Multi-Environment Testing for Charcoal Rot Resistance: A Regional Approach

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#### How We Got Started

- USB meeting
- Charcoal Rot an increasing problem
- Main control-irrigation
- No chemical controls
- Resistance-difficult to evaluate
  - Disease unpredictability
  - Symptoms similar to drought
  - No established screening methods

### Why a Regional Approach?

#### • Disease inconsistency

- Environment
  - Rainfall
  - Temperature
  - Soils
- Inoculum
- Inconsistencies between individual tests
  - Cultivars/lines
  - Evaluation methods

## Our Approach

- Cultivar/line selection - Common susceptibles • MG III-V - Candidate resistant lines Inoculation-millet seed Standardized evaluation methods-Mengistu - Root and stem splitting
  - Root discoloration
  - Stem colonization (%)
  - Colonization

#### Locations

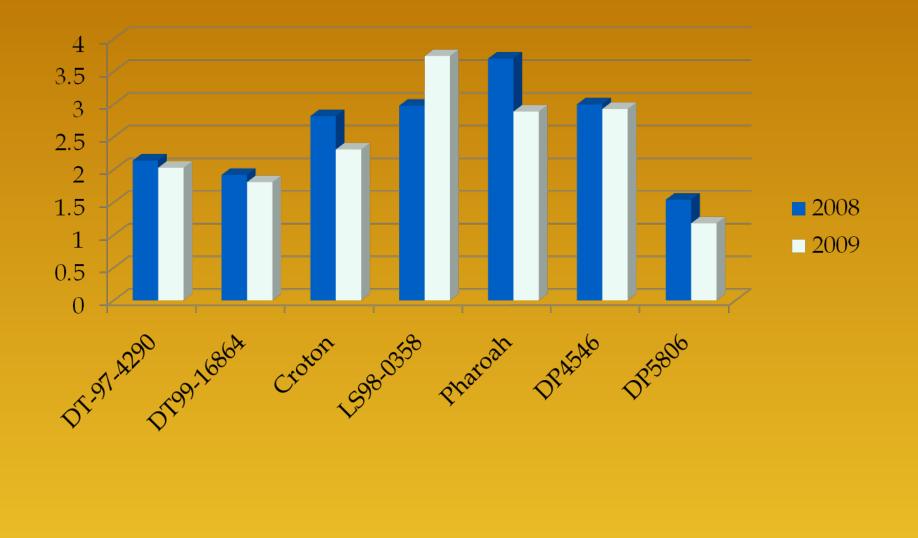
- Kansas-Chris Little
- Arkansas-John Rupe
- Missouri-Allen Wrather
- Illinois-Jason Bond
- Tennessee-Alemu Mengistu

### Test Cultivars/Lines

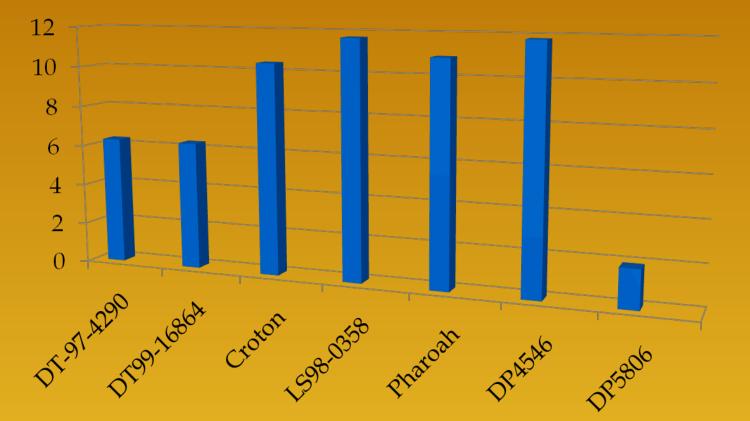
• Moderately resistant

- DT97-4290 (MG IV)
- DT99-1684 (MG V)
- Moderately susceptible-Croton (MG III)
- Susceptible
  - LS98-0358 (MG IV)
  - Pharaoh (MG V)
- Unknown
  - DPL4546
  - DPL5806

#### **Root Discoloration**

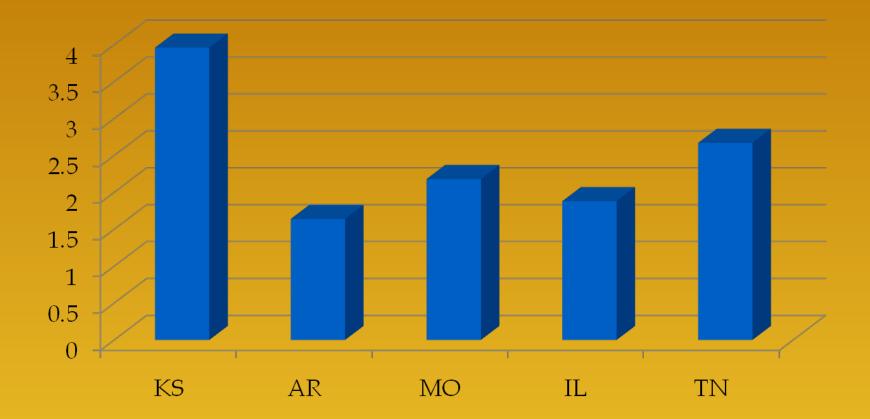


# Root Discoloration Ranking 2008



**Chris Little** 

# Root Discoloration by Location 2008



### Where We're Going?

- Repeat another year
- Analyze across locations, years
  - Most consistent measure (s)
  - Reduce variability
  - Value of cfu's
- Establish criteria
  - Selection of lines
  - Removing lines

