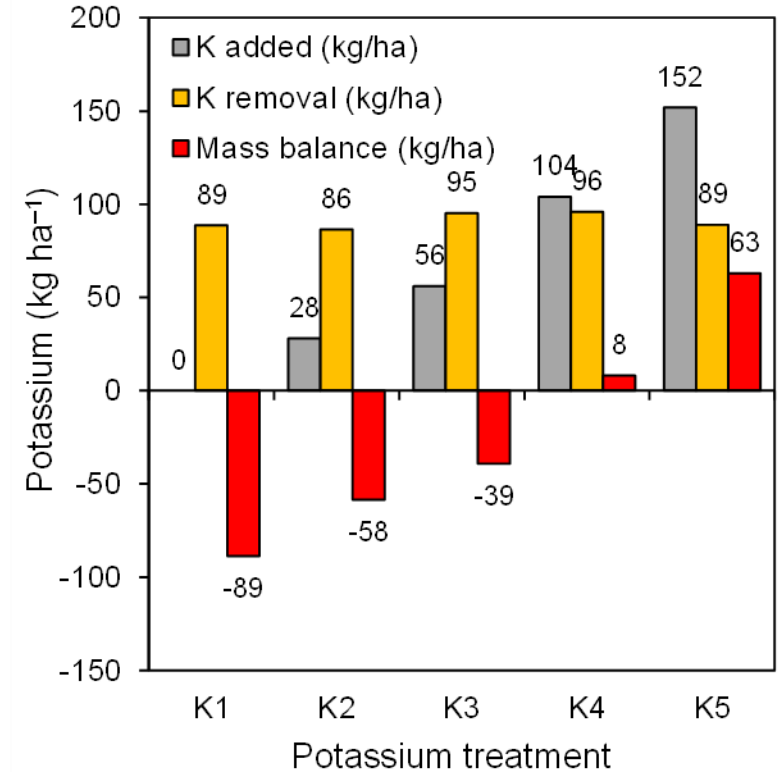
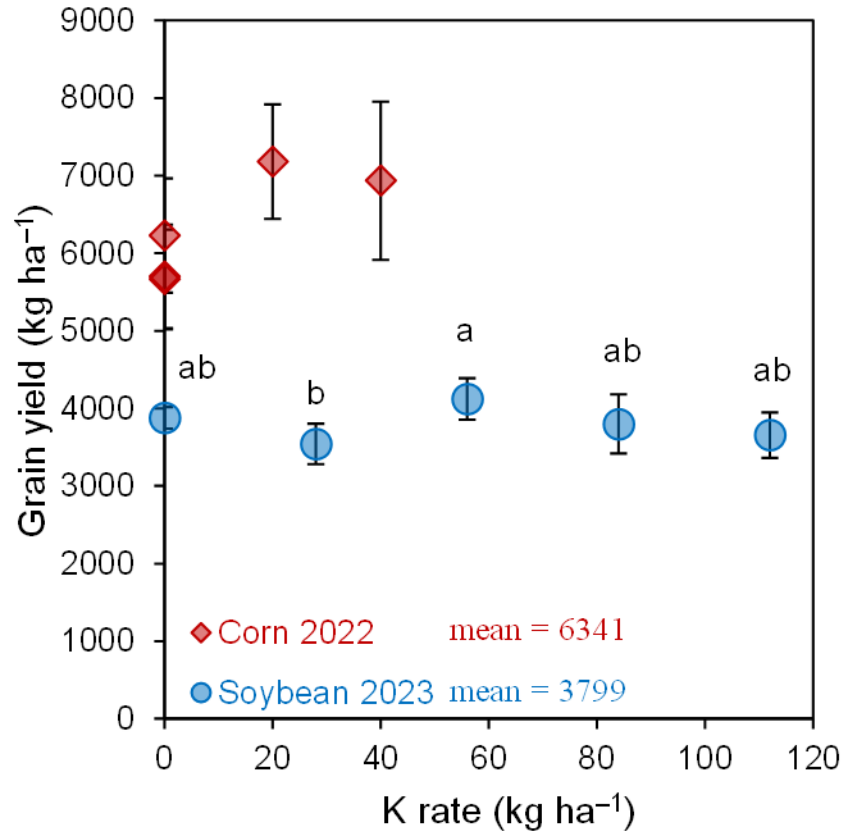
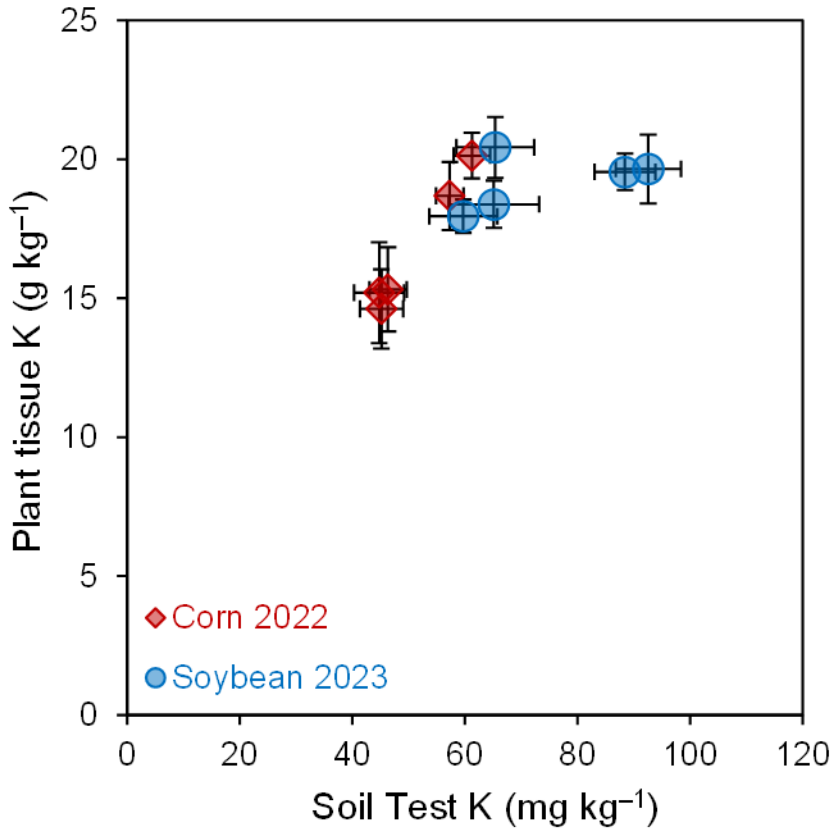
Potassium- Tidewater Site



0 kg K ha⁻¹

40 kg K ha⁻¹

Effect of K rates on tissue K, yield, and mass balance

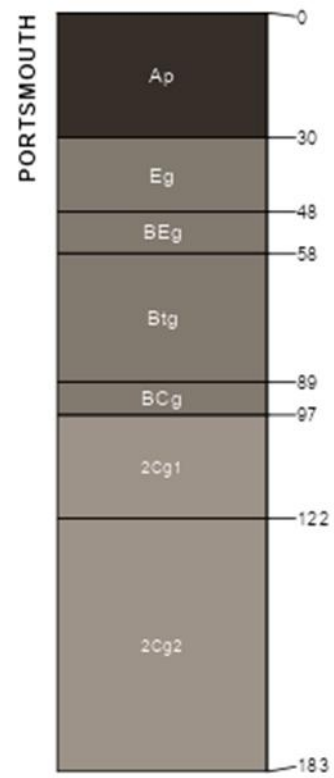


Average grain yield NC

Corn (2022) = 7909 kg ha⁻¹ (126 bu ac⁻¹)

Soybean (2023) = 2589 kg ha⁻¹ (38.5 bu ac⁻¹)

fine-loamy over sandy or sandy-skeletal, mixed, semiaactive, thermic typic umbraquults

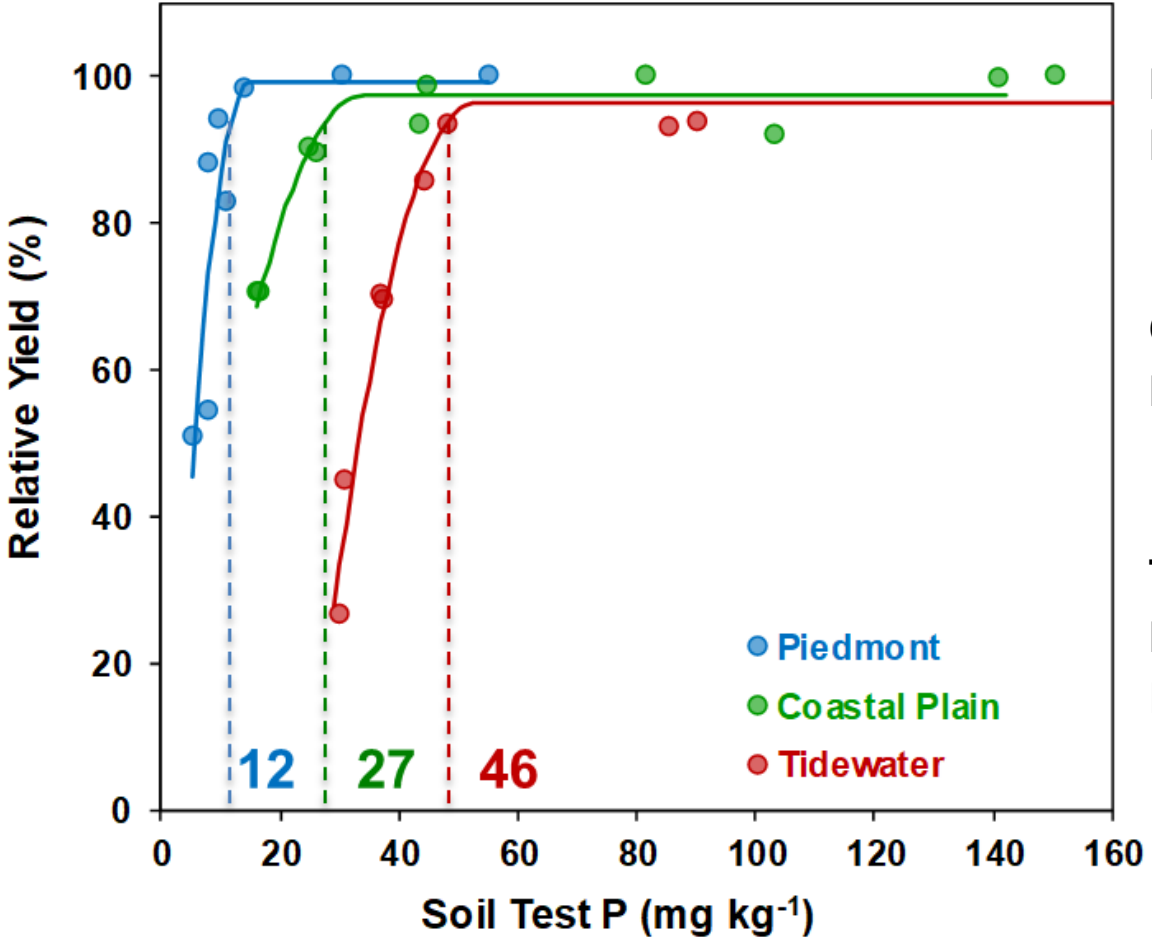


Ongoing Investigation

- Accumulation of K in the subsoil
- Quantification of non-available K

Summary of Results (Phosphorus)

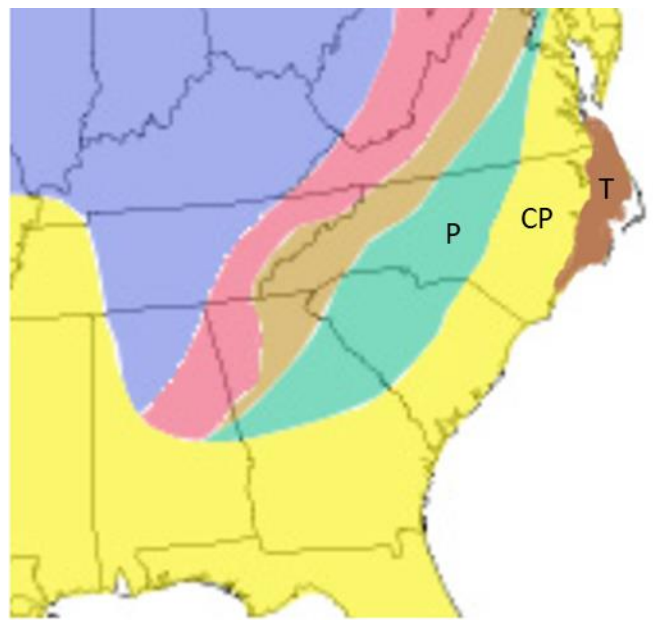
2022 and 2023



Piedmont
High P-buffering capacity

Coastal Plain
Low P-buffering capacity

Tidewater
Low P-buffering capacity
Poor drainage



Acknowledgments

