

# Squirrels like Hazelnuts!

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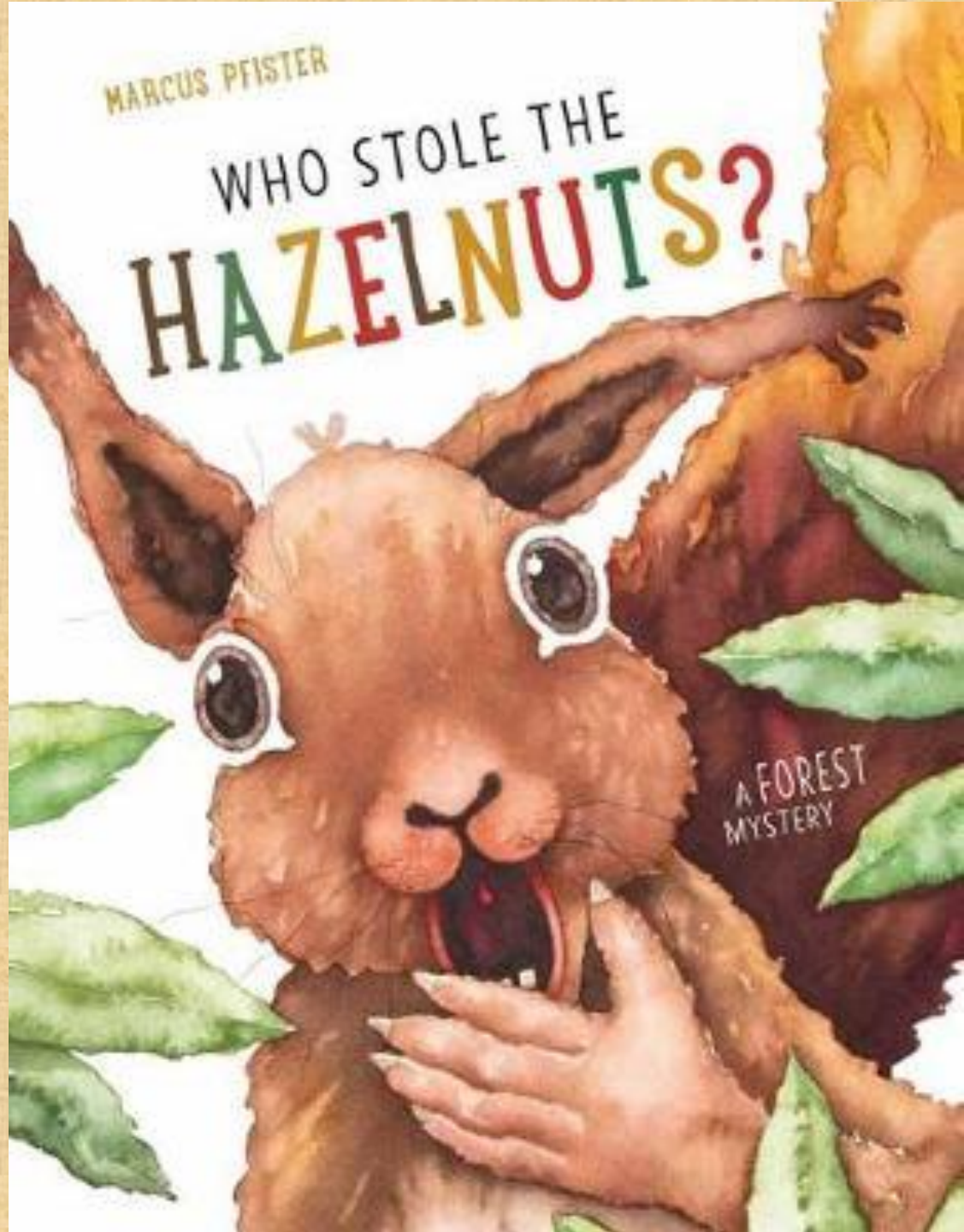


**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
BAYFIELD COUNTY

**Upper Midwest  
Hazelnut  
Development Initiative**

**Rodents like  
hazelnuts!**



**Not only rodents like hazelnuts...**



**Blue jays like  
them too!**

**More work to be done  
in the future...**



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pontla/9194438843>



<https://freshwaters-arndt.photoshelter.com/gallery-image/Squirrels-Chipmunks>

<https://www.squirrelgazer.com/blog/archives/08-2018>





<http://riverbendhazelnuts.blogspot.com/>



<http://riverbendhazelnuts.blogspot.com/>

Variables that may influence the amount of rodent damage could be:

- ♥ Maturity of the hazelnuts
- ♥ Habitat conditions:
  - ♥ Distance to forested or shrubbed areas
  - ♥ Weeds
  - ♥ Type of soil
  - ♥ Availability of other desirable food source/s
- ♥ Time of harvest.
- ♥ Hazelnut plant structure.
- ♥ Presence of natural enemies.
- ♥ Variety of hazelnut cultivars.
- ♥ Or some more undetermined reasons to be studied ???






Our first approach was to measure  
what % of the production is lost by rodent activity.

# METHODS

Nuts are harvested when they are mature.

While harvesting count amount of:

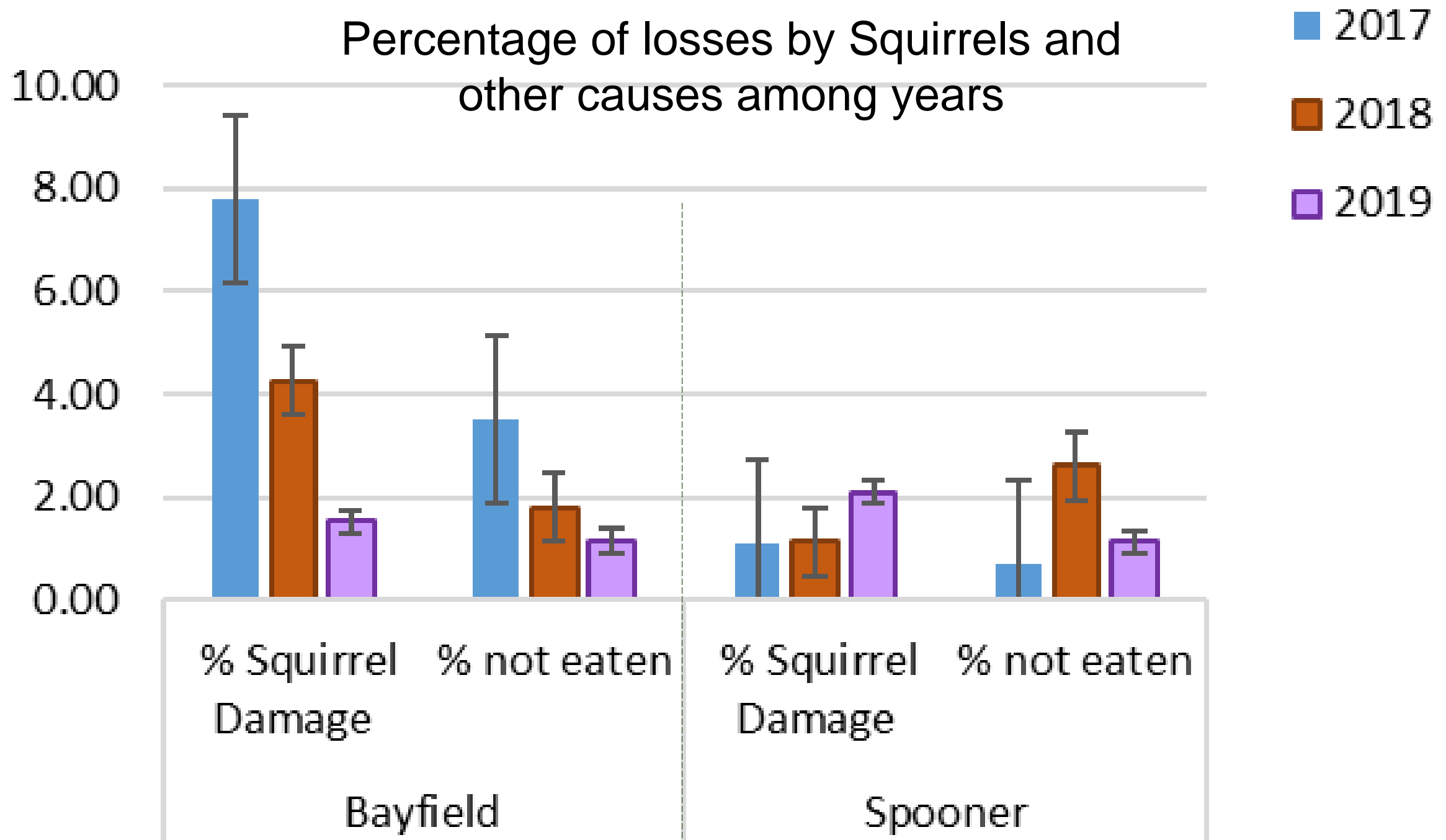
-  clusters harvested
-  clusters eaten on the ground or plant
-  clusters not eaten on the ground

# RESULTS

## Average of amount of clusters produced per plant, eaten by squirrels and lost by other causes

		2017		2018		2019	
		Avg. # clusters/plant	# plants	Avg. # clusters/plant	# plants	Avg. # clusters/plant	# plants
<b>Bayfield</b>	produced	42.04		46.01		212.48	
	eaten on the ground	2.15	161	1.47	213	1.79	108
	not eaten on the ground	1.22		0.58		0.85	
<b>Spooner</b>	produced	180.75		197.27		292.43	
	eaten on the ground	1.53	32	1.17	82	3.51	37
	not eaten on the ground	1.03		4.06		2.51	

Percentage of losses by Squirrels and other causes among years



# Conclusions

- ♥ Overall, the % of damage by rodents was around 5%.
- ♥ Max. average rodent damage of 10.9% was recorded in Bayfield in 2017.
- ♥ 2017 was the year with the lowest production and the highest % damage by rodents, specially in Bayfield.

# Conclusions

- ♥ The higher the production, the lower the % of lost by rodents.
- ♥ The % of nuts lost by rodents and other causes was similar. Other causes were mainly ripening and falling.
- ♥ We do not have enough data to conclude on the preference of Americana or hybrids genotypes. It seems to vary based on plant production and date of harvest.

# Very special thanks to...

Genevive Adamski, who patiently counted all the clusters  
while harvesting!

Also thanks to:

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Jason Fischbach  
For helping discussions



Questions ?



<https://freshwaters-arndt.photoshelter.com/gallery-image/Squirrels-Chipmunks>