

# Horticultural Lighting Science

And SSL Technology

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# Agenda

- Why Horticulture Lighting?
- Horticulture Lighting vs. General Lighting
- Photobiology Overview
- Lighting Fixture Considerations

# Why Horticulture Lighting?



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

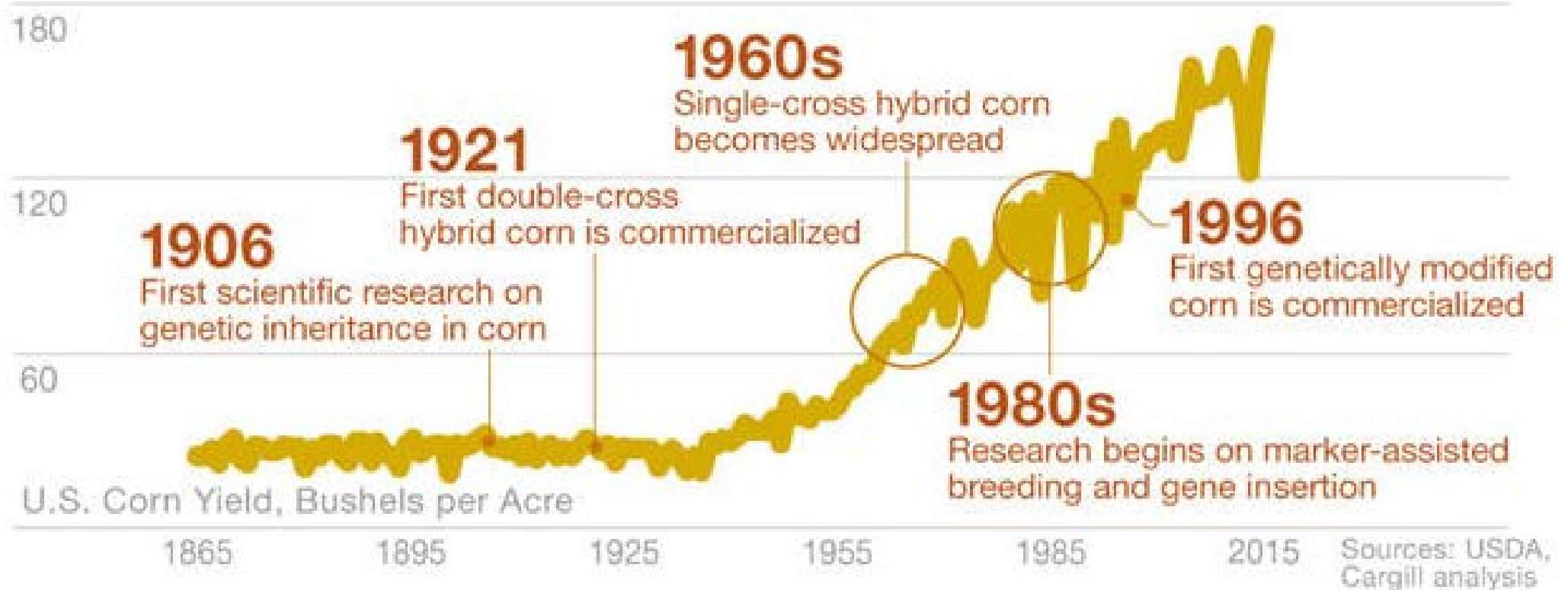


In the year **2050**,  
the world **population**  
will require

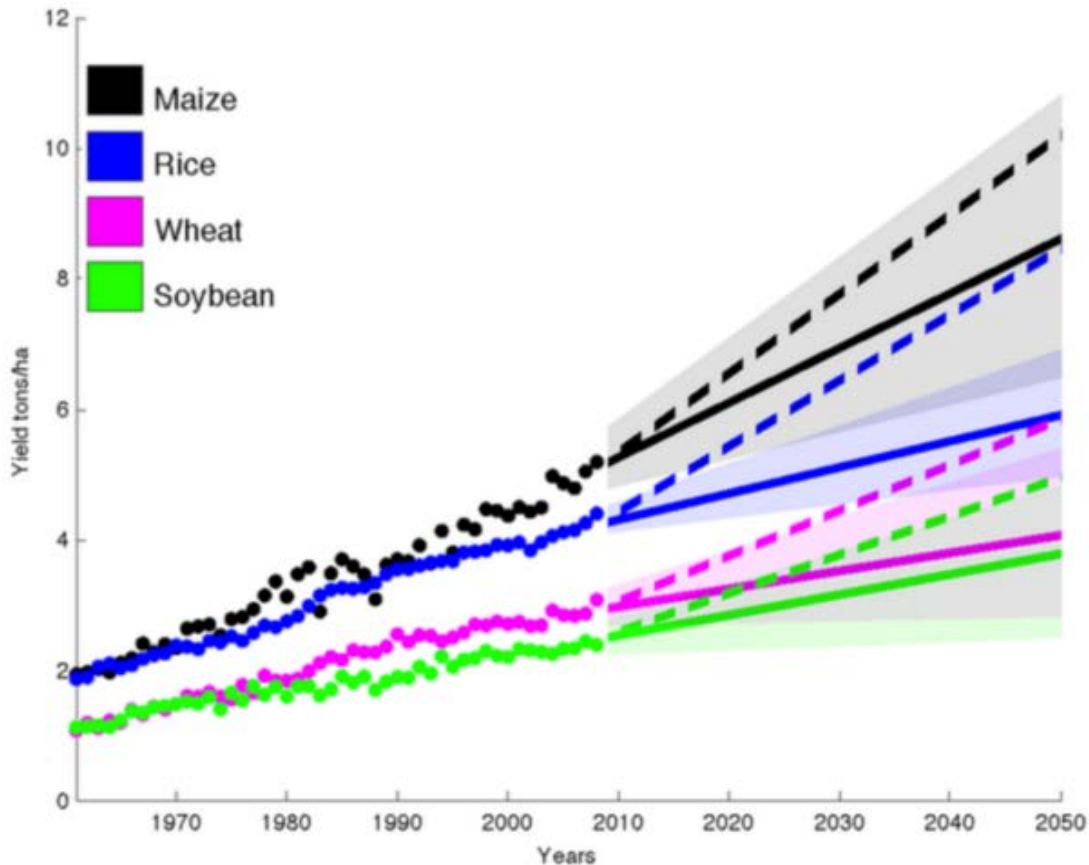
▶ **100%**  
more **food**,<sup>1</sup> and

▶ **70%**  
of this food must come from  
efficiency-improving **technology**<sup>2</sup>

# U.S. CORN YIELDS: A HISTORY OF INNOVATION



# Agriculture efficiency is not improving fast enough to feed the growing population



Required Crop Production Efficiency Gain per Year:

**2.4%**

Actual Crop Production Efficiency Gain per Year:

**1.6%**

The equivalent of 36 football fields of forests are cleared every minute



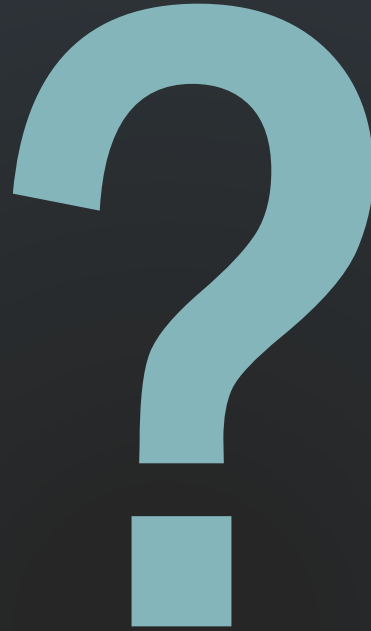
Cannabis growers consume 1% of our nation's electricity...  
3% of California's electricity



The recent drought in California led to 524,000 fallowed acres, which cost the state \$1.84B in 2015



# Solution



**Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)**  
**Indoor Farming and High-Tech Greenhouses**

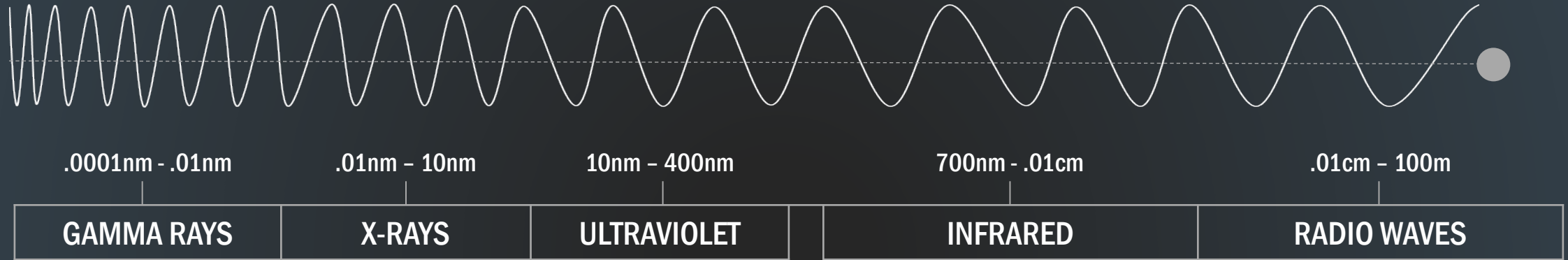




# Horticulture Lighting vs. General Lighting

# Electromagnetic Radiation Spectrum

WAVE + PARTICLE (PHOTON)



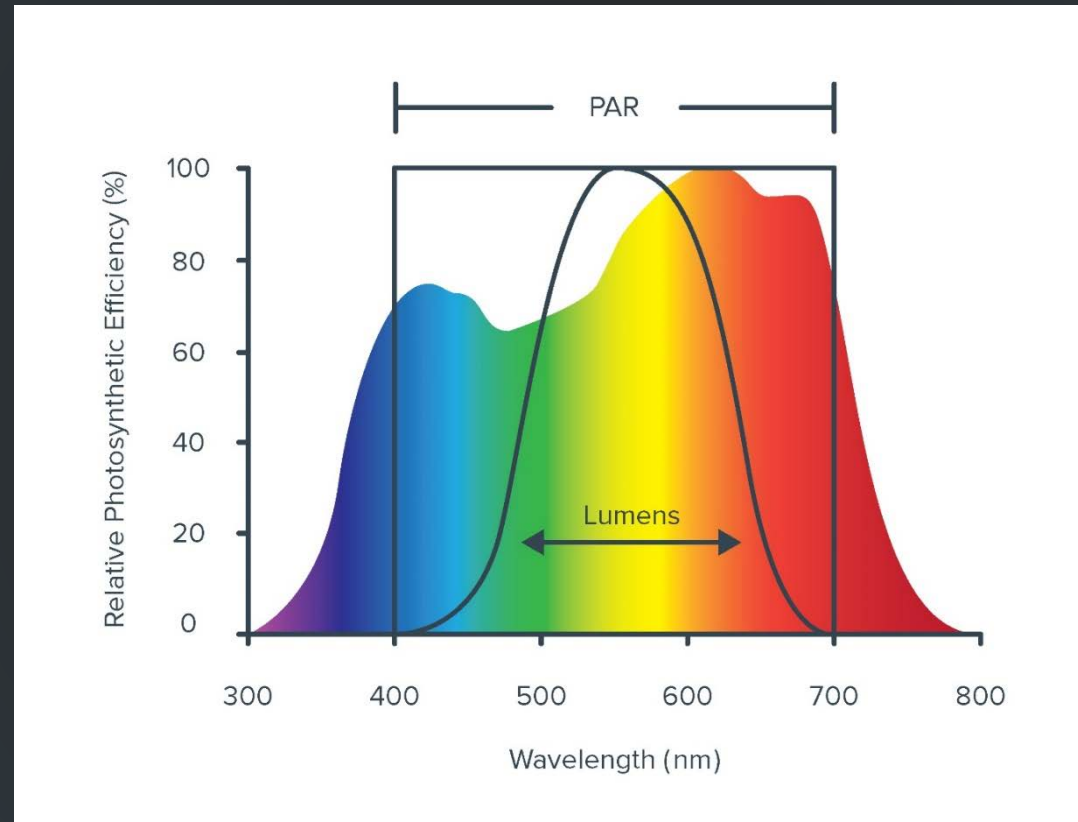
PHOTOSYNTHETICALLY ACTIVE RADIATION (PAR)



# METRICS VISION vs. HORTICULTURE

## Photopic Vision

- Lumens
- Lux / Foot-Candles
- Lumens / Watt



## Horticulture

- PPF
- PPFD
- $\mu\text{mol} / \text{J}$

# GENERAL LIGHTING vs. HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

## Typical Lighting Power Density (LPD)

- Office Space: 1 W/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Lettuce Vertical Farm: 10 W/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Tomato Greenhouse: 15 W/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Cannabis Greenhouse: 30 W/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Cannabis Indoor: 65 W/ft<sup>2</sup>

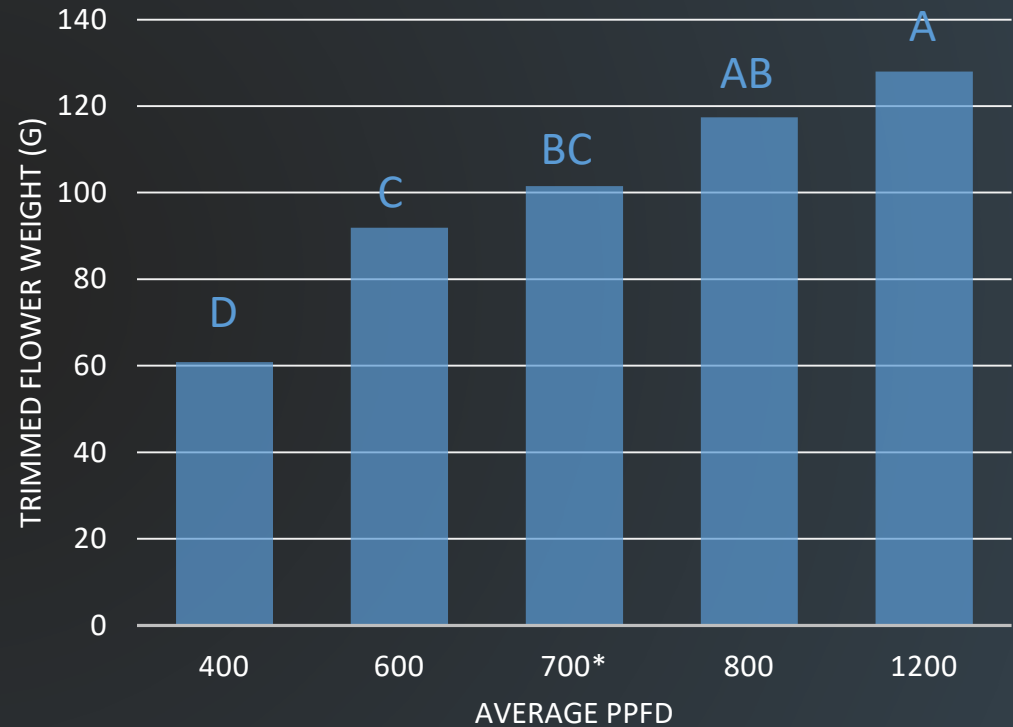
# Photobiology Overview

# PHOTOBIOLOGY – 3 PILLARS

## PHOTOSYNTHESIS

SERIES OF LIGHT & DARK REACTIONS THAT OCCURS IN THE CHLOROPLASTS USING LIGHT ENERGY (PHOTOSYNTHETIC PHOTON FLUX) TO GENERATE CARBOHYDRATES FROM CO<sub>2</sub> AND H<sub>2</sub>O.

*YIELD*

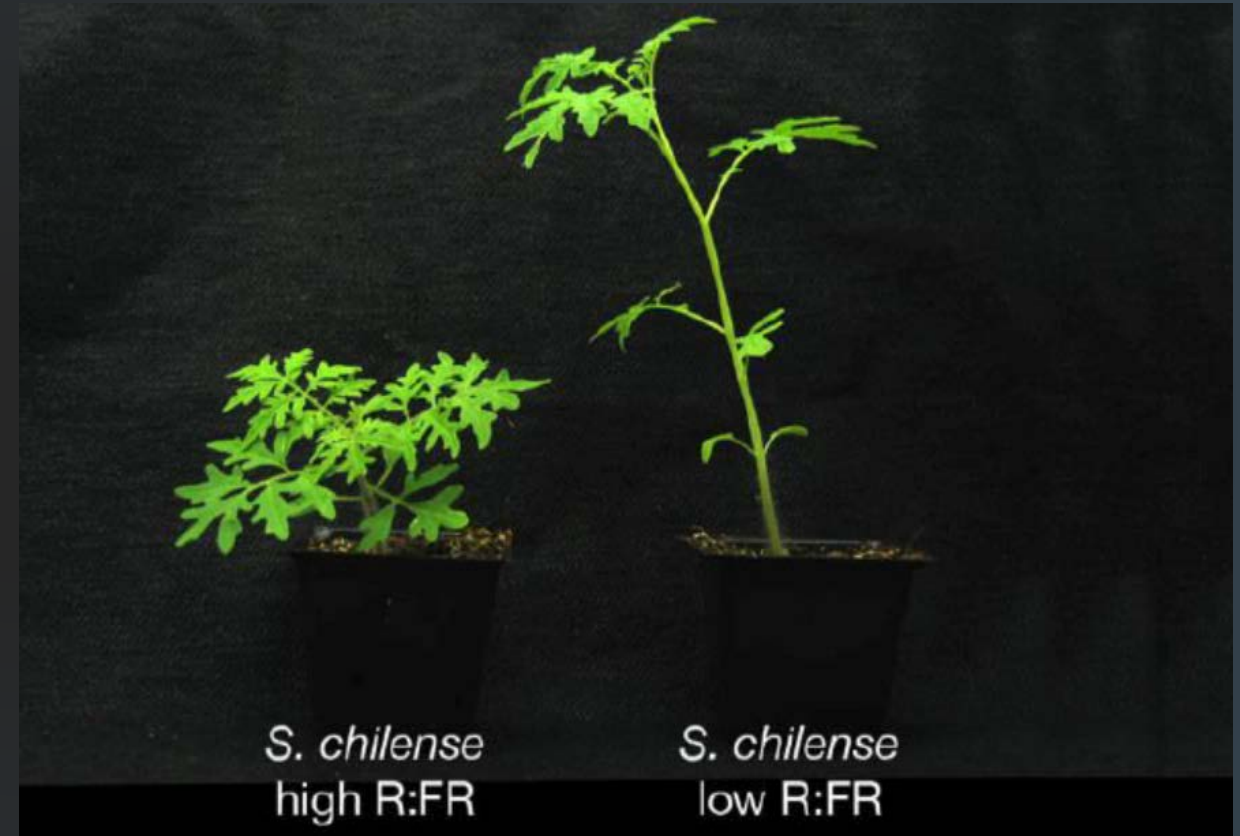


# PHOTOBIOLOGY – 3 PILLARS

## PHOTOMORPHOGENESIS

LIGHT-CONTROLLED PROCESSES THAT REGULATE  
PLANT PHYSIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF FORM  
AND STRUCTURE

*QUALITY*



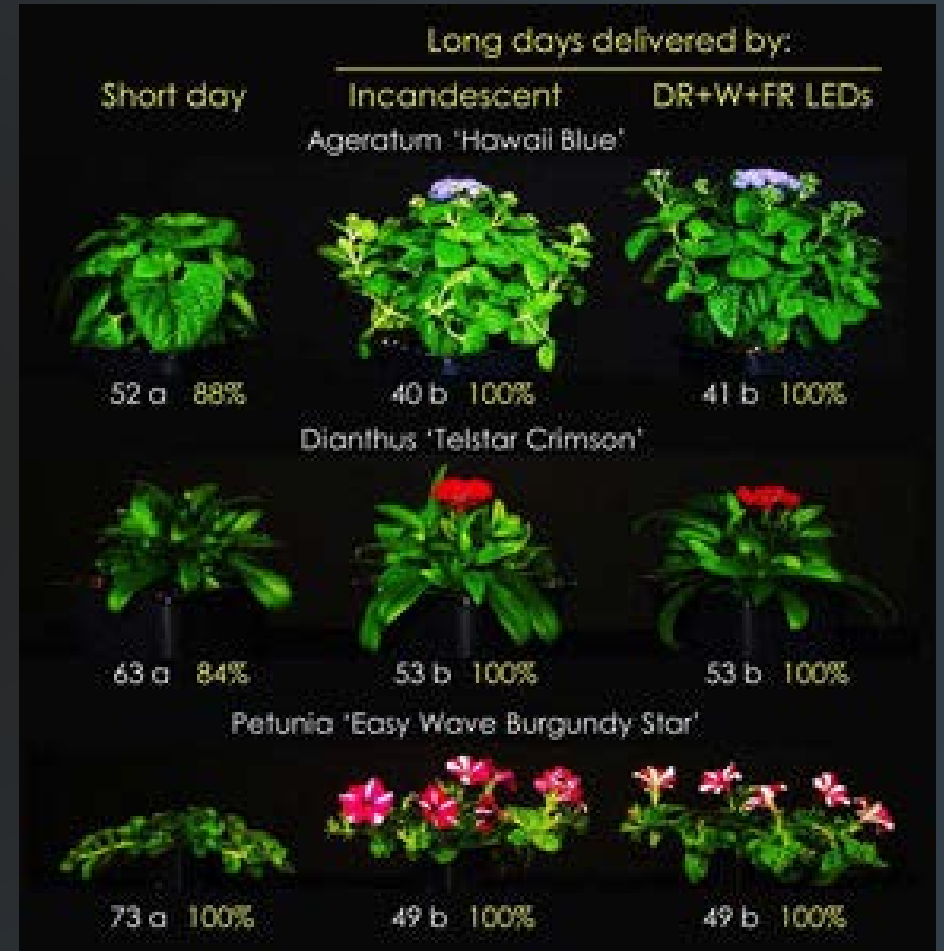


# PHOTOBIOLOGY – 3 PILLARS

## PHOTOPERIODISM

PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO RELATIVE LENGTHS OF LIGHT AND DARK PERIODS

*FLOWER/FRUIT MANIPULATION*



# Lighting Fixture Considerations

# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

## Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | PPFD | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

The amount of photosynthetically active light emitted by a fixture.

Micromoles per second ( $\mu\text{mol/s}$ ) 400-700nm

# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

## Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | **PPFD** | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

The amount of light reaching your canopy.

Micromoles per meter squared per second ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ) 400-700nm

# TYPICAL PPF D REQUIREMENTS

| Lighting Application | PPFD ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ) | Foot-candle (lumen/ $\text{ft}^2$ ) | LUX (lumen/ $\text{m}^2$ ) |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Office Space         | 6 - 10                                       | 30 - 50                             | 324 - 540                  |
| Lettuce              | 200 - 300                                    | 1002 - 1503                         | 10,800 - 16,200            |
| Herbs                | 300 - 500                                    | 1503 - 2505                         | 16,200 - 27,000            |
| Tomatoes             | 500 - 700                                    | 2505 - 3507                         | 27,000 - 37,800            |
| Cannabis             | 700 - 900                                    | 3507 - 4509                         | 37,800 - 48,600            |

\* Conversion factors based on the spectrum of sunlight

# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

## Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | PPFD | **UNIFORMITY** | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

The average, maximum and minimum amount of PPF.

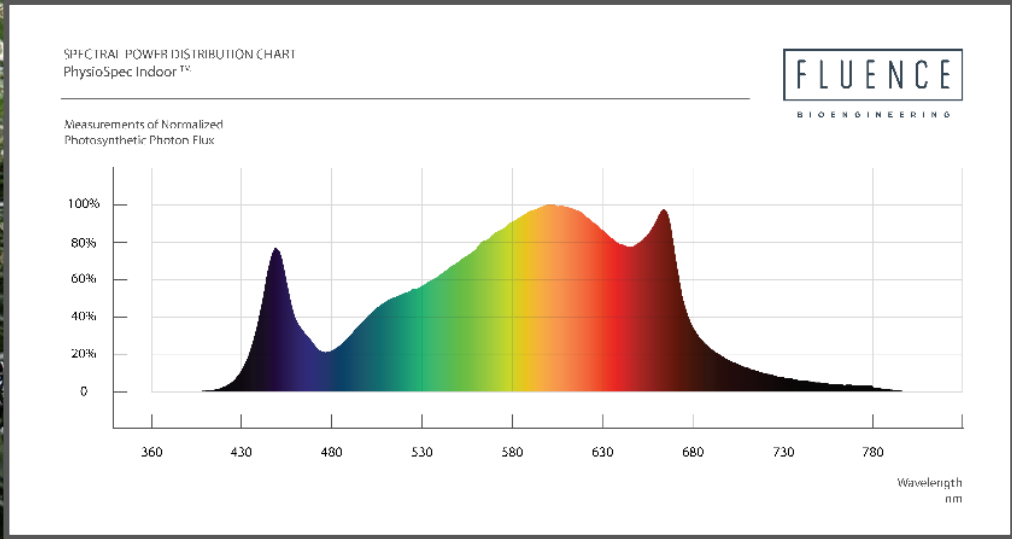
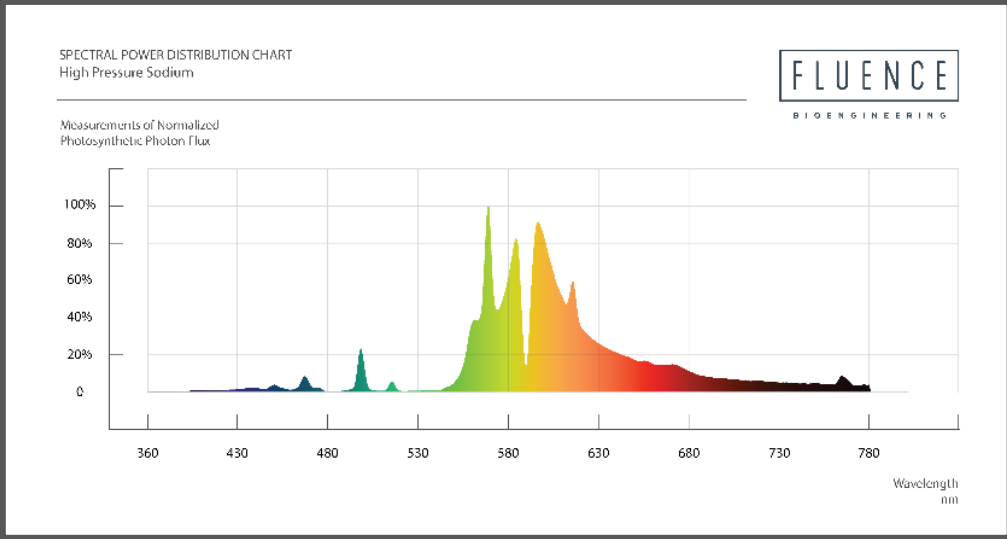
# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

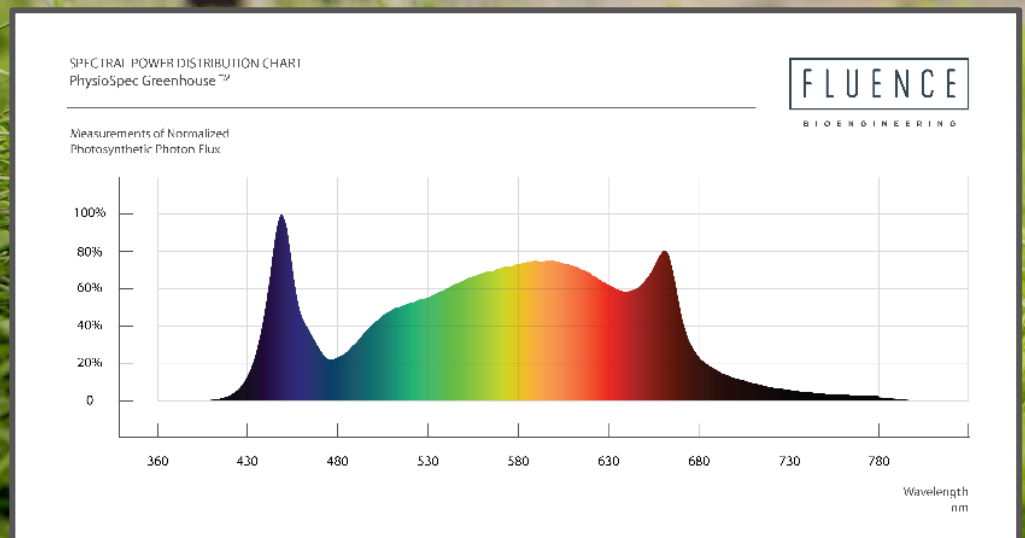
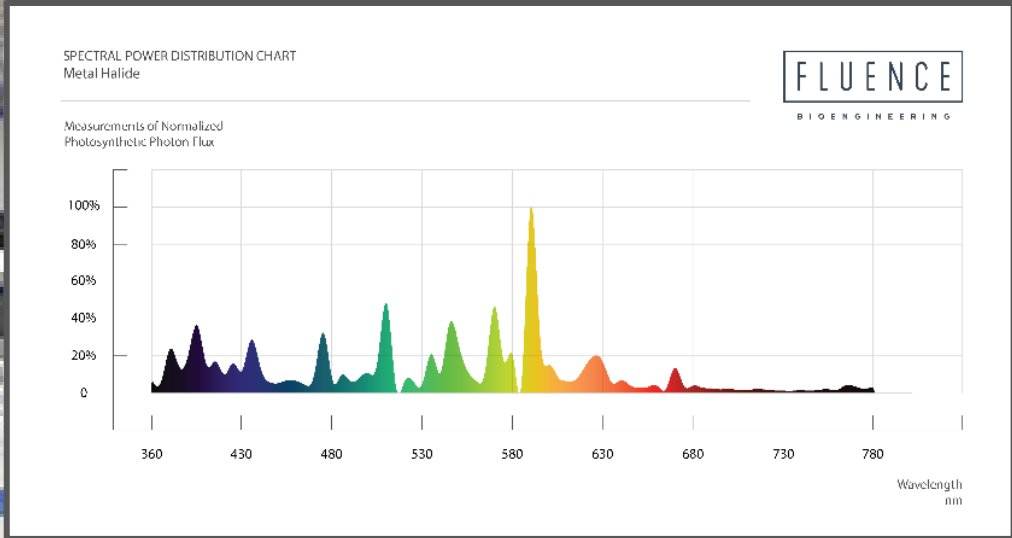
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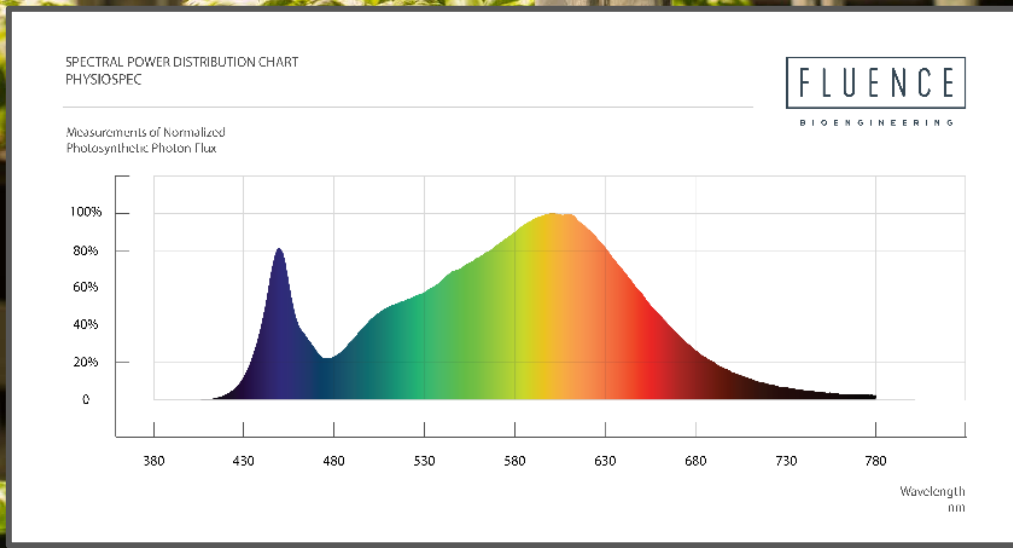
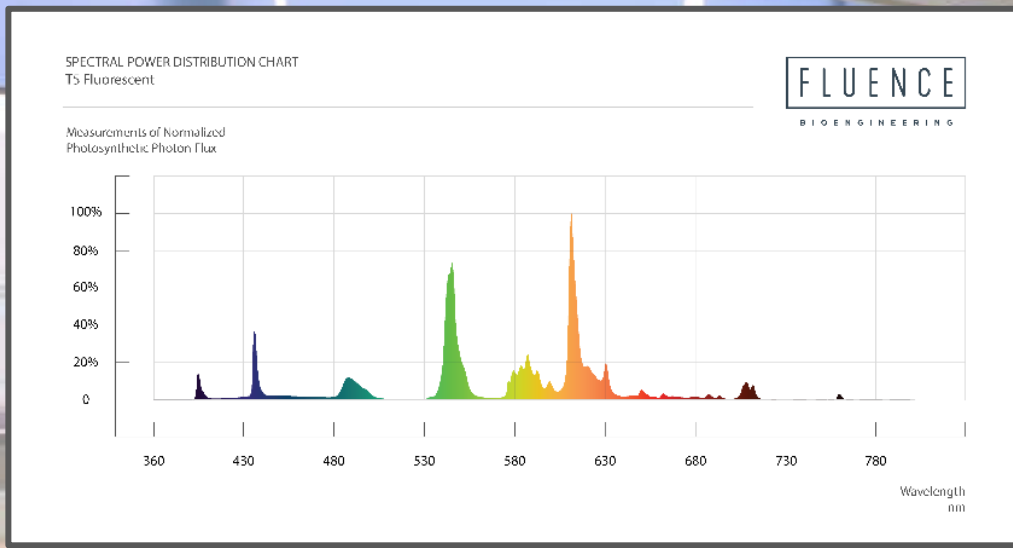
PPF | PPFD | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

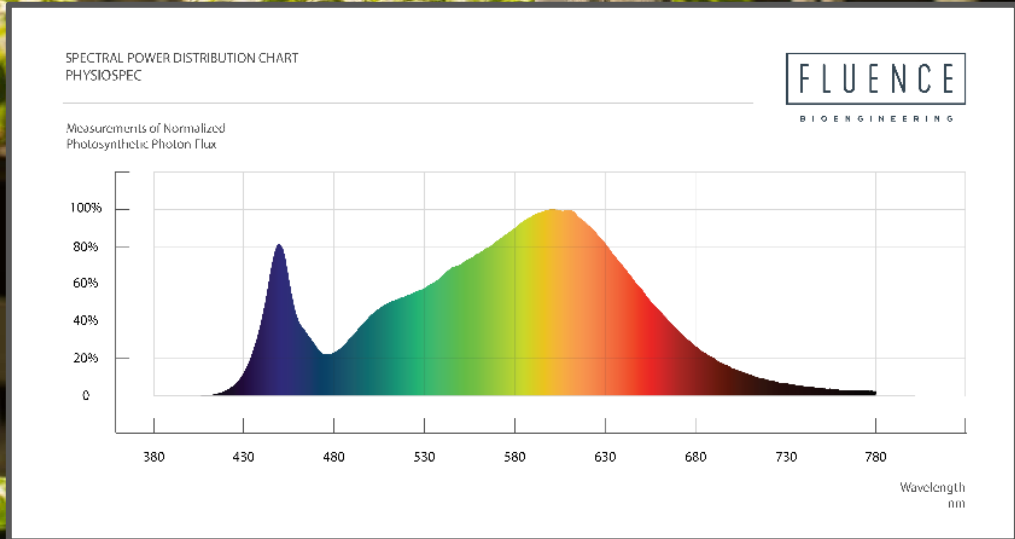
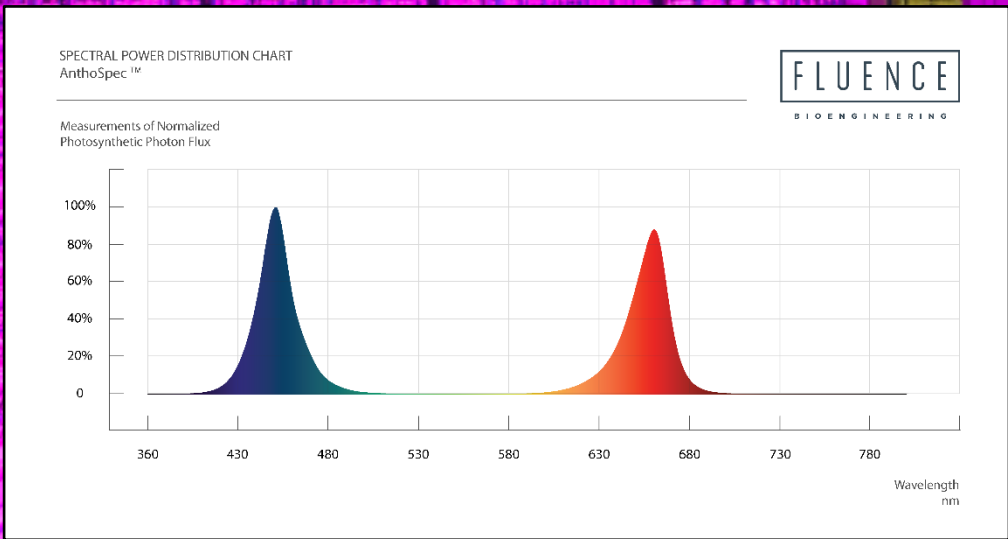
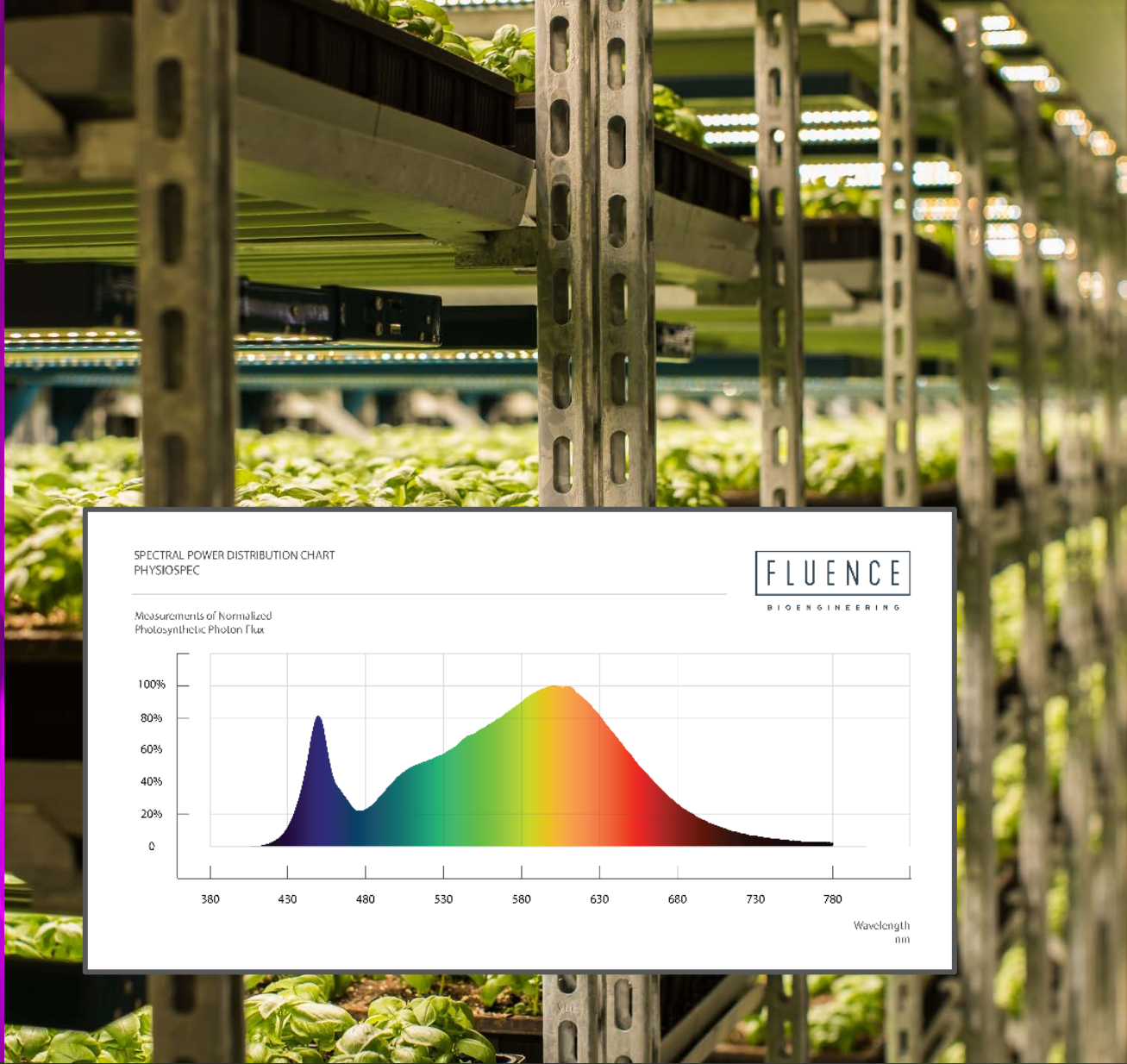
The proportions of different wavelengths











# SPECTRUM



# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

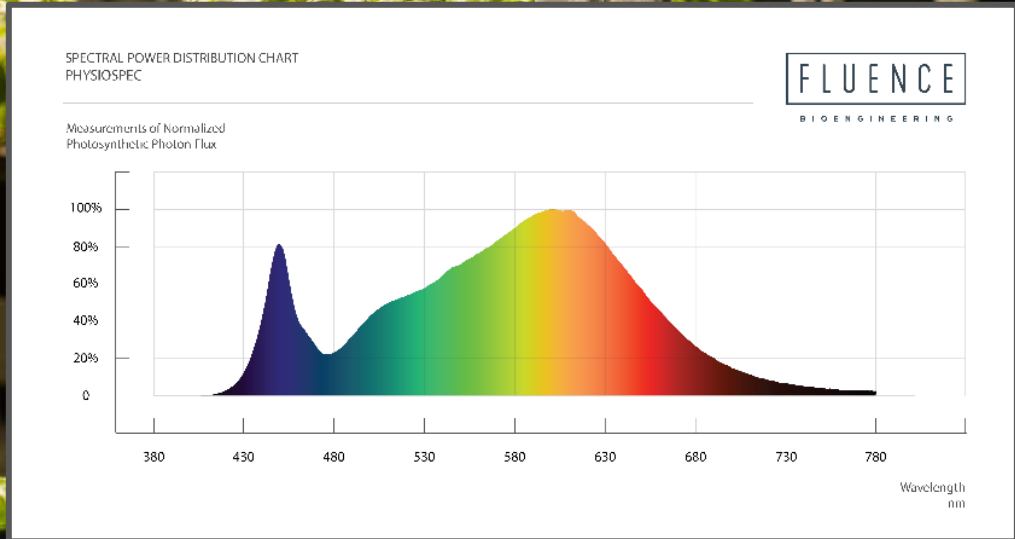
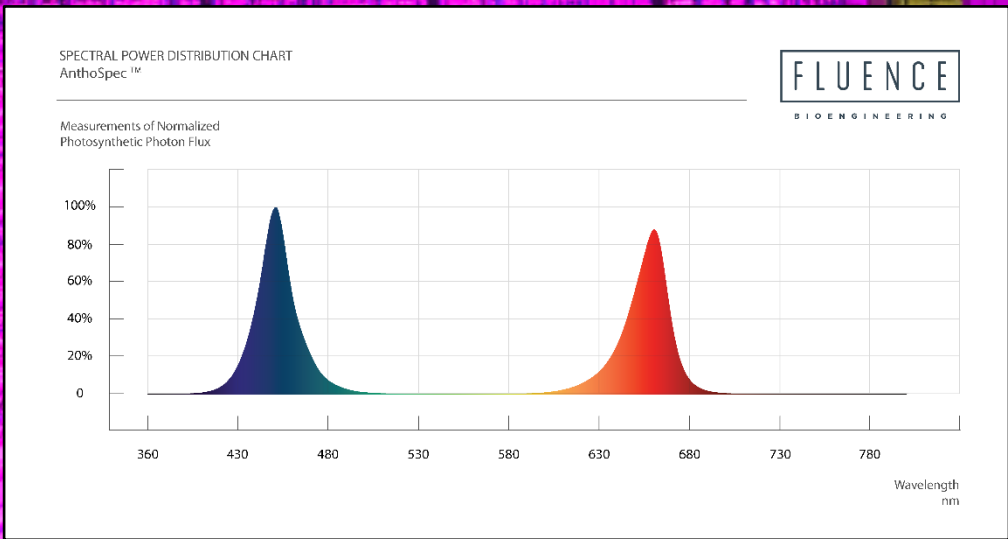
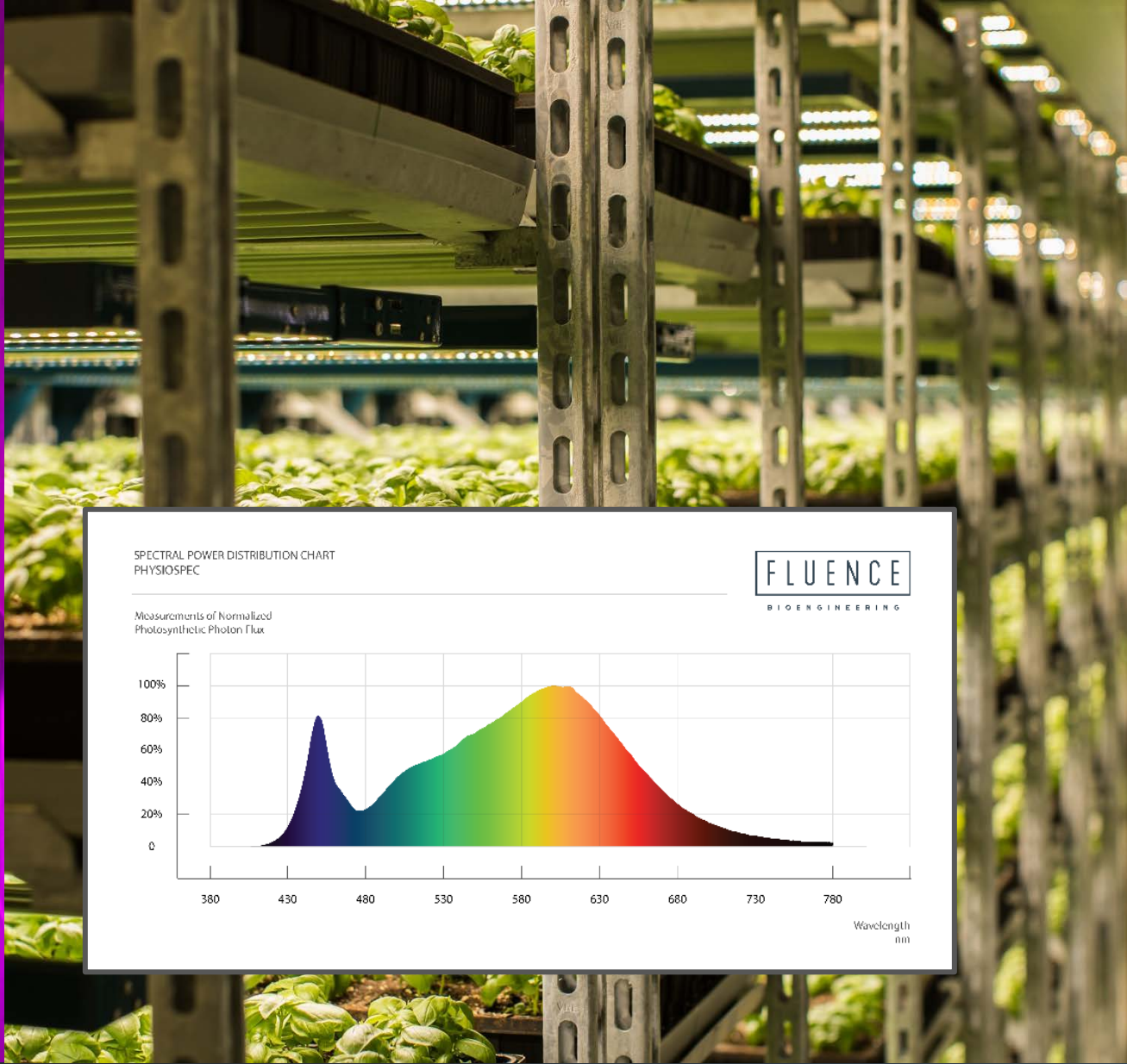
## Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | PPFD | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

Fixture efficiency of converting electrons into photons.

Micromoles per joule ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{J}$ )



# Economic Analysis of Greenhouse Lighting: Light Emitting Diodes vs. High Intensity Discharge Fixtures

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Mention of a products or vendors does not imply endorsement by Utah State University to the exclusion of other products or vendors that also may be suitable.

*Index Words:* efficiency, electric lamp, photobiology, return on investment

**Abstract.** Lighting technologies for plant growth are improving rapidly, providing numerous options for supplemental lighting in greenhouses. Here we report the efficiency and photosynthetic photon flux (PPF) distribution pattern of seven HPS fixtures, ten LED fixtures, three ceramic metal halide fixtures, and two fluorescent fixtures. For each fixture we calculated the efficiency in moles of photons per joule of electricity, and the five- and ten-year electric plus fixture cost per mole of photons. The two most efficient LED and the two most efficient double-ended HPS fixtures had nearly identical efficiencies at 1.66 to 1.70 micromoles per joule. This is a dramatic improvement over the 1.02 micromoles per joule efficiency of the mogul-base HPS fixtures that were in common use 10 years ago. Although the best 380-W LED fixtures had similar efficiencies to 1000-W, double-ended HPS fixtures, the initial capital cost per photon delivered is five to ten times greater. This means that the five- and ten-year electric plus fixture cost per mole of photons delivered to the plant surface were 2.3 and 1.8 times higher for LED than HPS fixtures. LED fixtures, however, can focus photons on specific plant growth areas. Our analysis demonstrates that LED fixtures can be arranged to improve canopy PPF capture efficiency in plant production systems with widely spaced benches. The cost per photon delivered increases rapidly for both fixture types in these systems, however, so arranging plants to efficiently capture photons is an important component of lighting system efficiency. The lowest lighting system costs are realized when an efficient fixture is coupled with effective canopy PPF capture.

*Acronyms:* Light Emitting Diode (LED), High Pressure Sodium (HPS), Photosynthetic Photon Flux (PPF)

## Introduction

Rapid advances in lighting technology and fixture efficiency provide an expanding number of options for supplemental lighting in greenhouses. Significant improvements have been made in all three components of fixtures: the lamp (often referred to as the bulb), the luminaire (often referred to as the reflector) and the ballast. Electronic ballasts with double-ended high pressure sodium (HPS) lamp technology are now 1.7 times more efficient than older mogul-base HPS fixtures. LED fixtures are similarly improved and make it possible to focus photons in specific areas.

Lighting technologies vary widely in how radiation is distributed (Fig. 1). There is no ideal pattern for radiation distribution. In large greenhouses with small aisles and uniformly spaced plants, the broad, even output pattern typically found in HPS fixtures provides uniform light distribution and good capture of photosynthetic photons. In smaller greenhouses with spaced benches, the more focused pattern typically

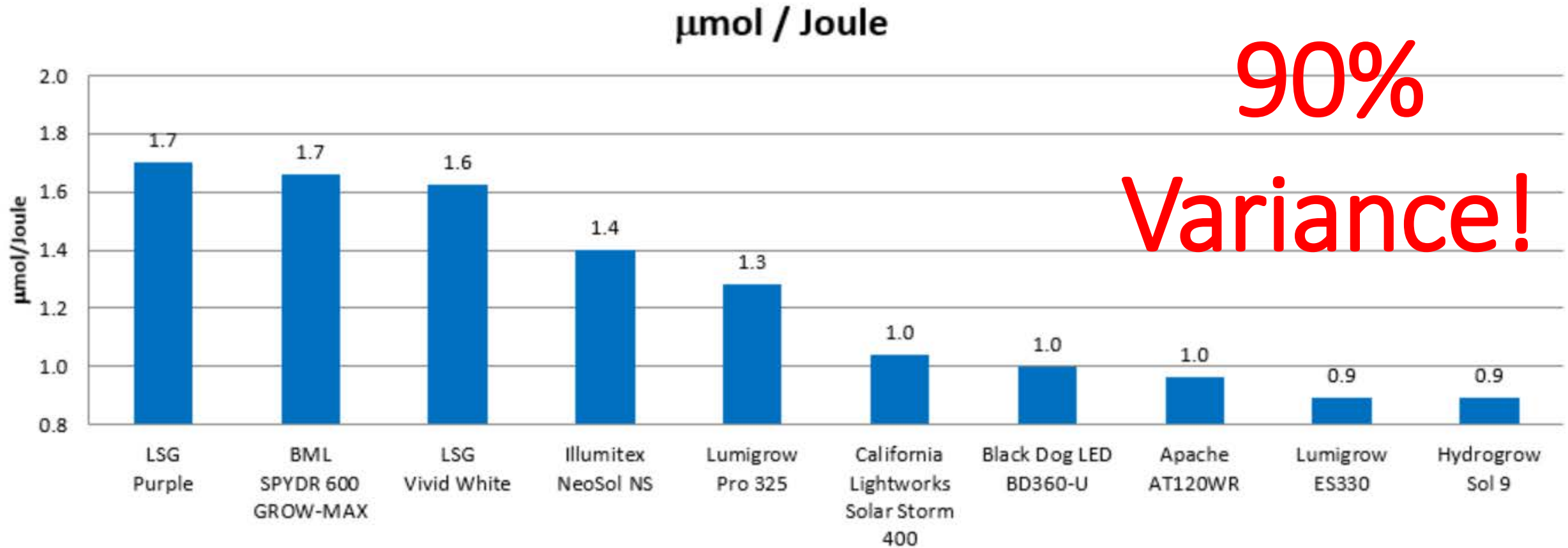
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# Greenhouse Lighting Comparison Study

## June 2014



# LED Fixture Comparison



90%  
Variance!



# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | PPFD | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | **SIZE** | PROXIMITY

How much space does your lighting system require?

# HORTICULTURE LIGHTING

Fixture requirements in commercial agriculture

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PPF | PPFD | UNIFORMITY | SPECTRUM | EFFICACY | SIZE | PROXIMITY

Space requirements from fixture to canopy?

# DRIVING ADOPTION

Removing the barriers:  
education + cost

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

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