

Vineyard renovation:

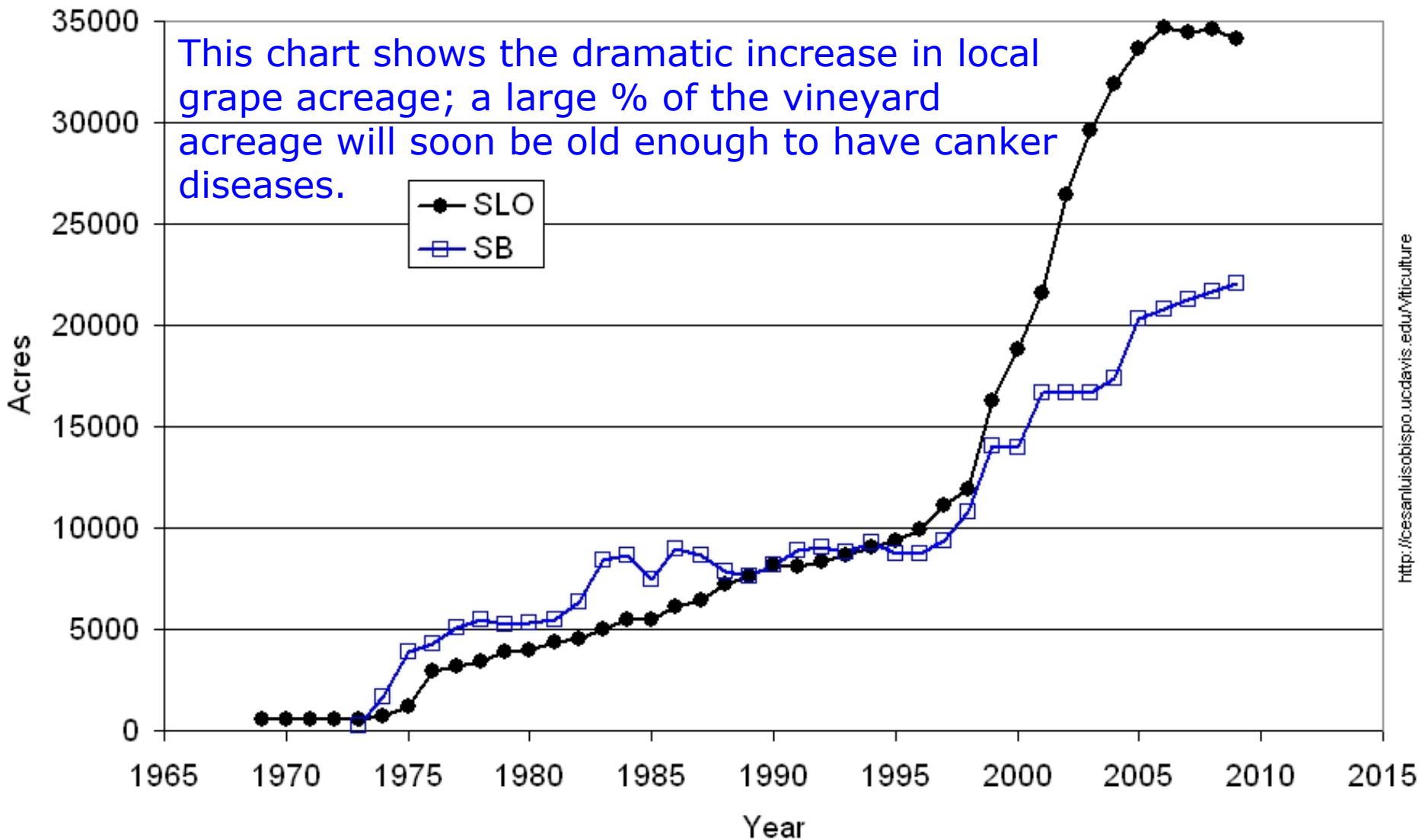
Timely response to a depressed grape market

Mark Battany, Farm Advisor

San Luis Obispo & Santa Barbara Counties

This PDF file is a copy of a brief presentation made to the “Wines and Steins” club on Nov. 5, 2010. The blue text are comments added to help readers understand the slides in this PDF.

Total harvested acreage



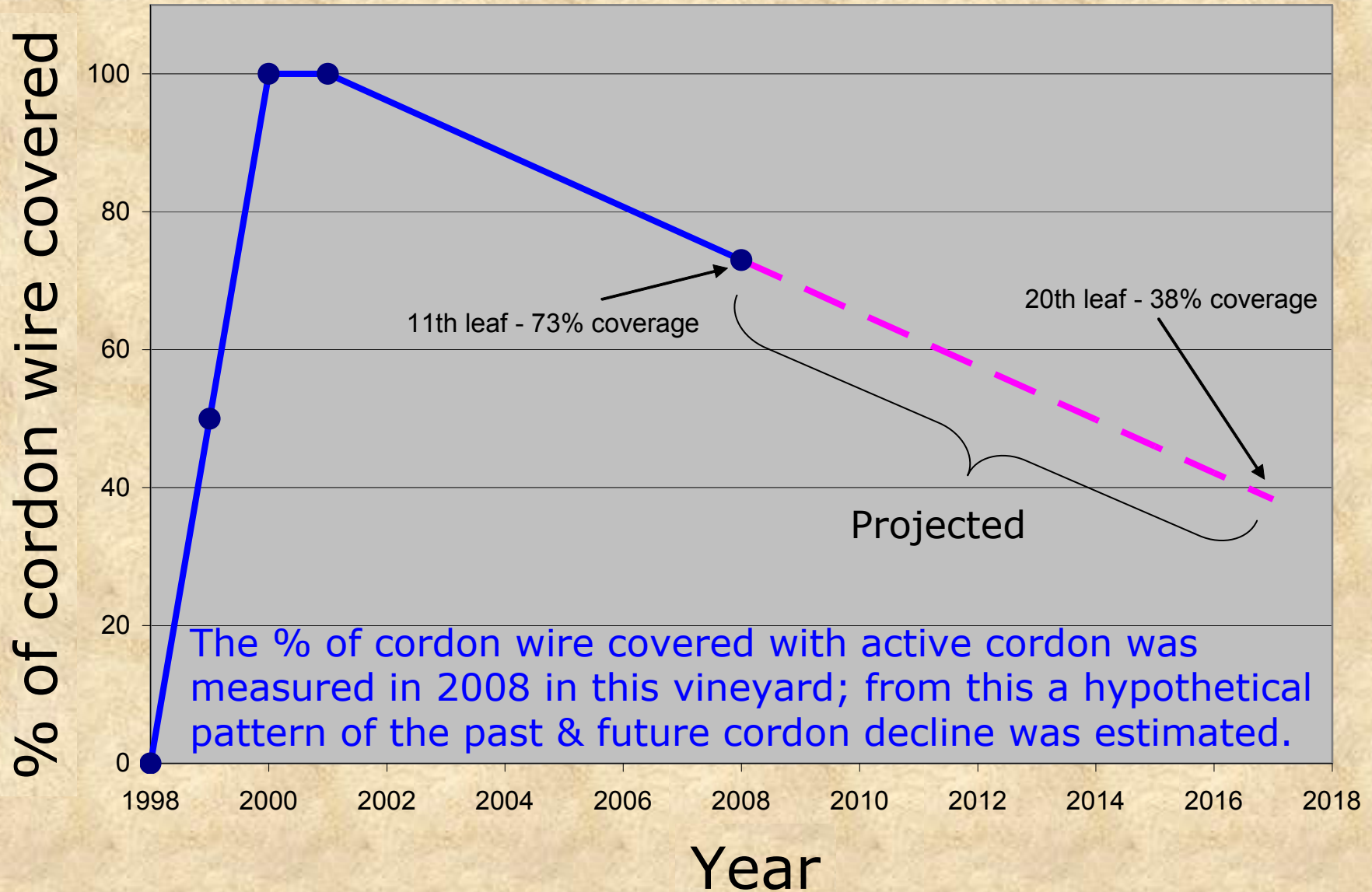
Canker diseases

- Occur as vineyards age, reduce yield
- Renovation can restore productivity

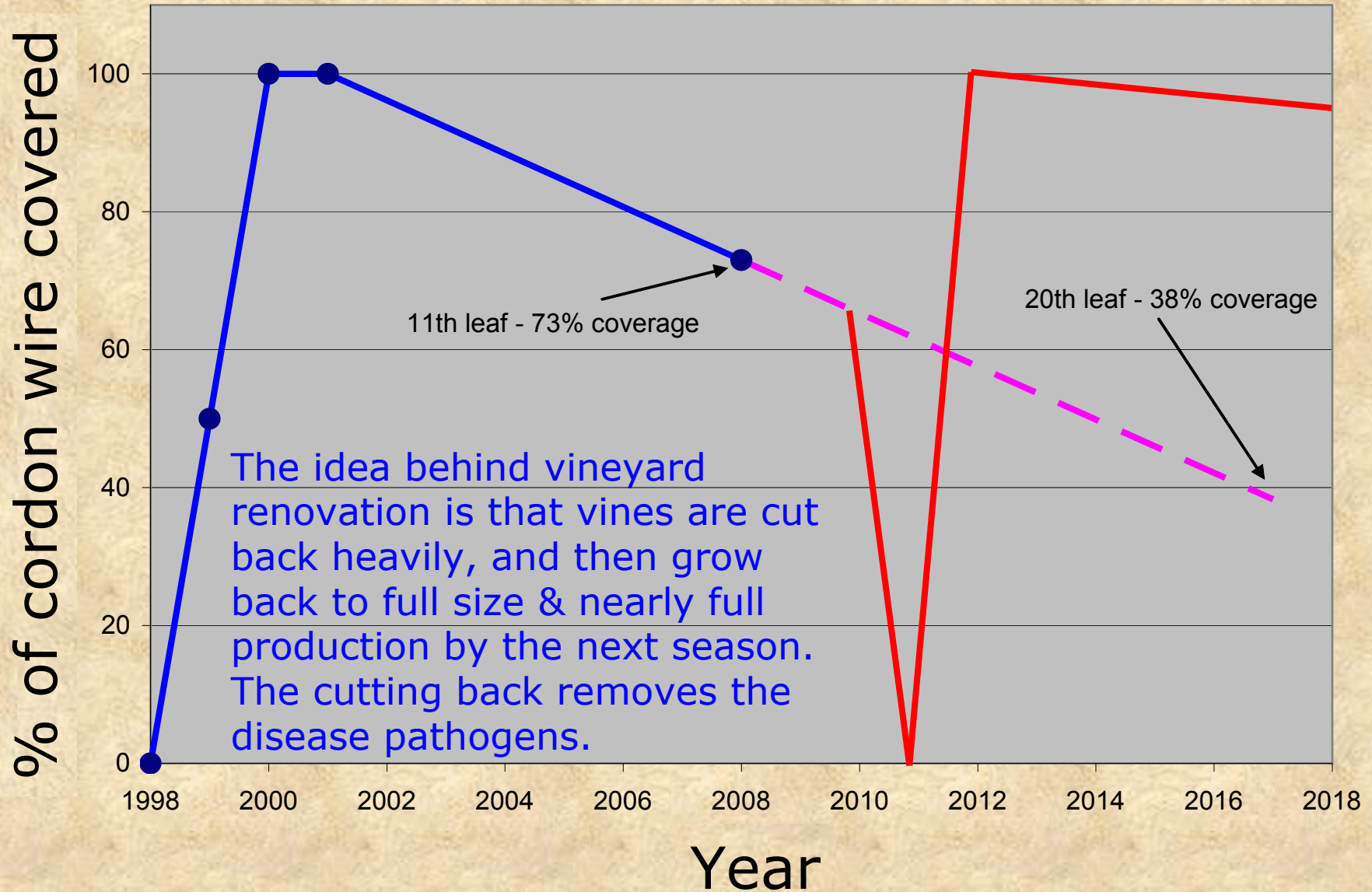


Infections of canker diseases such as Eutypa and Bot Canker increase as vines age, decreasing productive cordon length.

Yield reduction over time



Yield reduction over time



This mature vineyard was cut back in the late winter of 2009/2010. In the spring, buds push from the mature woody tissue.



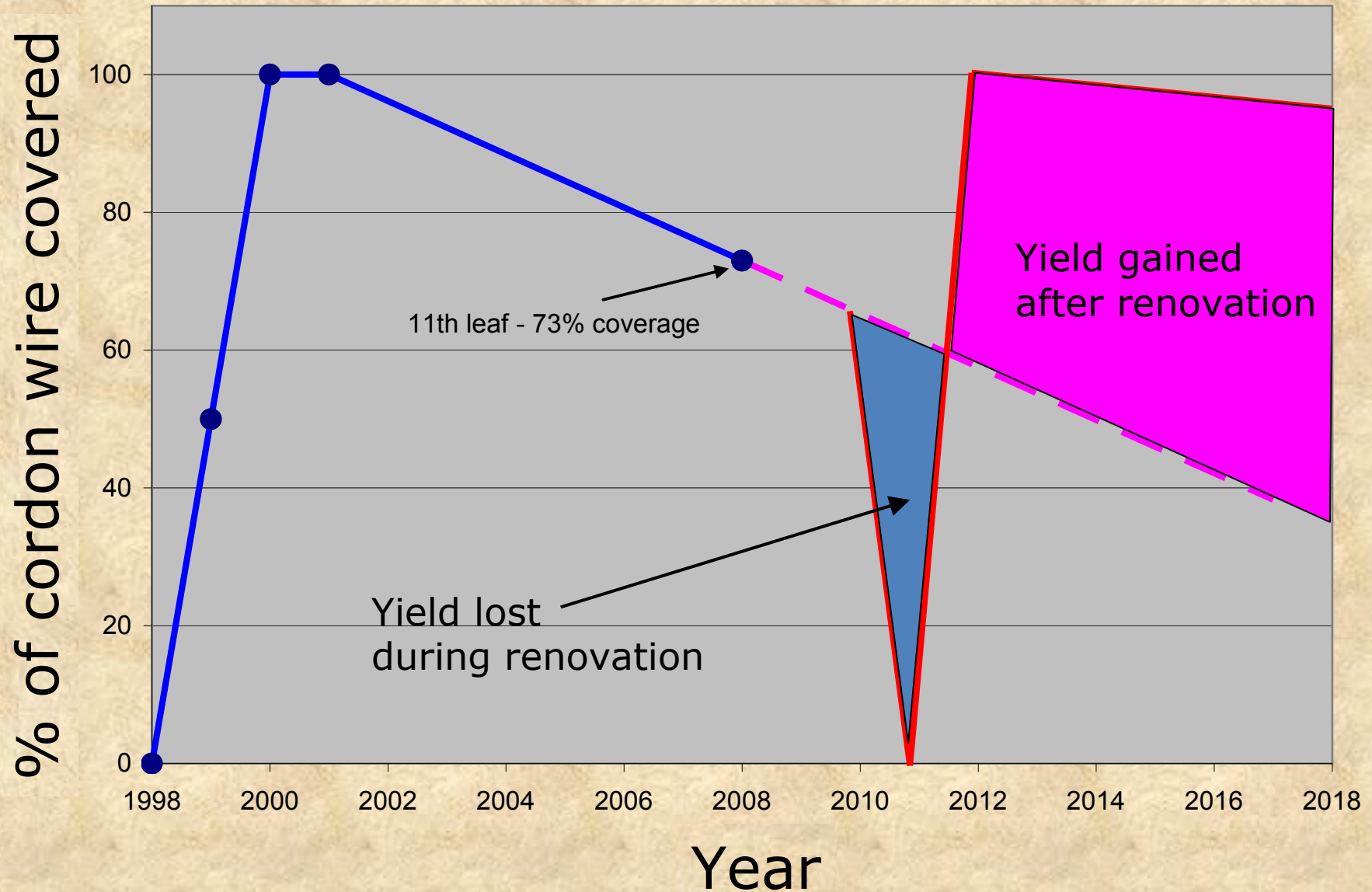
Cut the vines back far enough to remove all infections. Own-rooted vines can be cut back almost to the soil, grafted vines need some scion intact.

By later summer, the vines have begun to form new cordons. If the renovation is done before vines weaken too much, they can re-grow onto the cordons in the first season after cutting. Note that the shoots will have to be thinned in the summer.



The goal – lose crop one season to gain much more later on.

Yield reduction over time



This doesn't solve:

- Virus infections
- Poor rootstock
- Other intrinsic conditions



It's important to diagnose the cause of poor growth; renovation is ONLY appropriate for canker infections!

Putting your vineyard to sleep

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Fertilization

- Is it necessary?
 - Over-fertilization causes problems
 - Answer lies in data/observations from previous year
- When
 - Fall: Dry-farmed vineyards, supporting cover crop
 - More prone to runoff and leaching loss!
 - Spring/summer: drip-irrigated vineyards
 - Fertigation; applying in small doses as needed

Irrigation

- Post-harvest irrigation
 - Beneficial if time for additional vine activity
 - But don't want to encourage excessive growth
- Winter irrigation
 - Beneficial if winter dry & cold
 - Moisture in soil can improve cold-hardiness
 - Strong La Niña predicted for this year – cold, dry

Pruning

- Delay pruning as late as is practical
 - Early pruning is the main cause of canker infections!
- Avoid pruning just prior to rainstorms
- Avoid excessively large pruning cuts
- Apply pruning paint to large cuts
- Consider fungicide sprays, wound paints, etc.

Floor management

- Tillage usually required if seeding a cover crop
 - Be wary of increased erosion risk
 - Bare soil in winter only OK at low-risk sites
- Cover crops
 - Useful for most sites
 - Can be seeded, self-seeding, or natives
 - Do consume moisture – manage accordingly