

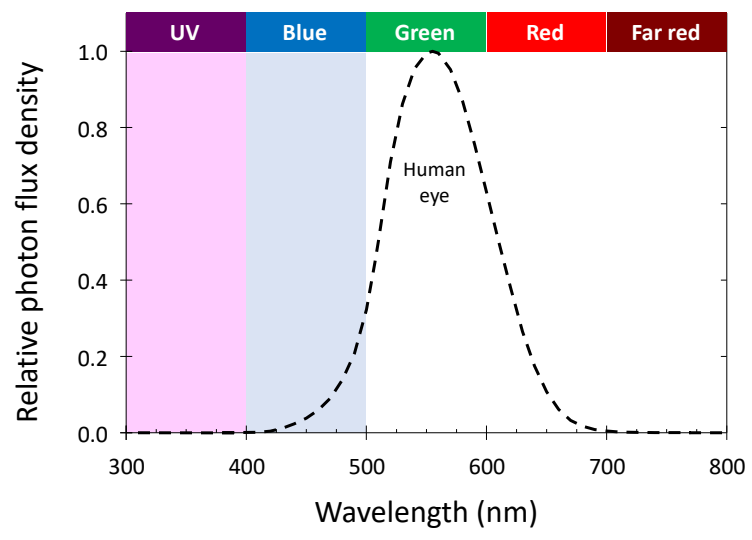


## UV and blue light

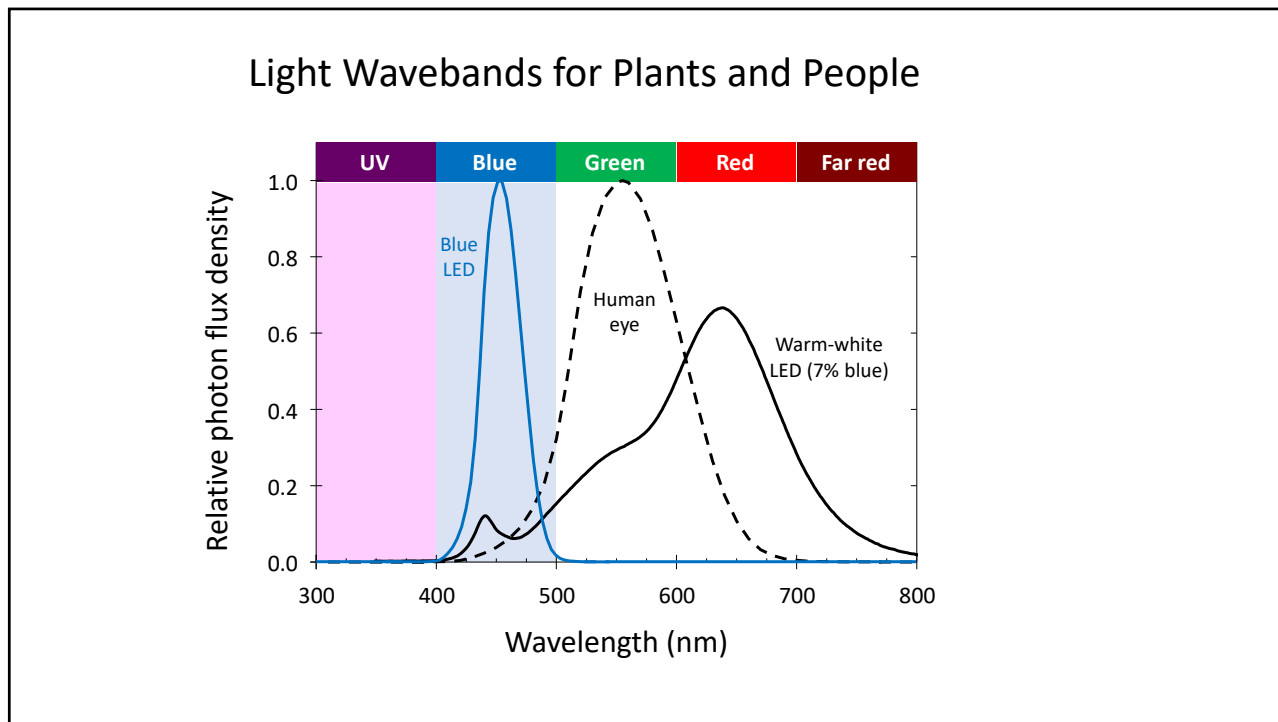
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Light Wavebands for Plants and People





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### UV and Blue Light Wavebands

- Blue: 400 to 500 nm
- UV-A: 315 to 400 nm
- UV-B: 280 to 315 nm
- UV-C: 100 to 280 nm
- The energy of radiation increases as the wavelength decreases
- These high-energy wavebands can cause eye and skin damage and use necessitates proper safety precautions, especially eye protection

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## UV and Blue Light Wavebands

- Typically suppress extension growth
- Can regulate synthesis of secondary metabolites that influence leaf color and taste including:
  - ✓ Phenolics: A group of compounds that have antioxidant capacities and impart various flavors and colors
  - ✓ Anthocyanins: A phenolic compound that influences leaf coloration



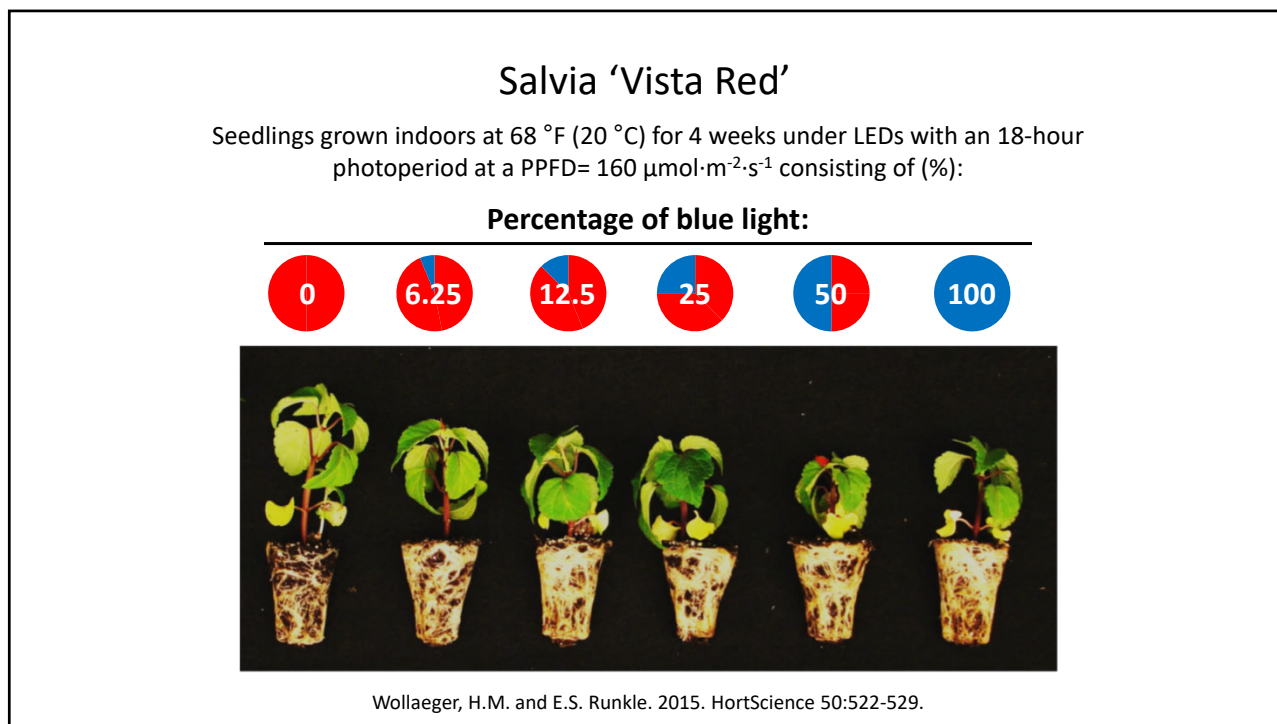
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## UV and Blue Light Wavebands

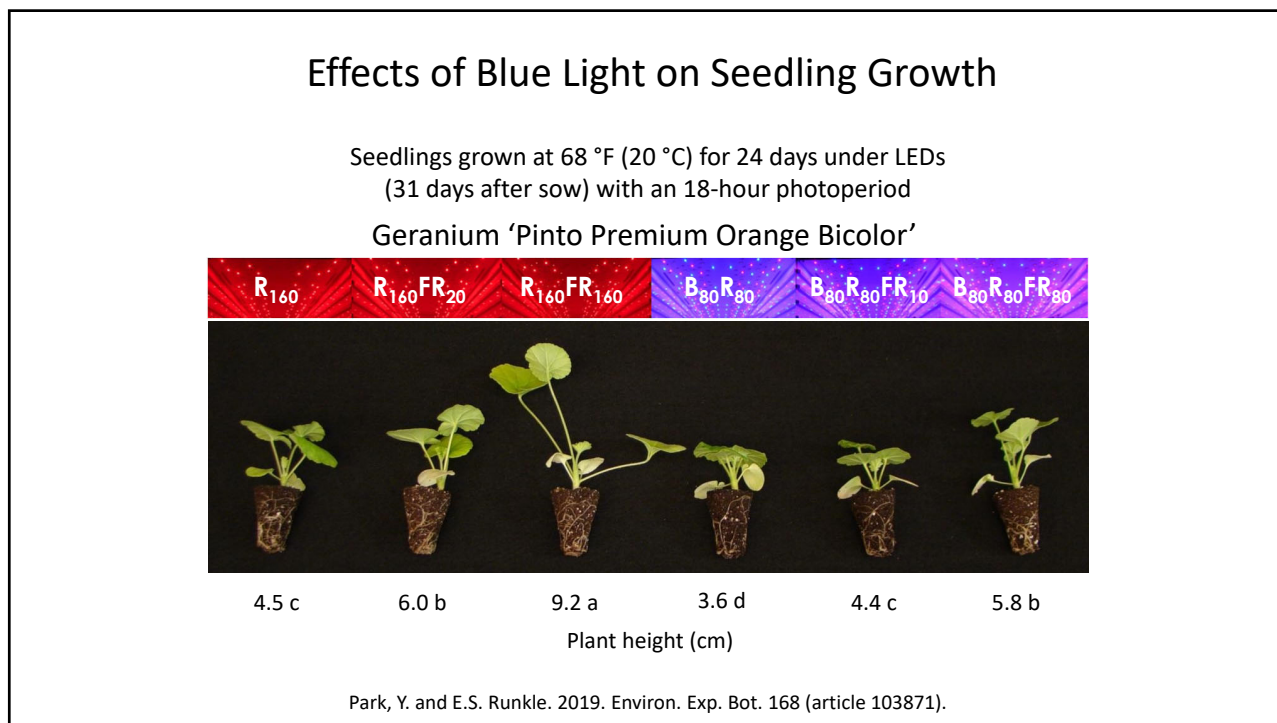
- Compared with blue LEDs, UV LEDs are substantially more expensive, less efficacious, and have shorter lifetimes
- UV-B and UV-C can suppress/kill pathogens and other microorganisms, and decontaminate water and growing surfaces
- The “dose” (wavelength, flux density, and duration) of UV is important: sufficient to kill pathogen(s) but not inhibit growth or damage leaves



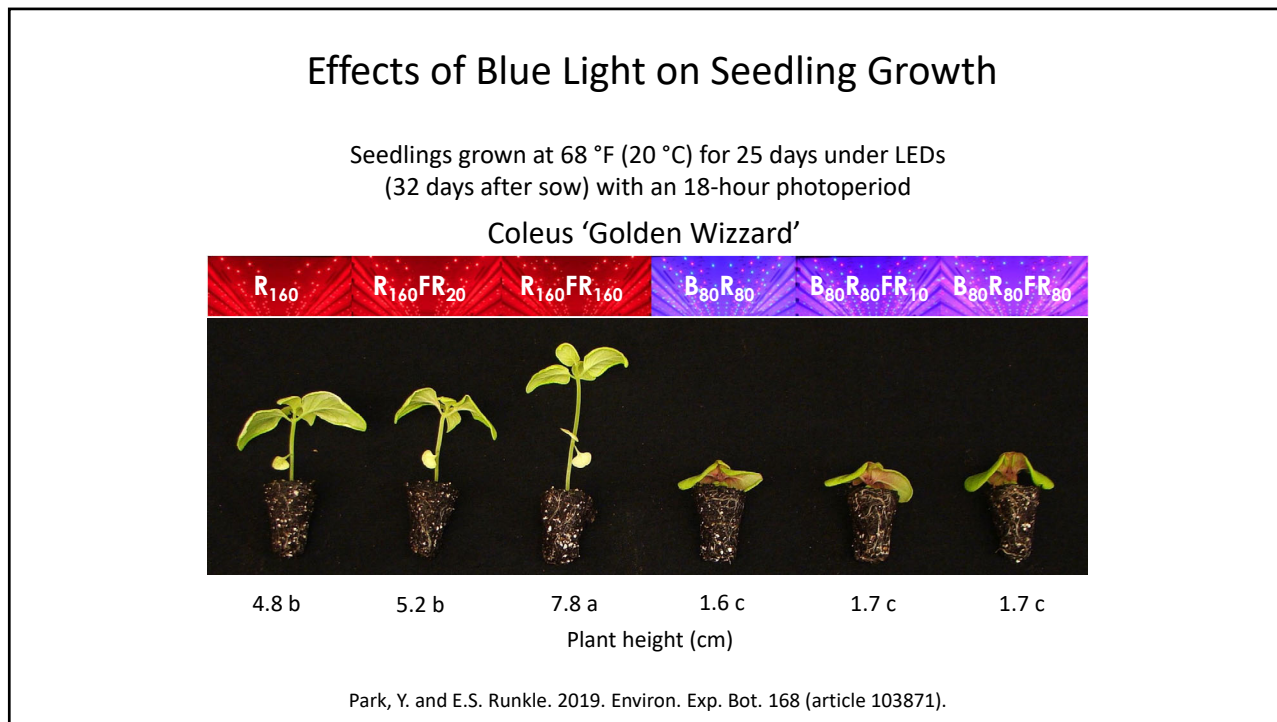
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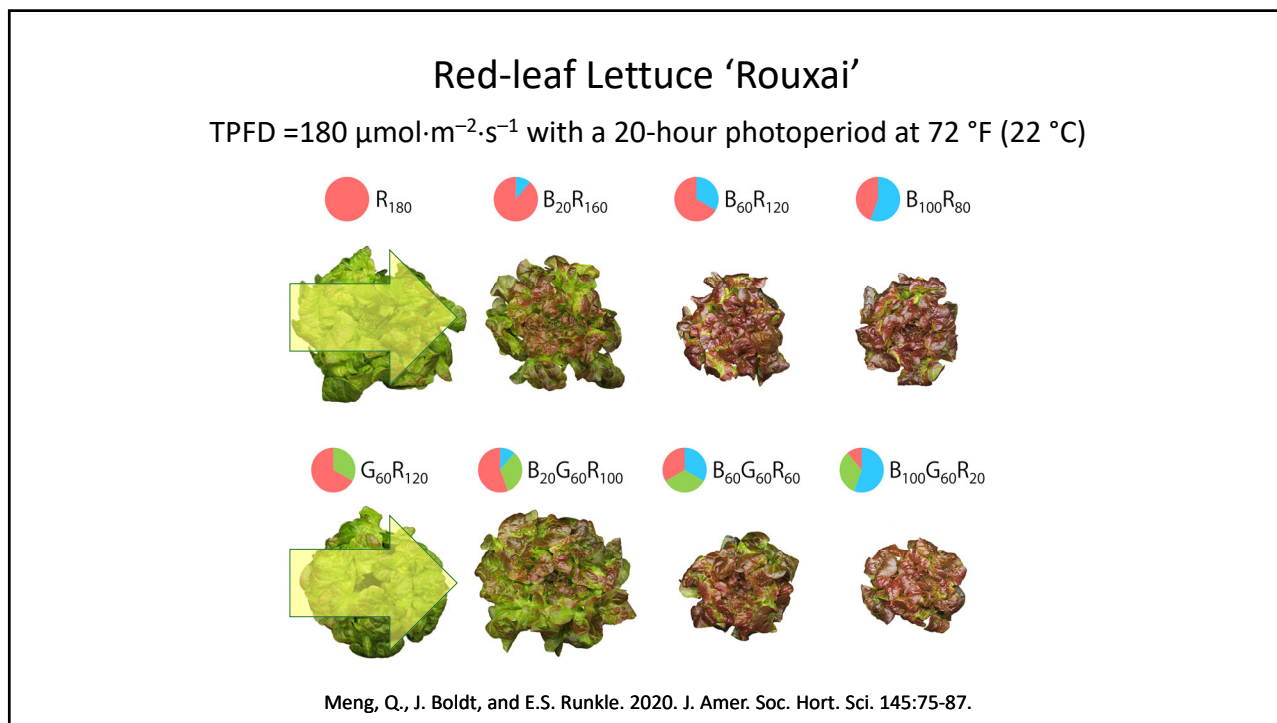
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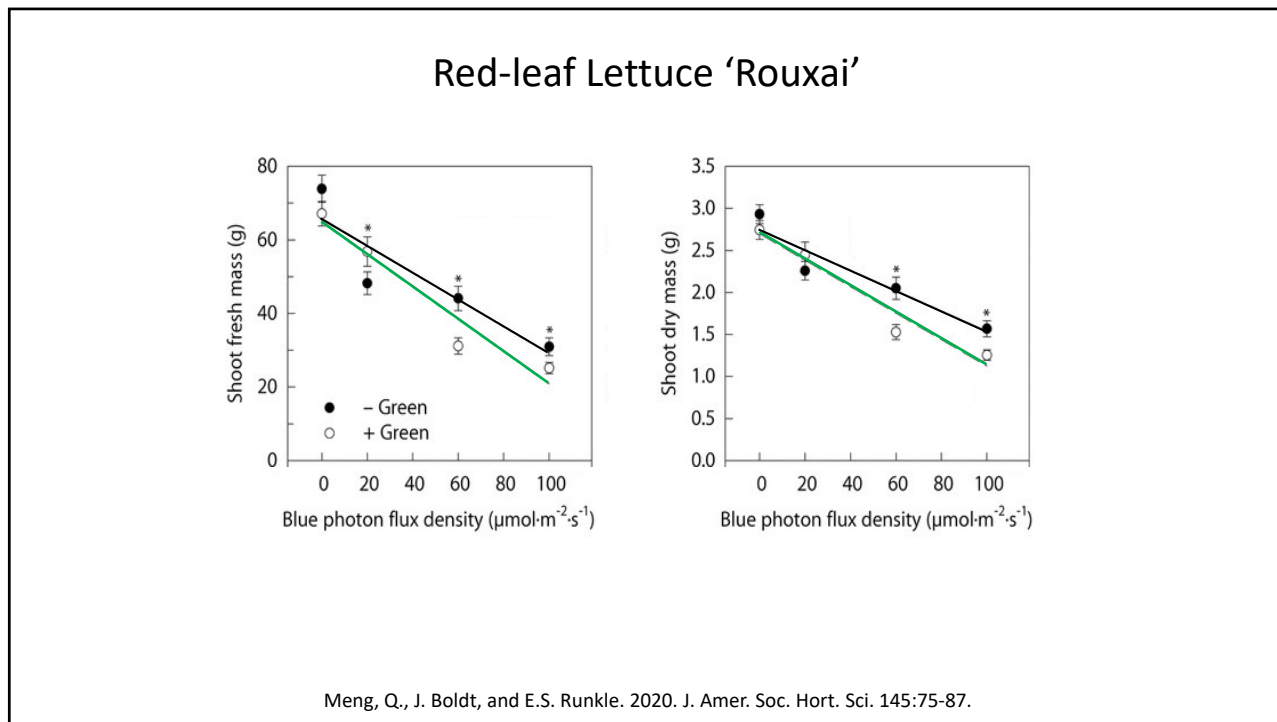
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### Phasic Lighting

Objective

- To understand how changing light quality during the production of leafy greens influences plant quality and yield

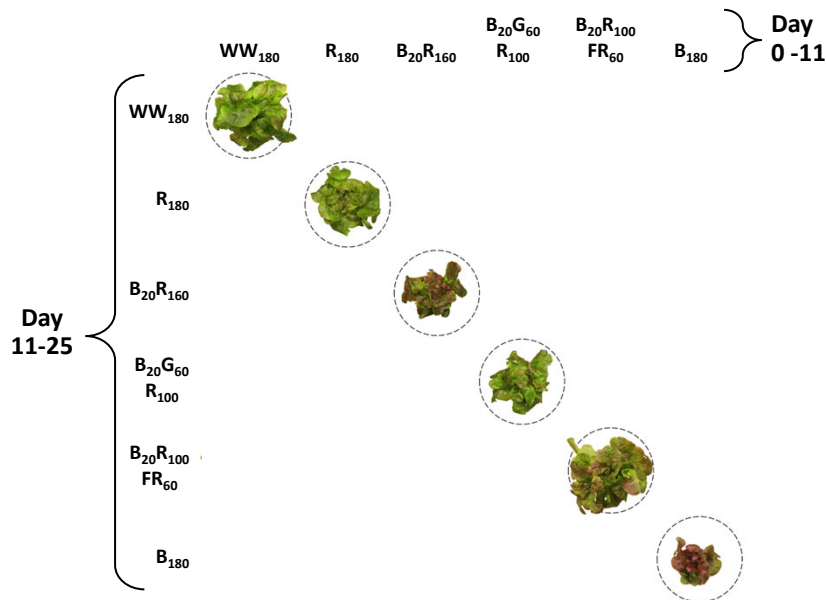
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## Materials and Methods

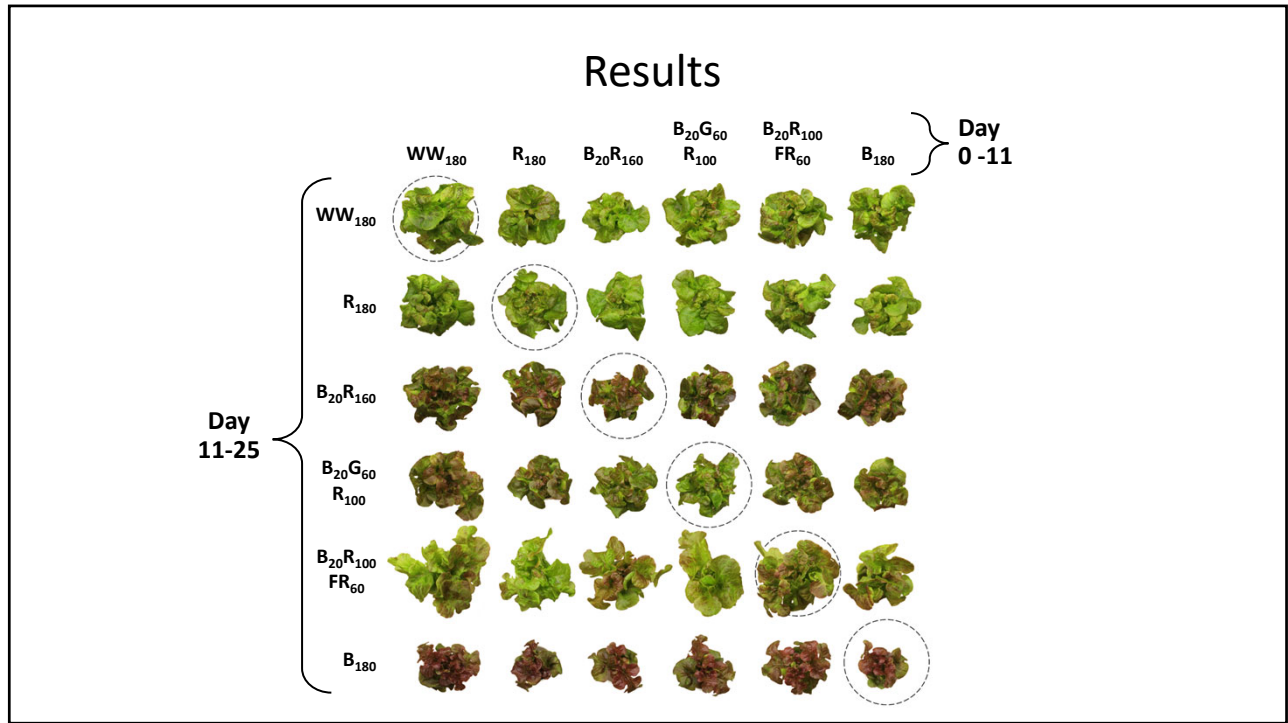
- Red-leaf 'Rouxai' lettuce
- Photoperiod of 20 hours/day and air temperature of 73 °F (23 °C)
- TPFD of  $180 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  from blue, red, green, far-red and/or warm-white LEDs:  $\text{WW}_{180}$ ,  $\text{R}_{180}$ ,  $\text{B}_{20}\text{R}_{160}$ ,  $\text{B}_{20}\text{G}_{60}\text{R}_{100}$ ,  $\text{B}_{20}\text{R}_{100}\text{FR}_{60}$ , and  $\text{B}_{180}$
- Seedlings were transferred from each of the 6 treatments on day 11 to the other treatments, for a total of 36 lighting treatments
- Plants were harvested on day 25

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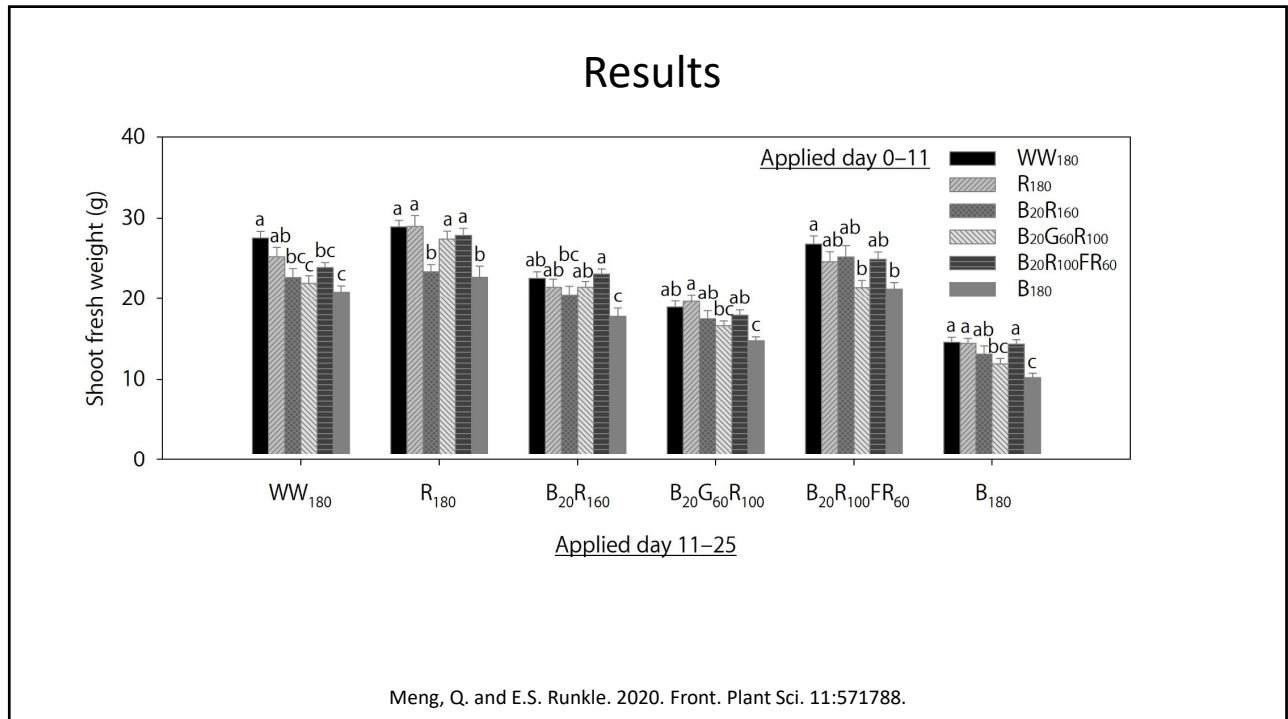
## Results



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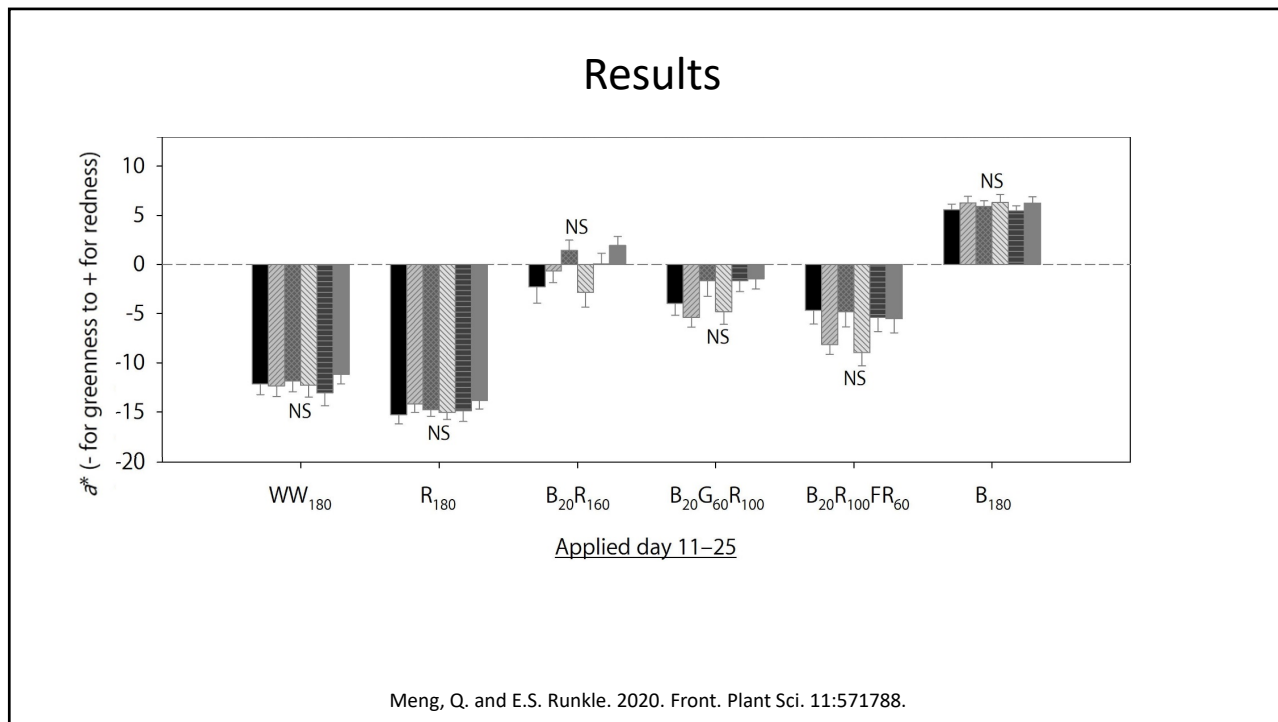


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## End-of-Production Lighting

Objectives

- Confirm that end-of-production lighting can increase quality of leafy greens grown indoors without decreasing yield
- Compare the efficacy of UV-A relative to B light at influencing leaf color and production of secondary metabolites

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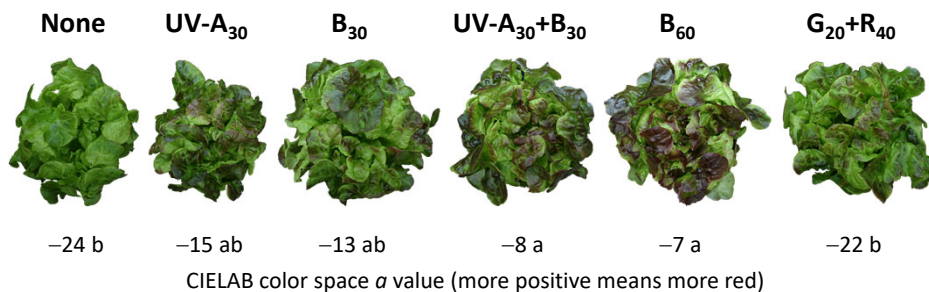
## Materials and Methods

- Red-leaf 'Rouxai' lettuce
- Photoperiod of 20 hours/day and air temperature of 73 °F (23 °C)
- TPFD of 180  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  from 55% red (peak=665 nm) and 45% warm white LEDs
- Six days of end-of-production lighting from UV-A (peak= 385 nm) and/or blue (peak=449 nm) LEDs, with two controls (no additional lighting, or with red and green light)

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## Preliminary Results

Lettuce 'Rouxai' grown under 180  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  for 20 hours/day at 73 °F (23 °C) for 24 days, then for 6 days with additional light:

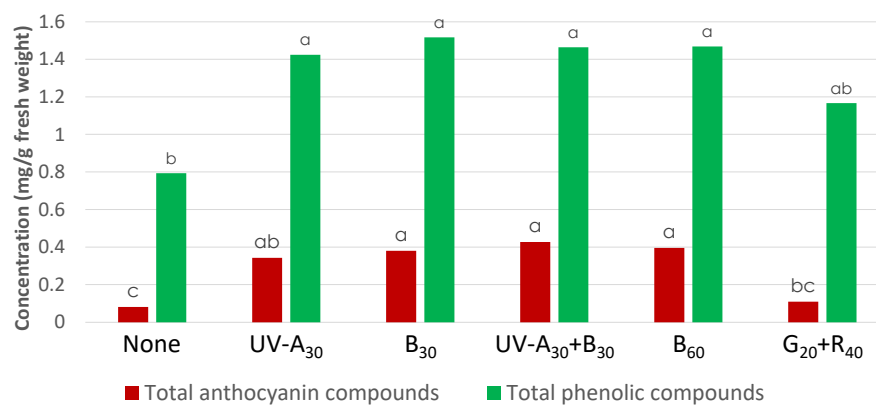


Ultraviolet-A (UV-A; peak=385 nm), blue (B; peak=449 nm), green (G; peak=532 nm), red (R; peak=664 nm)

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## Preliminary Results

Lettuce 'Rouxai' grown under  $180 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  for 20 hours/day at 73 °F (23 °C) for 24 days, then for 6 days with additional light:



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## Phasing Lighting with UV-A and Blue Light

### Objective

- To determine how the timing of UV-A or blue light during the production of lettuce influences growth, quality, and nutritional attributes



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## Materials and Methods

- Red-leaf lettuce 'Rouxai'
- Air temperature of 73 °F (23 °C)
- Photoperiod of 20 hours/day
- Lighting at a TPFD of  $150 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ , half from red (peak = 664 nm) and half from warm-white LEDs
- UV-A, blue, or red +green (peak = 532 nm) light was added during:
  - seedling phase (day 4-12),
  - growth phase (day 12-20), and/or
  - finishing phase (day 20-28)

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## Preliminary Results

Lettuce 'Rouxai' grown under  $150 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  for 20 hours/day at 73 °F (23 °C) for 28 days with supplemental lighting of:

**None (control)**



**G<sub>10</sub>R<sub>20</sub>**



**UV-A<sub>30</sub>**

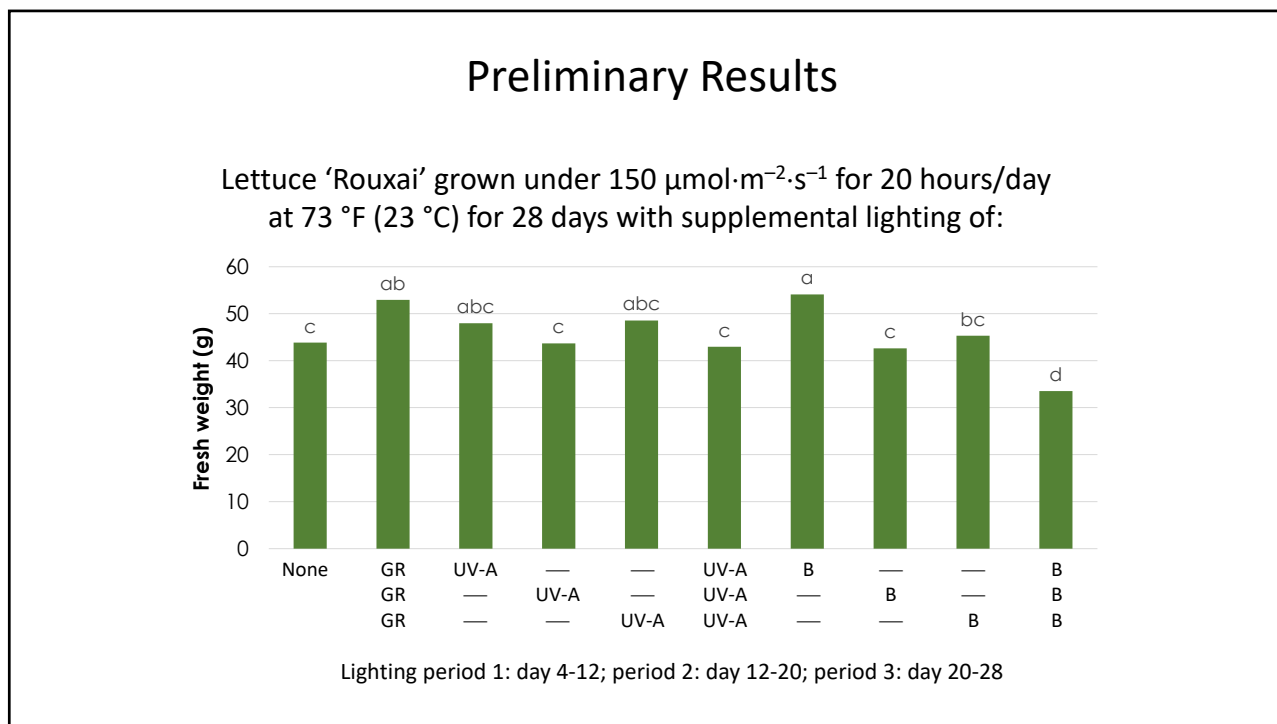


**B<sub>30</sub>**

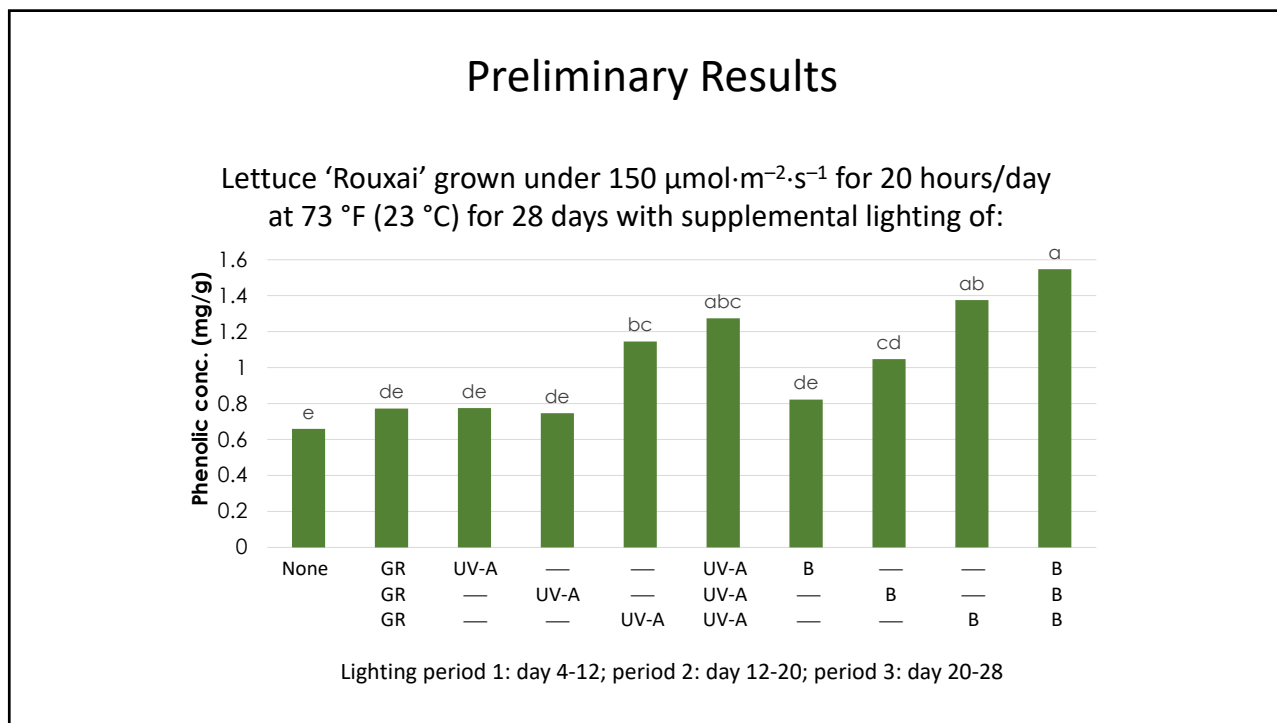


Ultraviolet-A (UV-A; peak=385 nm), blue (B; peak=449 nm), green (G; peak=532 nm), red (R; peak=664 nm)

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## Summary and Conclusions

- Blue light and UV-A radiation typically inhibit extension growth and increase quality, but can suppress biomass accumulation
- UV-A and UV-B can increase leaf coloration, although blue light was equality effective as UV-A radiation
- UV-B and especially UV-C can kill microorganisms, but strict precautions are needed to protect employees
- Enriching the spectrum with blue light near the end of production could be a useful approach to increase quality without suppressing yield

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## Acknowledgments



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