

# Spurs: Driving productivity

Dave Monks, Cathy Taylor and Michael Treeby

Spurs are the main fruit-bearing parts of almond trees. An understanding of the factors that influence spur fruitfulness and longevity is important in the development of appropriate management practices that deliver higher productivity.

The amount of carbohydrate almond trees have available to grow and mature nuts is directly related to the amount of light the leaves are able to capture. Therefore, yield from an almond block can be predicted from the amount of light each spur can capture.

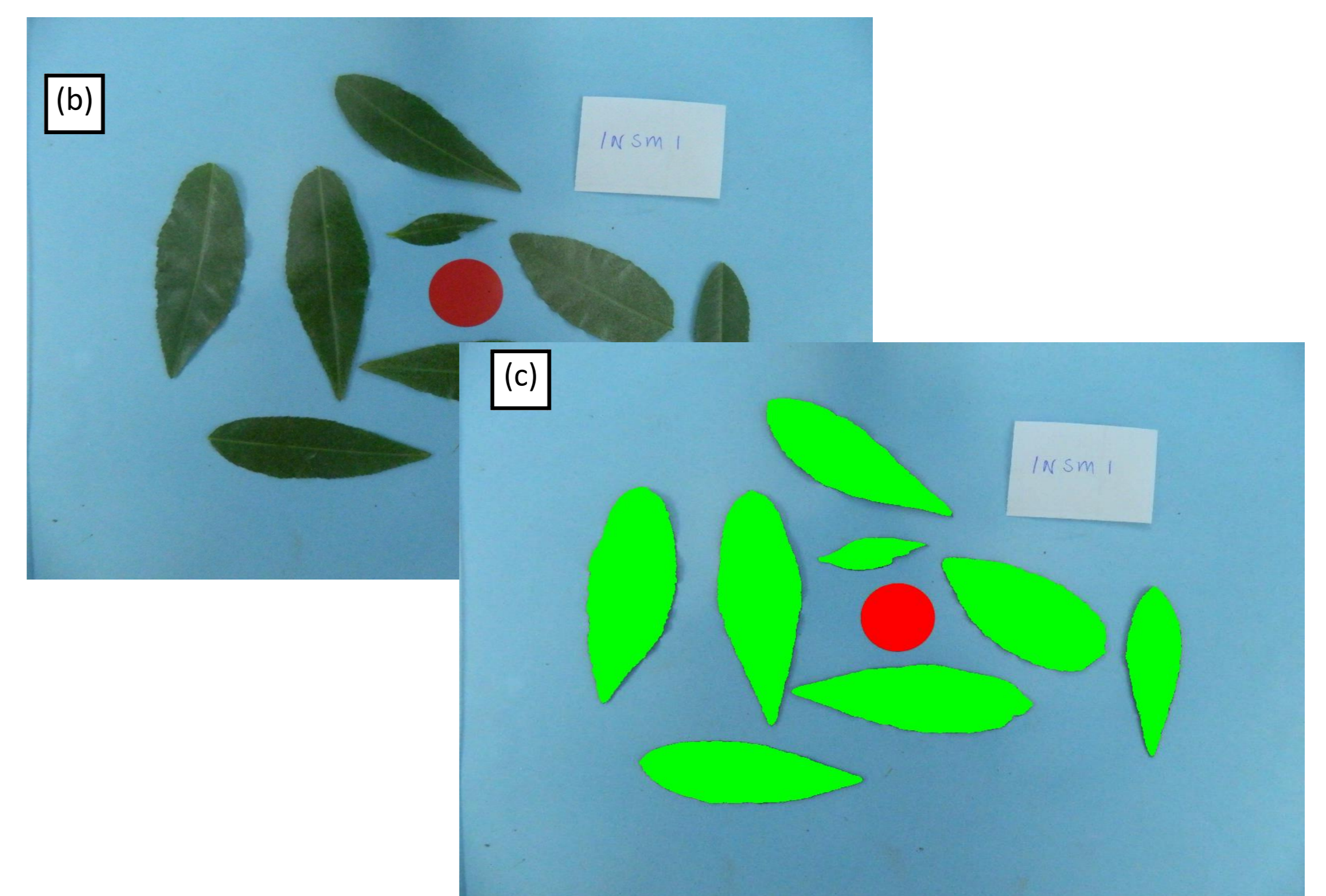
Each spur's light interception is positively related to the spur's leaf area, but measurements of leaf area are destructive and labourious.

We related simple, non-destructive field-based measurements (the number of leaves and the length of the longest leaf per spur) to leaf area per spur for more than 700 spurs.

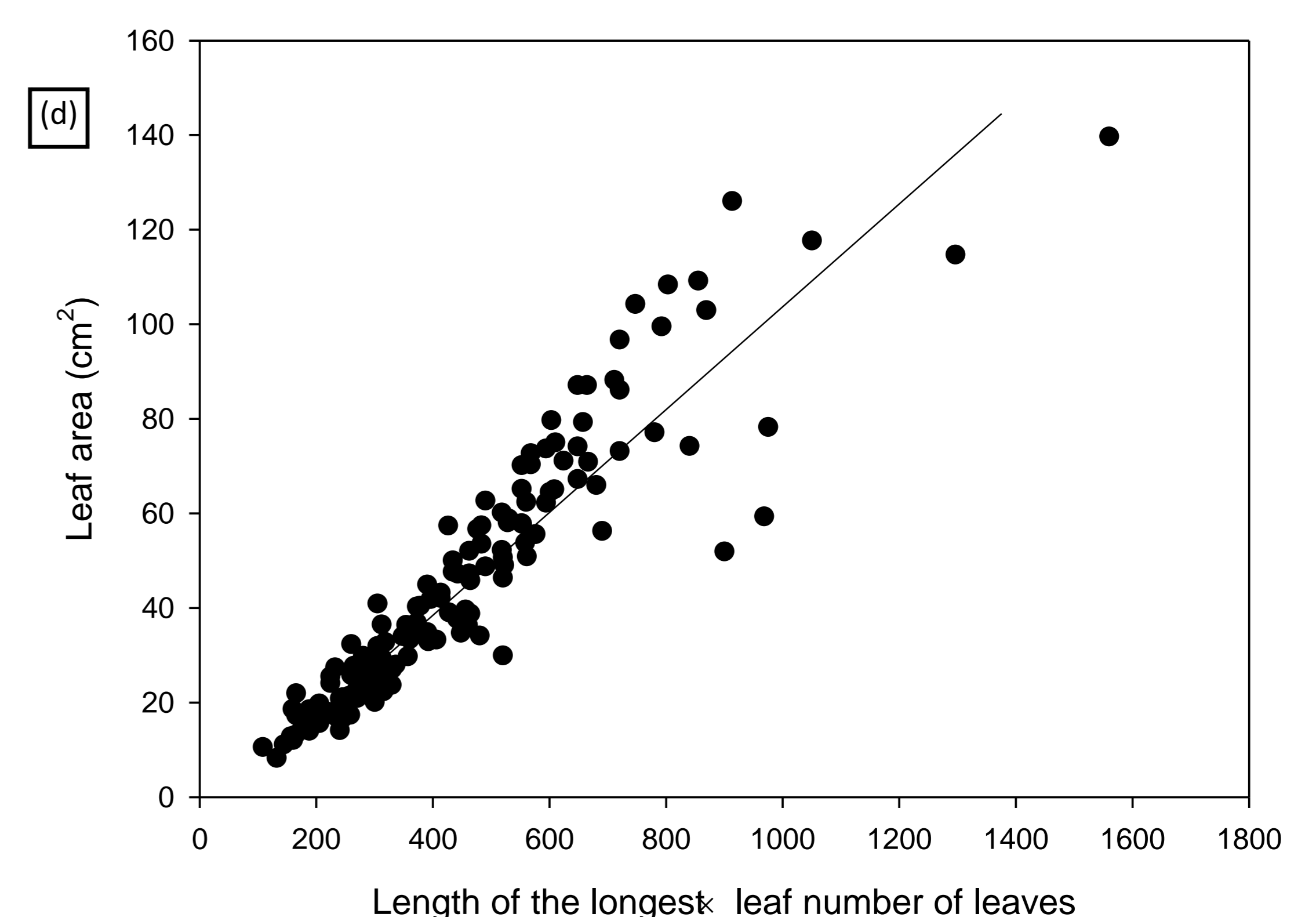
Establishing this robust relationship means an individual spur's light capture potential can be estimated in the field, without destroying the leaves.



a) Removing leaves from a spur, in preparation for overhead photography.



b) Leaves prepared for leaf area analysis, and (c) as rendered by the software program.



d) The relationship between easily measured variables and leaf area of individual 'Nonpareil' spurs.

**Accessibility**

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone DEDJTR, Agriculture Research and Development's Dr Dave Monks on 03 5051 4500.

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