

# 880723

## Did you log in mediaspace with your SSO?

### Checkpoints

March 15: Divide into groups - pick up a topic you love – define the format

March 25: List of paper on file

April 05-15: Paper presentation

May 07: upload your podcast on mediaspace

May 27: ANNOTO, discussion peer evaluation

# 880723

## PAST TOPICS

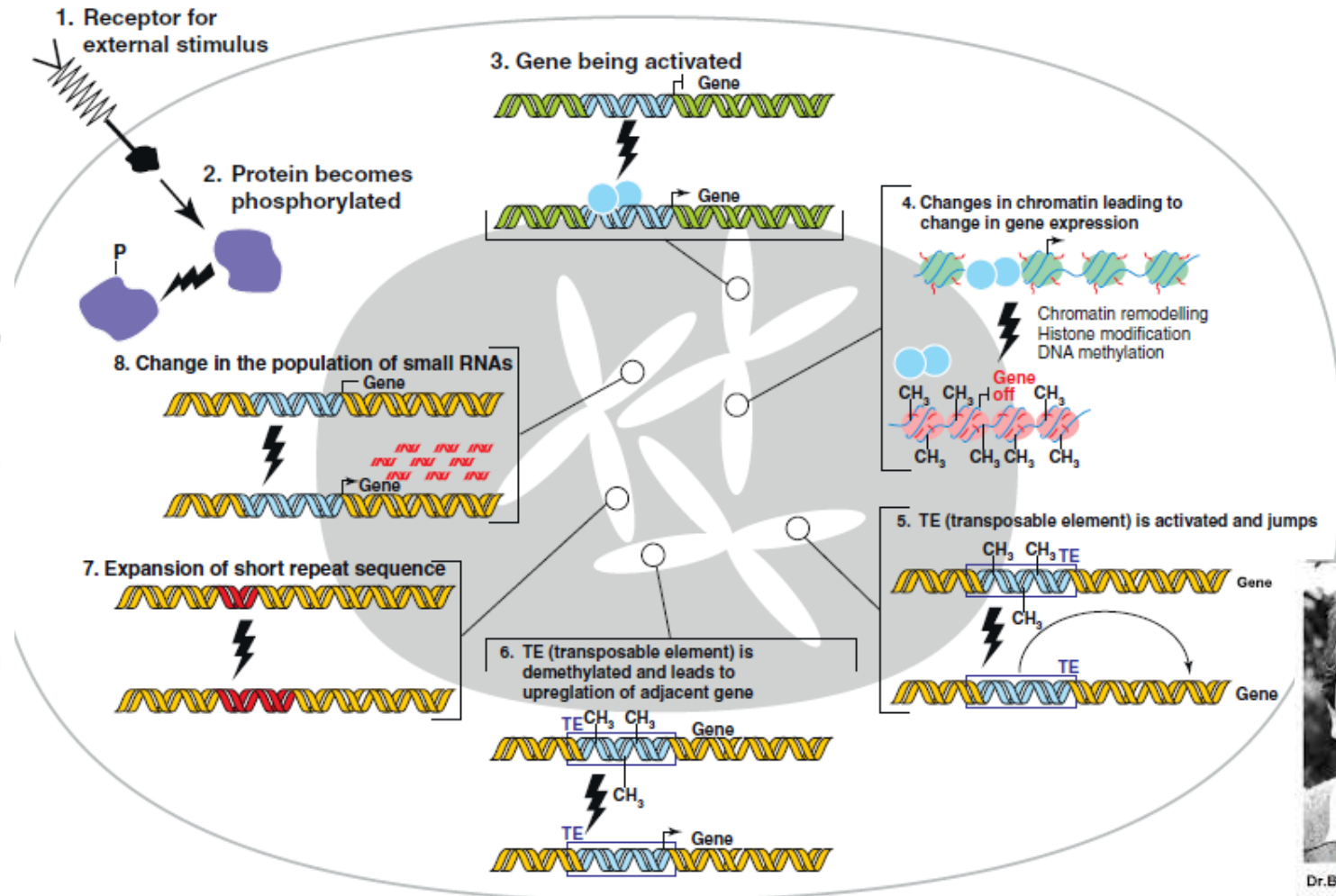
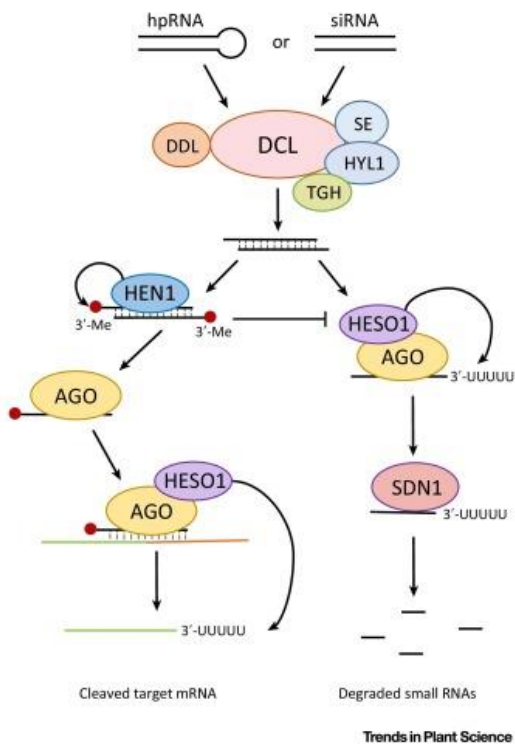
- Mitigation and Susiba2 rice
- Floodings
- Snorkel, Sub1 and RAP2.12 ERF VII

## NEXT TOPICS:

- Epigenetics and flowering time
- Epigenetics and drought resistance

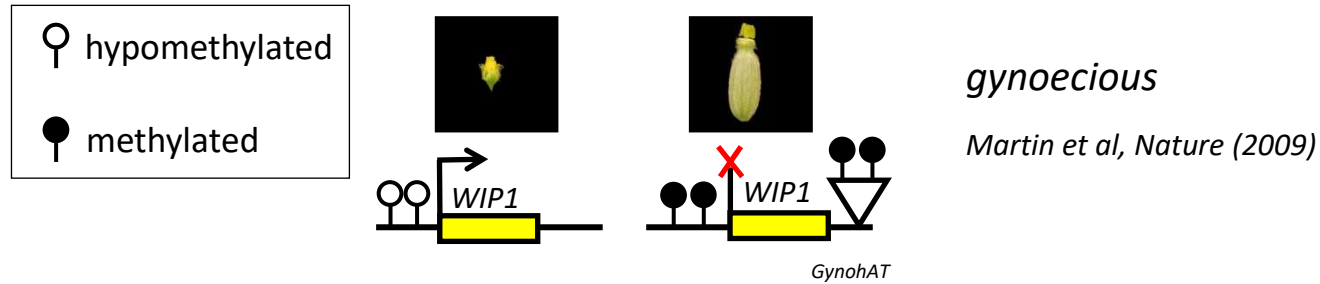
# Bridging evolution, ecology and molecular biology

Plastic molecular responses to environmental signals can occur in many ways.



Dr. Barbara McClintock (June 16, 1902 – September 2, 1992)

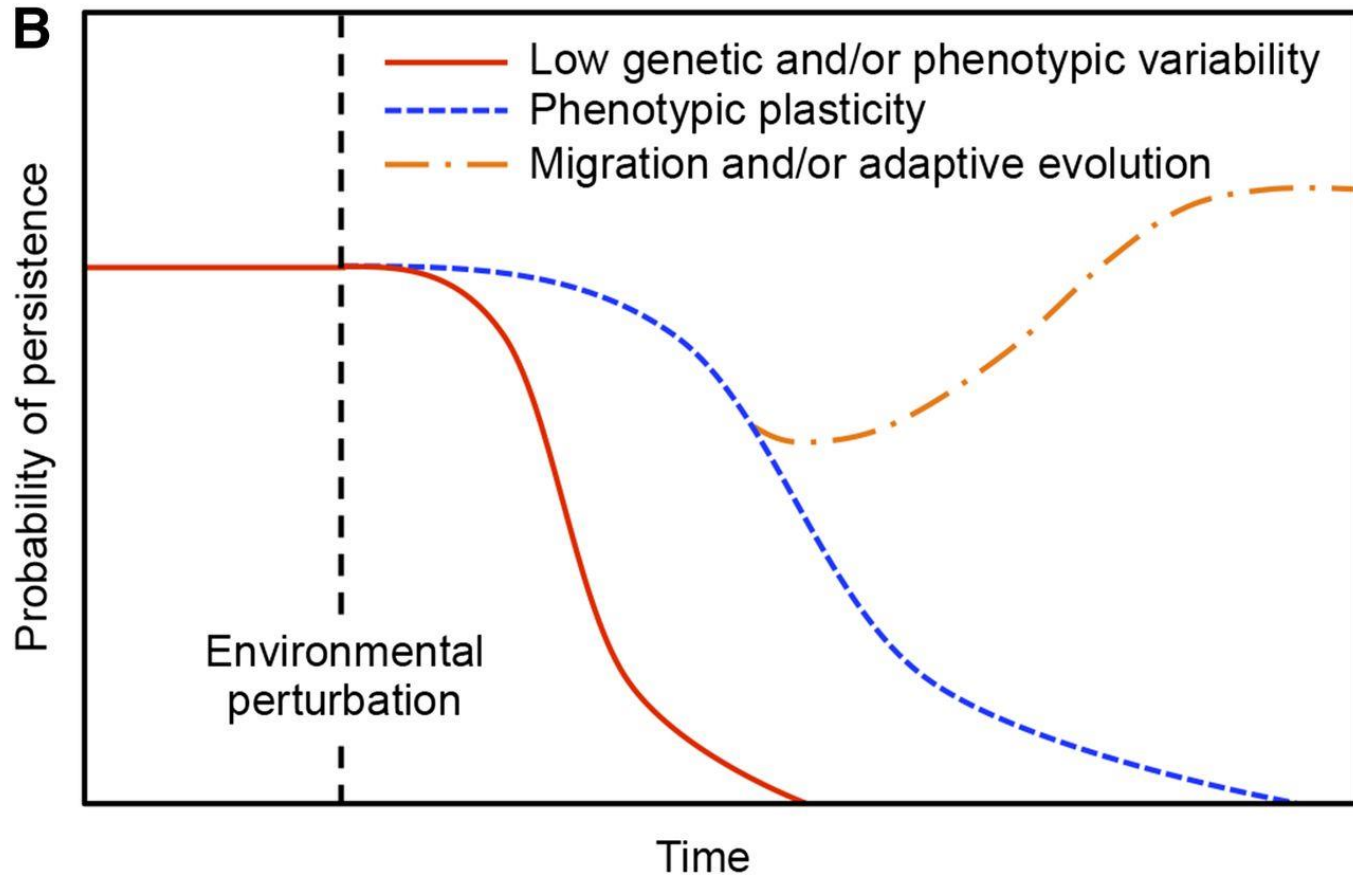
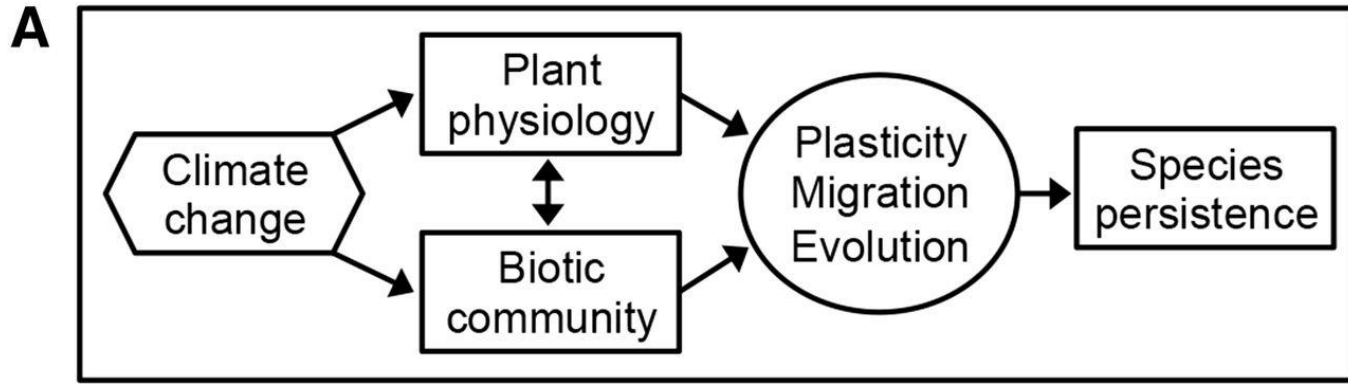
TRENDS in Plant Science



## LETTERS

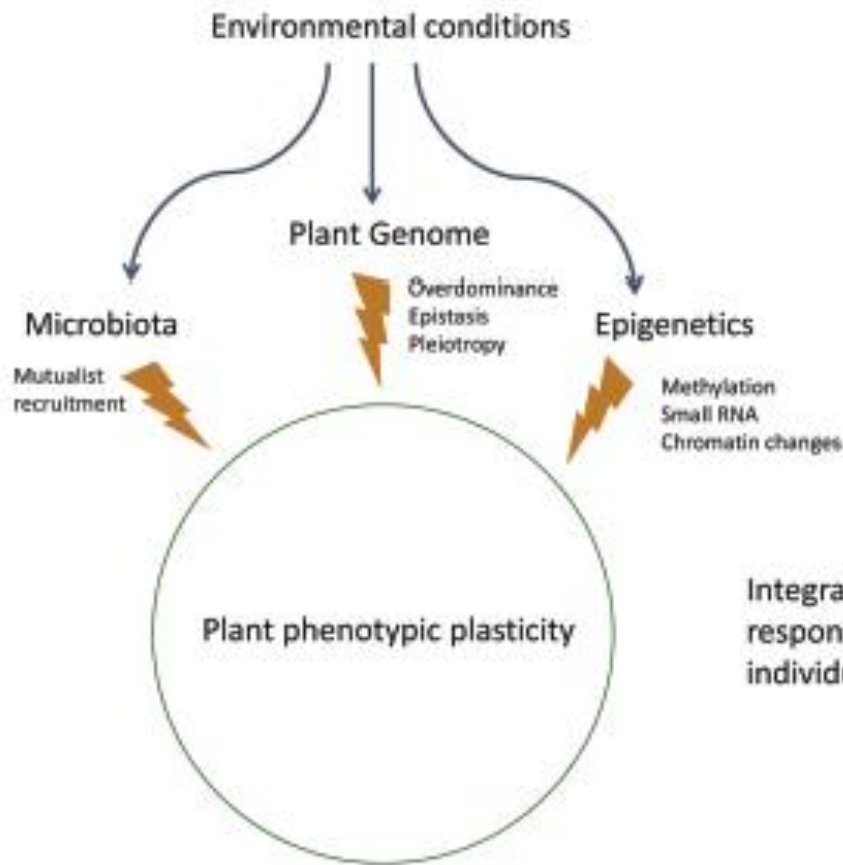
# A transposon-induced epigenetic change leads to sex determination in melon

Antoine Martin<sup>1</sup>, Christelle Troadec<sup>1</sup>, Adnane Boualem<sup>1</sup>, Mazen Rajab<sup>1</sup>, Ronan Fernandez<sup>1</sup>, Halima Morin<sup>2</sup>, Michel Pitrat<sup>3</sup>, Catherine Dogimont<sup>3</sup> & Abdelhafid Bendahmane<sup>1</sup>

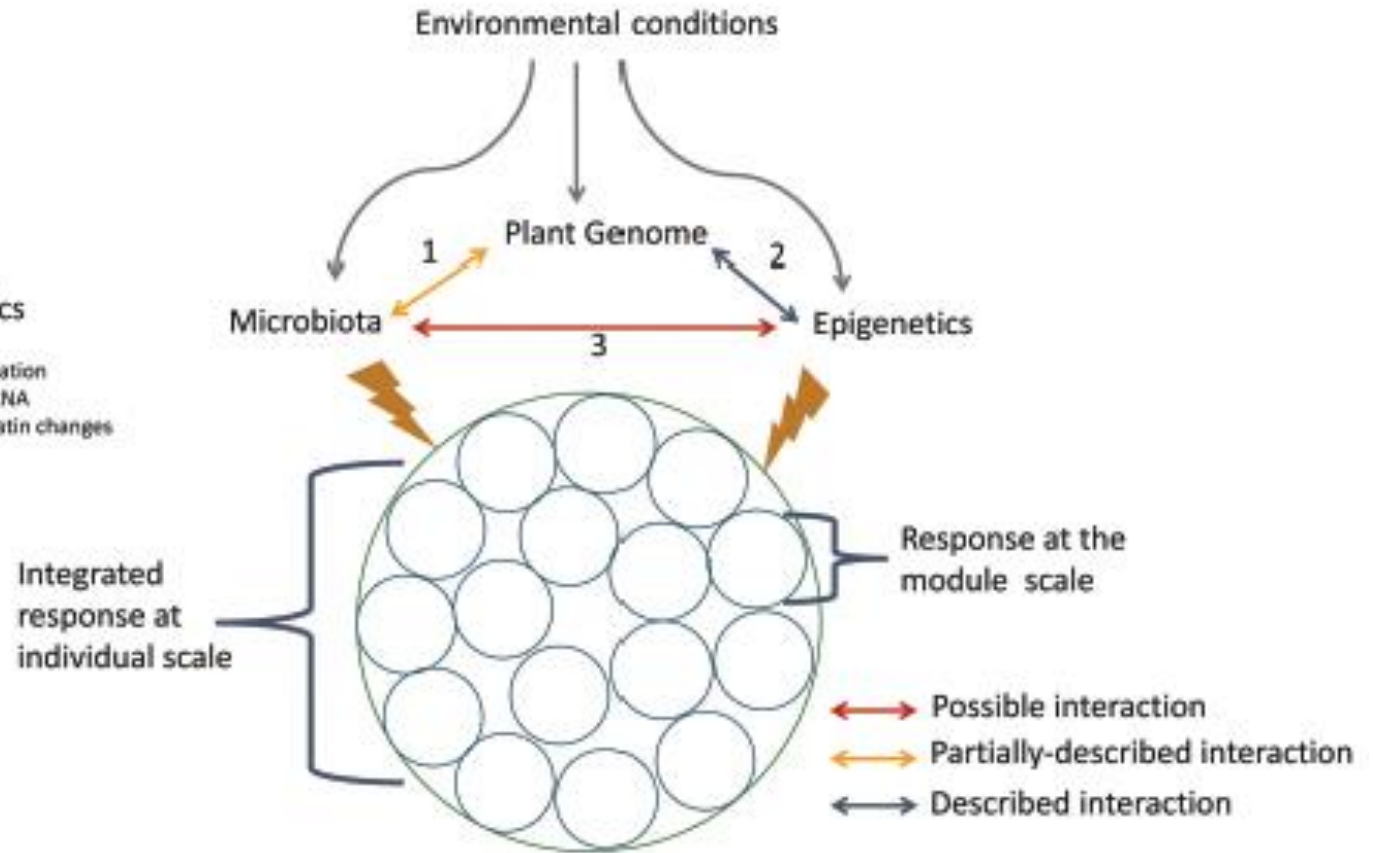


Plant phenotypic plasticity is triggered by environmental constraints. Phenotypic changes induced are not solely genetically controlled but are also based on either epigenetic marks or plant microbiota by recruitment of mutualists. This plant 'toolbox' allows a rapid response to environmental constraints.

A. Sources of environmentally induced plasticity



B. Interplays and plant modularity



# 880723

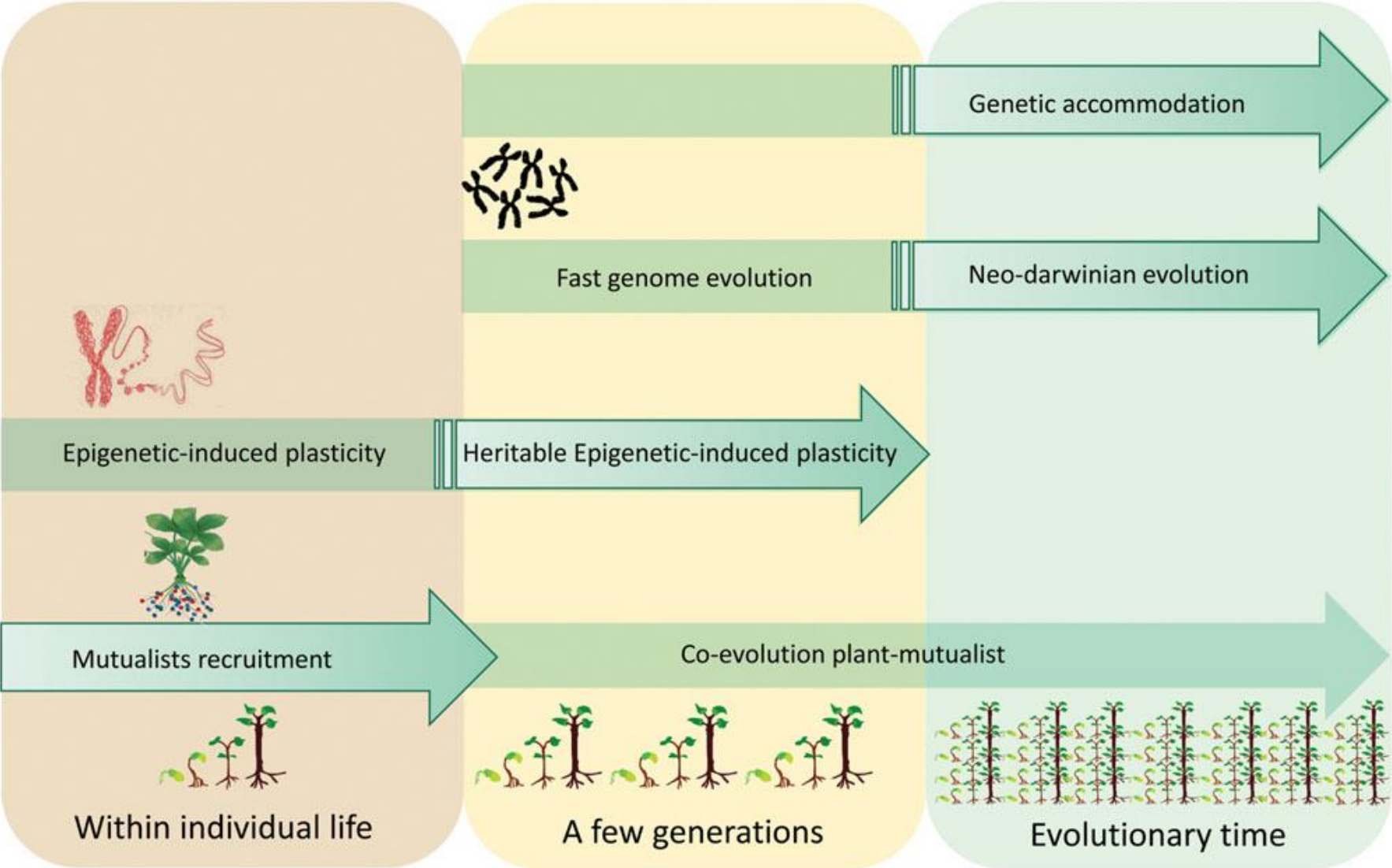
## PAST TOPICS

- Mitigation and Susiba2 rice
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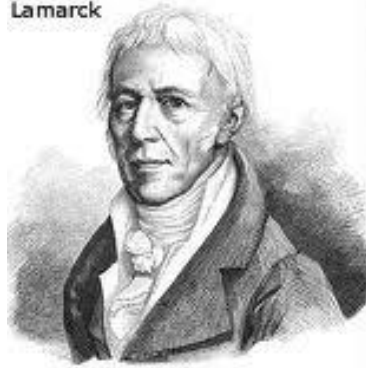
A plant's phenotypic variations can be inherited even in the case of a phenotypic trait not controlled by a gene/genome variation.



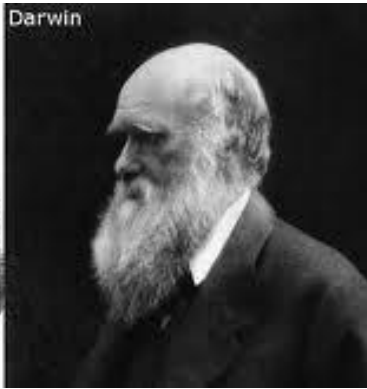
Timescale of environmental change



Lamarck



Darwin



**Lamarck's revenge: The epigenetics revolution may redeem one of Darwin's oldest rivals**

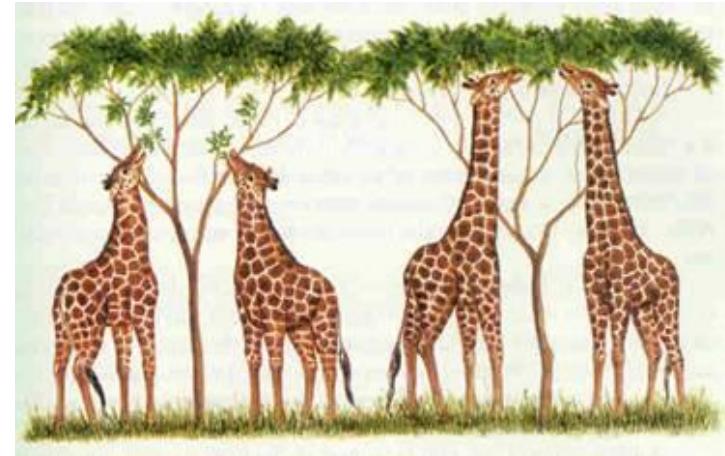
**"Une des intuitions de Lamarck pourrait s'avérer juste..."**

LE MONDE SCIENCE ET TECHNO | 13.04.2012 à 21h04 • Mis à jour le 13.04.2012 à 21h04

Epigenetics: In Defense of Lamarck

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**Lamarck revisited: epigenetic inheritance of ancestral odor fear conditioning**



# The impact of climate change on plant epigenomes

Qiong A. Liu

Biochemistry and Cell Biology Department, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

Predicted that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will reach to 550–700 ppm by 2050 and 650–1200 ppm by 2100, which means a global climatic warming of 2.5 °C or more by 2050 and of up to 6.4 °C by the end of this century. **Severe and longer-lasting droughts.**

## The opposing effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature on plant growth and other traits



elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations increased photosynthetic carbon gain and net primary production, improved the efficiency of nitrogen usage, and increased tolerance to drought conditions

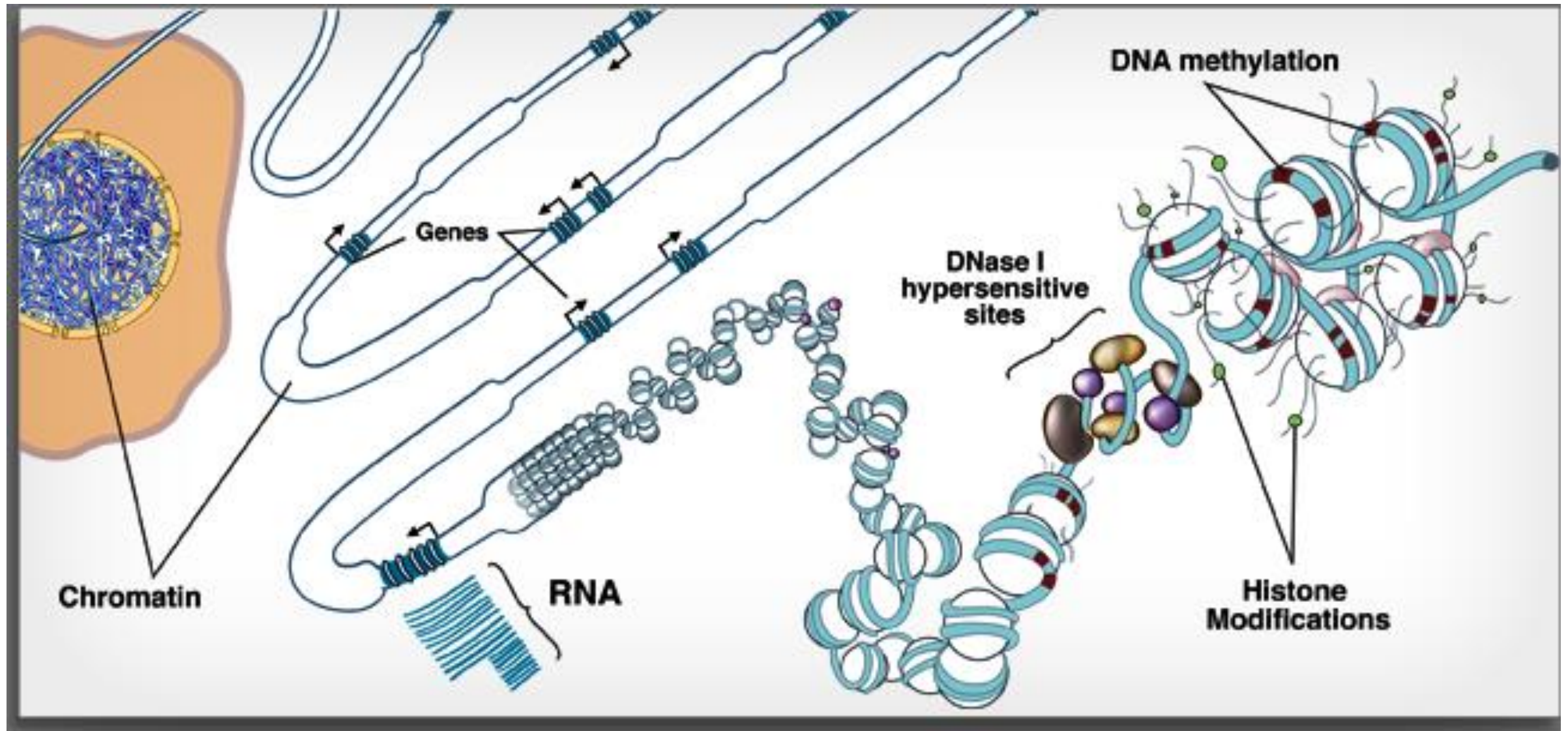
high seasonal temperatures significantly lowered biomass and grain production in a variety of crops and fruits

## Climate changes are rapid, plants need to adapt rapidly

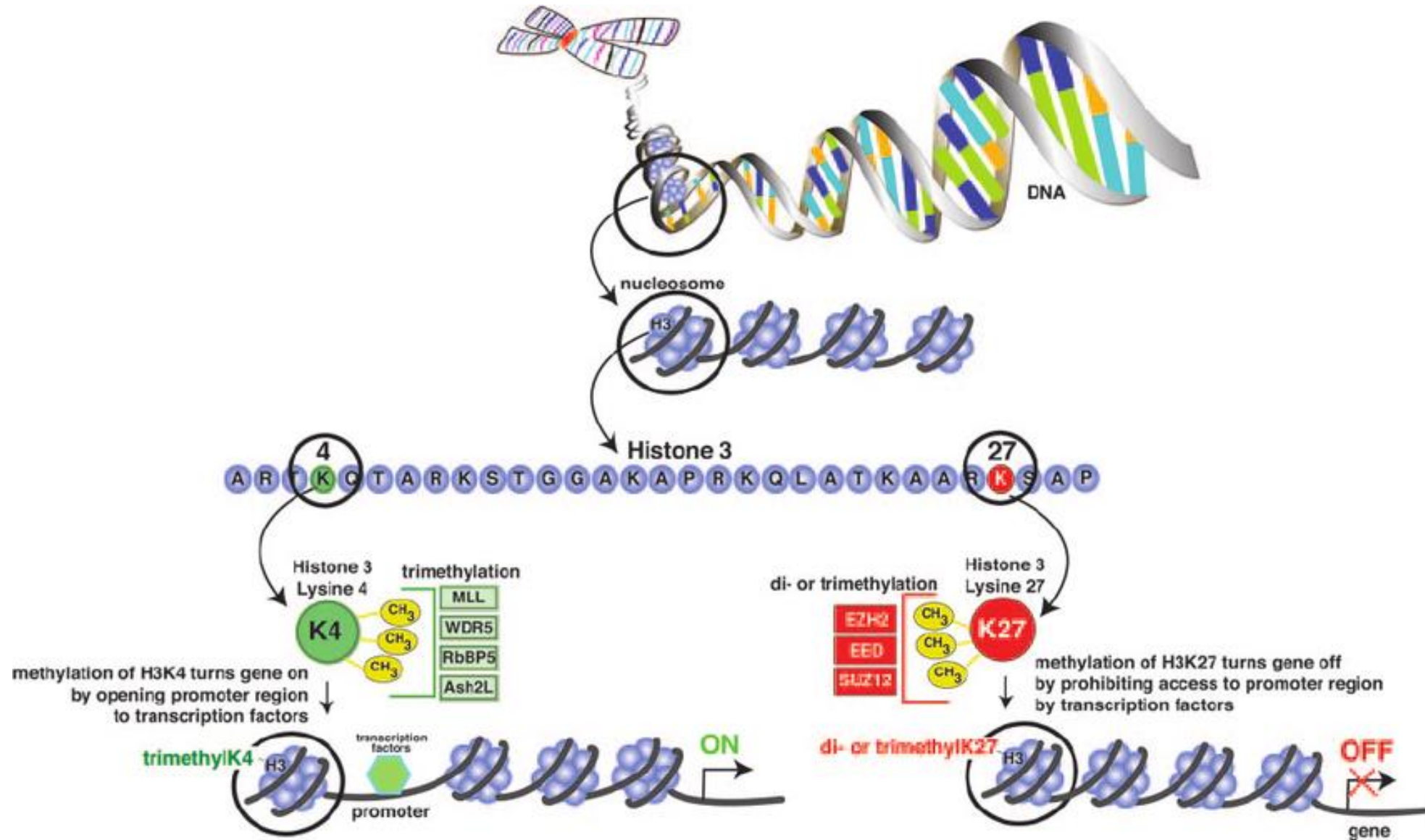
One avenue for rapid adaptation may be through **modification of DNA and histone proteins, as well as through expression of noncoding small RNAs (sRNA)**. Collectively, the arrangement and distribution of these modifications are referred to as the '**epigenome**' (<http://www.roadmapepigenomics.org/>).

Changes to the epigenome **may or may not be heritable**.

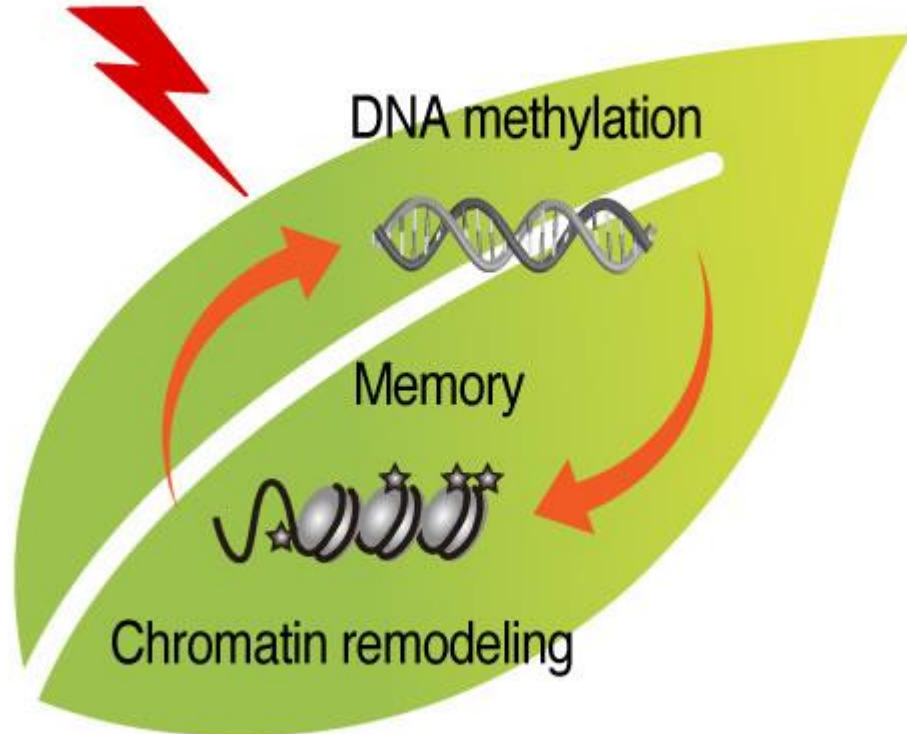
However, in cases of **a true epigenetic phenomenon, the change, which is stably inherited, cannot be correlated with a genetic change**.



Chromatin modification are both **positive** and **negative** regulators

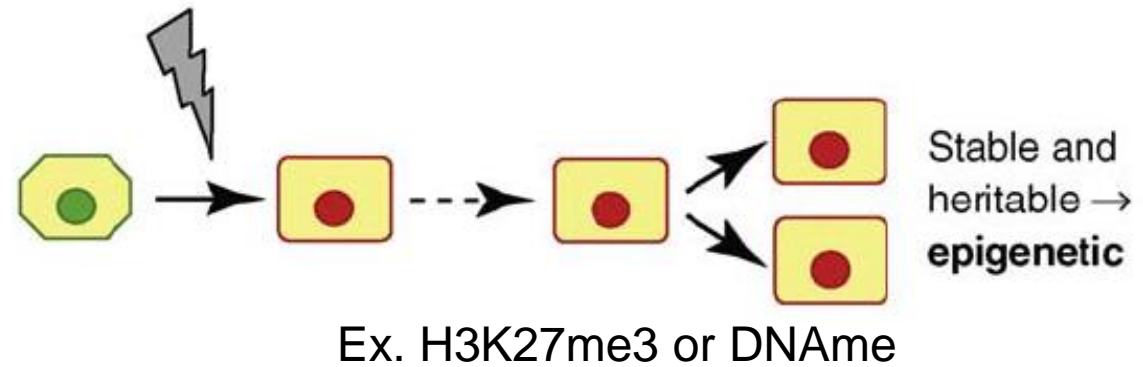


Environmental stimuli



H3K27 is known for one thing: shutting down transcription. When H3K27 is trimethylated, it is tightly associated with inactive gene promoters.

Can chromatin changes induced by environmental stimuli be inherited when the stress is released?



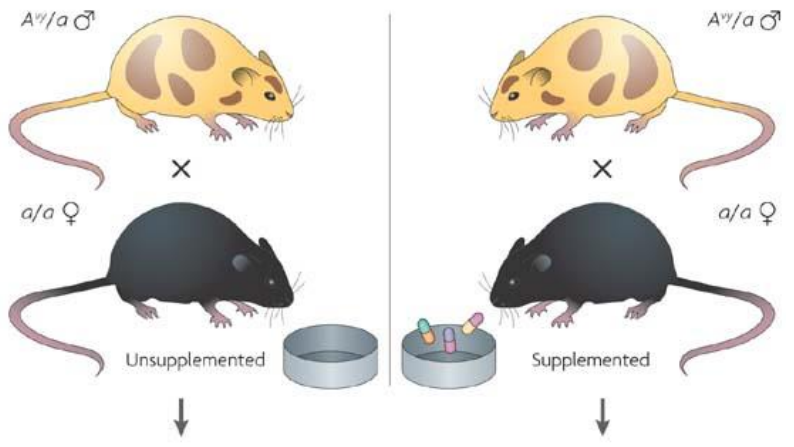
through somatic divisions?

or

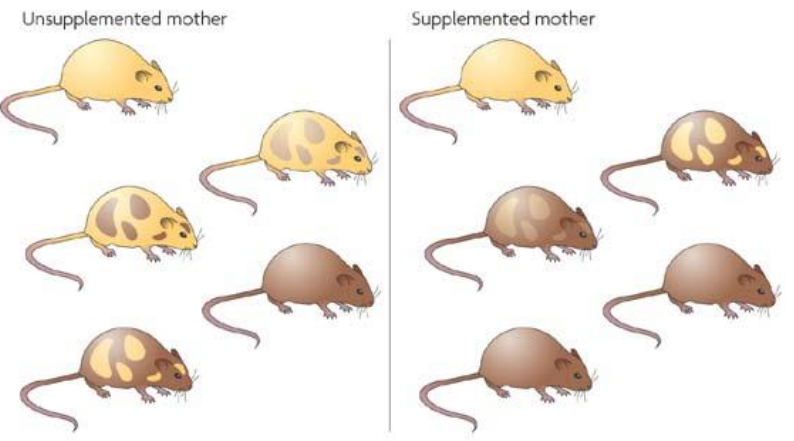
through generation?

**Adaptative Potential**

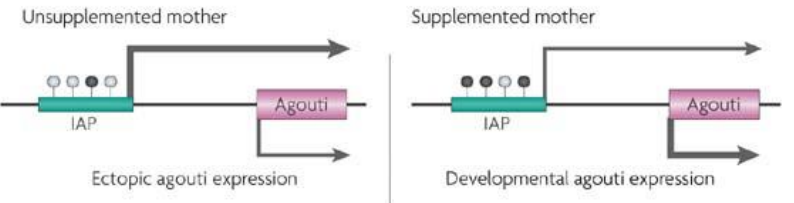
**a Dietary supplementation during pregnancy**



**b A<sup>y</sup>/a offspring**



**c Agouti expression**

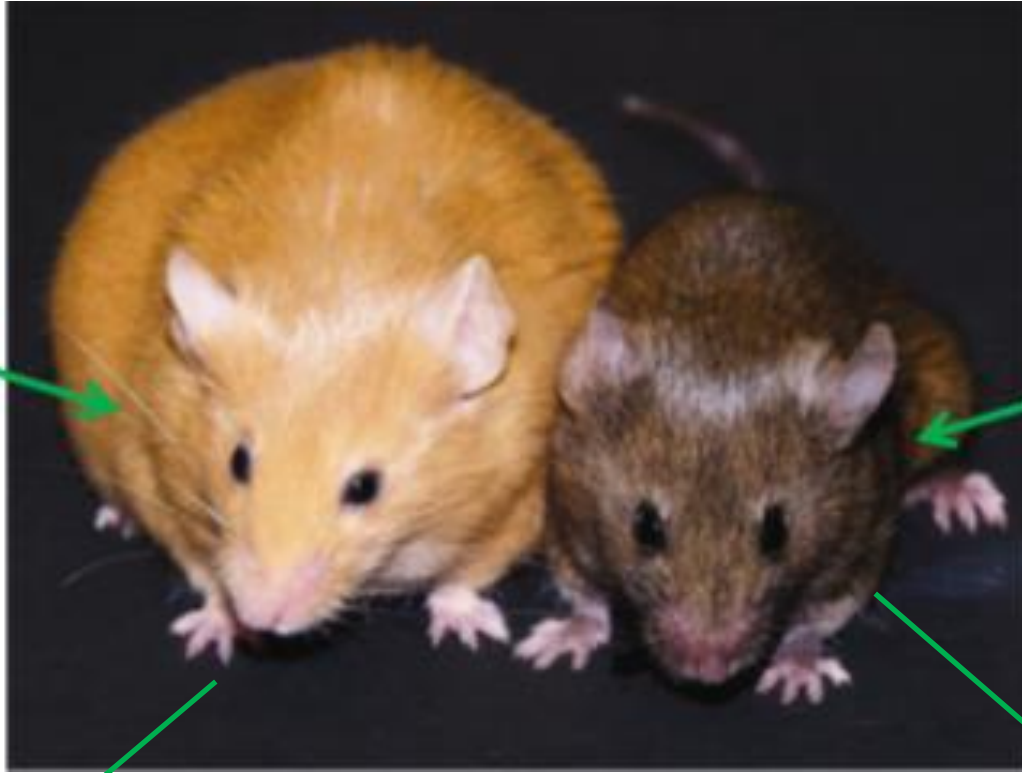


Offspring of group A (restricted diet):

- Yellow coats
- Obese
- More prone to cancer and diabetes

Offspring of group B (diet supplemented with choline, folic acid, betaine and Vitamin B12 ):

- Brown coats
- Healthy weight
- Less prone to disease



Offspring of group A (restricted diet):

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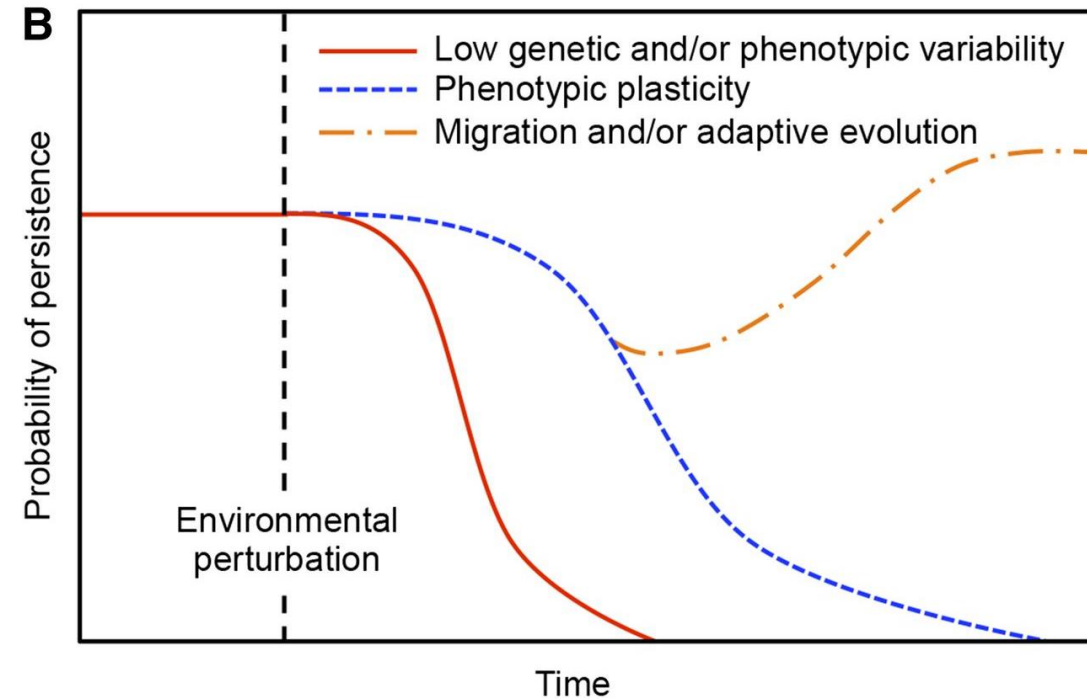
Offspring of group B (diet supplemented with choline, folic acid, betaine and Vitamin B12 ):

- Brown coats
- Healthy weight
- Less prone to disease



# Flowering time

- The study of cyclical biological events in the natural world is called phenology. Flowering time is a seasonal phenological process.
- Altered flowering time and disruption of meet pollinators.
- Early flowering and late freezing events.
- Adaptative potential

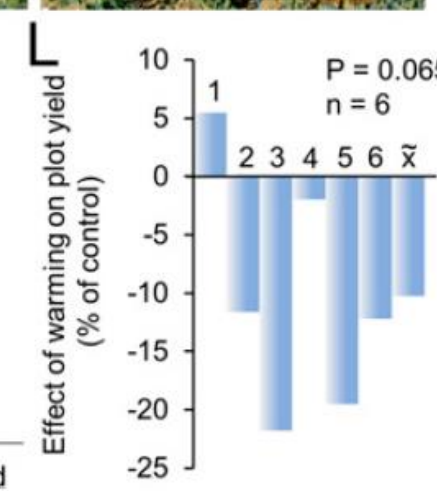
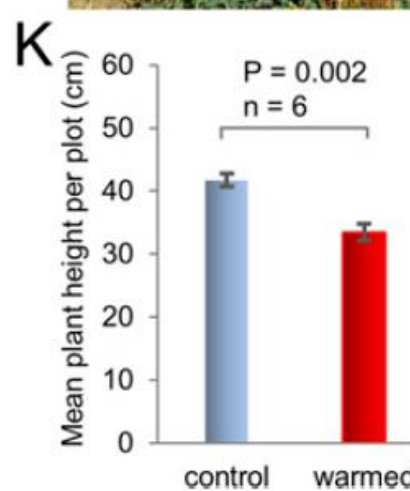
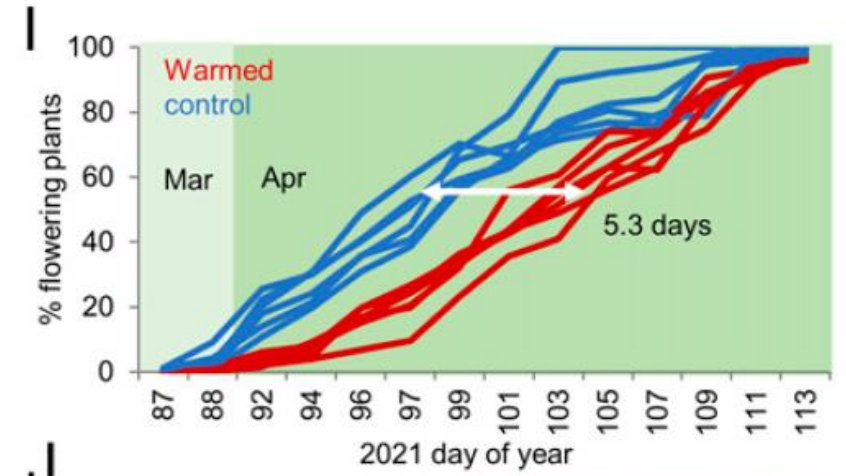
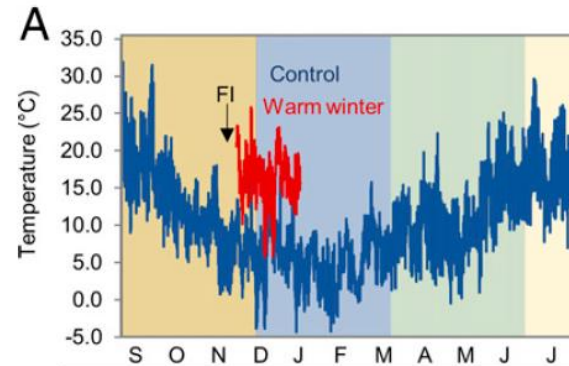




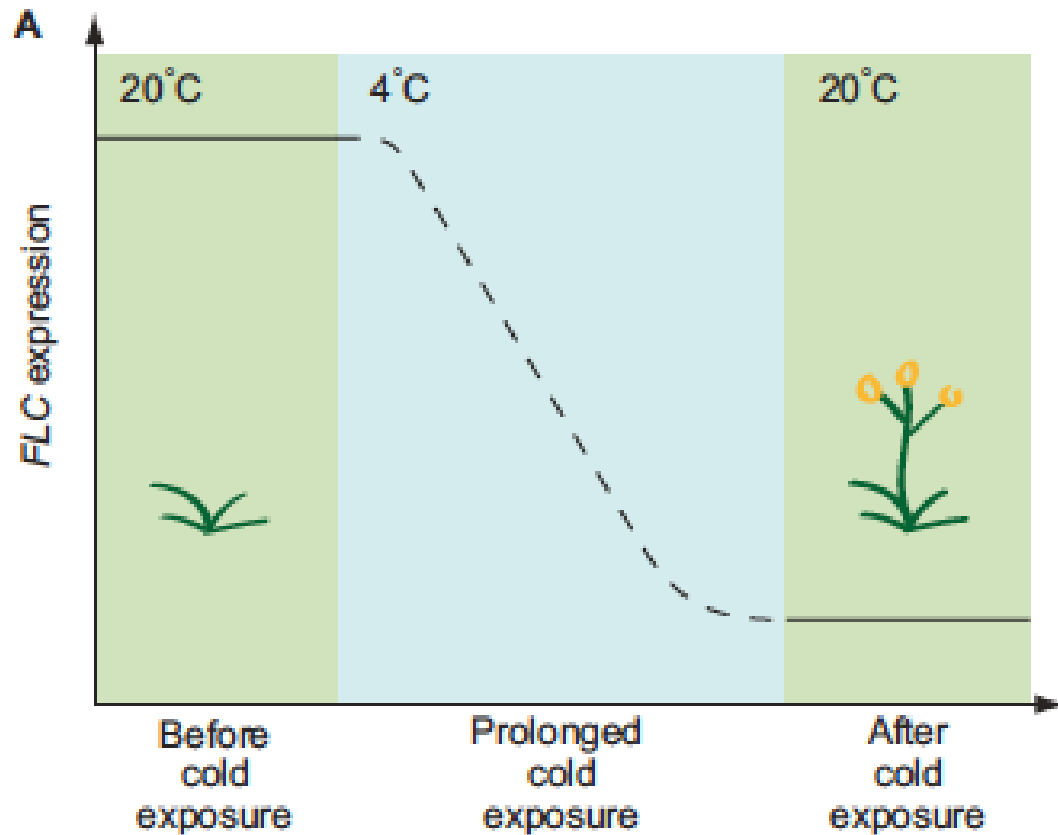
# Winter warming post floral initiation delays flowering via bud dormancy activation and affects yield in a winter annual crop

Xiang Lu<sup>a,1,2</sup>, Carmel M. O'Neill<sup>a,2</sup>, Samuel Warner<sup>a</sup>, Qing Xiong<sup>a,1</sup>, Xiaochao Chen<sup>a</sup>, Rachel Wells<sup>a</sup>, and Steven Penfield<sup>a,3</sup>

Edited by Richard Amasino, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI; received March 14, 2022; accepted July 28, 2022



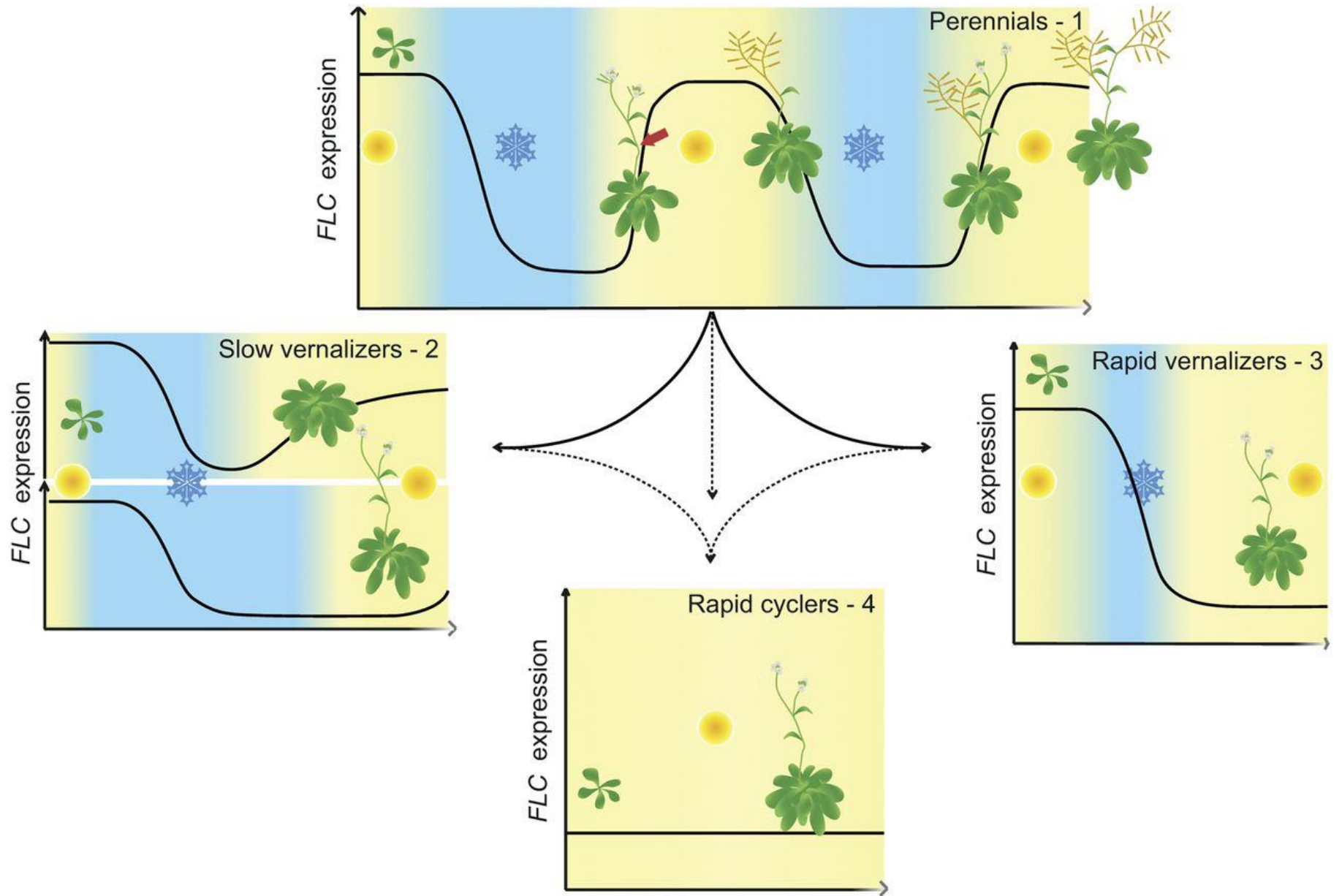
# Vernalization – a cold-induced epigenetic switch (cold memory)



The floral repressor gene, FLC is repressed when plants are exposed to the cold (WINTER) in a quantitative manner.

Subsequently, remains stably repressed on the return to warm temperature (SPRING).

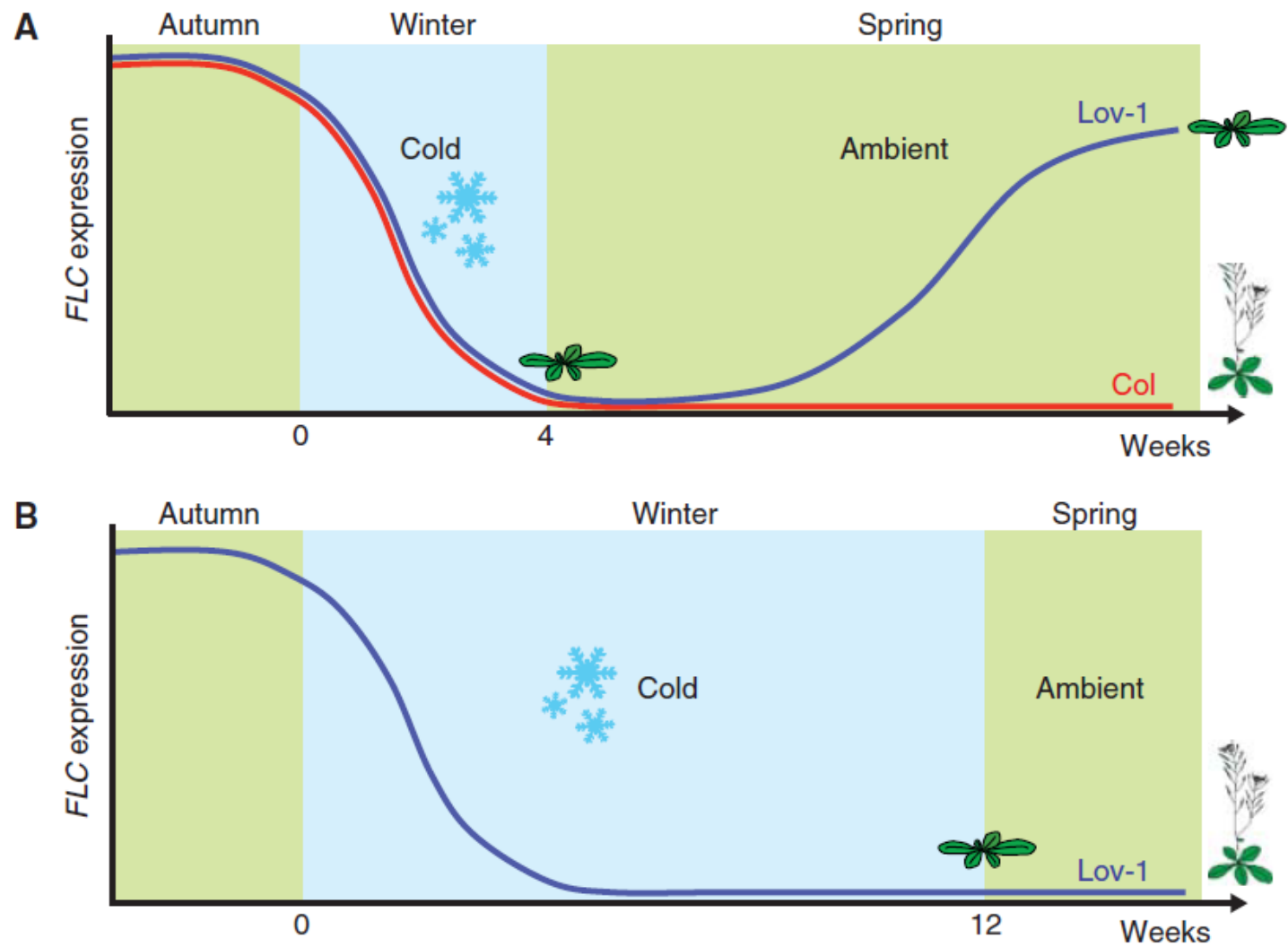
- Vernalization: the acceleration of flowering by the prolonged cold of winter.
- FLC (FLOWERING LOCUS C): a MADS box transcriptional repressor involved in silencing the genes that are required for the switch to flowering.



# Epigenetic Regulation in Plant Responses to the Environment

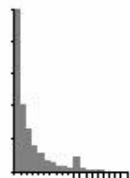
David C. Baulcombe<sup>1</sup> and Caroline Dean<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Plant Science, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3EA, United Kingdom; <sup>2</sup>Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, John Innes Centre, Norwich NR4 7UH, United Kingdom



**Figure 5.** Quantitative variation in the epigenetic silencing of *FLC* in *Arabidopsis* accessions from different climates. (A) An *Arabidopsis* accession from Germany (Col, red line) requires only 4 wk of cold to epigenetically silence *FLC*. Lov-1, from the northern limit of its range in Northern Sweden (latitude 62.5°N), sees reactivation of the *FLC* gene if the cold period is so short, resulting in an inability to become vernalized and, hence, does not flower. (B) Lov-1 needs a much longer period of cold (12 wk) for full epigenetic silencing. Molecular analysis has shown this difference is the result of a small number of *cis* polymorphisms near the PHD-PRC2 nucleation region in intron 1.

**C24, CS906** unknown location  
**M7323, CS6184** unknown location



**Van-0, CS6884** Vancouver, BC.  
W123/N49, 100m



**Col-0, N1092** Columbia, MO.  
W93/N38, 100m



**Kin-0, CS6755** Kindalville, MI.  
W85/N43, 250m



**Cen-0, CS6661** Caen, FR  
W0/N49, ~50m



**Nok-1, CS6808** Noordwijk, NL  
E4/N52, ~0m



**Est, CS6173** Estonia - EE  
E25/N59, 150m



**Ms-0, CS6797** Moscow, RU  
E37/55N, ~200m



**Ta-0, CS6867** Tabor, CZ  
E14/N49, ~450m



**Dra-1, CS6686** Drahonin, CZ  
E16/N49, 450m



**En-T, CS6176** Tajikistan - TJ  
E71/N39



**Sha, CS929** Pamiro-Alay, TJ  
E71/N39, 3400m



**NFE-1, CS22163** United Kingdom - UK  
Location unknown



**CIBC-10, CS22229** United Kingdom - UK  
Location unknown



**HR-5, CS22205** United Kingdom - UK  
Location unknown



**Bla-5, CS6620** Blanes, ES  
E3/N41, ~50m



**Can-0, CS6660** Canary Islands  
W15/N28, 1260m



**Cvi, CS8580** Cape Verde Islands  
W24/N16, 1200m



**Bay-0, CS954** Bayreuth, DE  
E11/N50, ~300m



**Ler-2, CS8581** Landsberg, DE  
E15/N53, ~100m



**Er-0, CS6698** Erlangen, DE  
E11/N49, ~250m



**Fr-2, CS6708** Frankfurt, DE  
E8/N50, ~50m



**Li-2:1, CS6772** Limburg, DE  
E8/N50, ~150m



**Old-2, CS6821** Oldenburg, DE  
E8/N53, ~50m



**Ove-0, CS6823** Ovelgoenne, DE  
E8/N53, ~50m



**Sf-2e, CS6857** San Feliu, ES  
E3/N41, ~50m



**Se-0, CS6852** San Eleno, ES  
E2/N41, ~50m



**Nd-1, CS1636** Niederzenz, DE  
200-300m



**Is-0, CS6741** Isenburg, DE  
E7/N50, ~150m



**GOT-1, CS22277** Goettingen, DE  
10E/51N



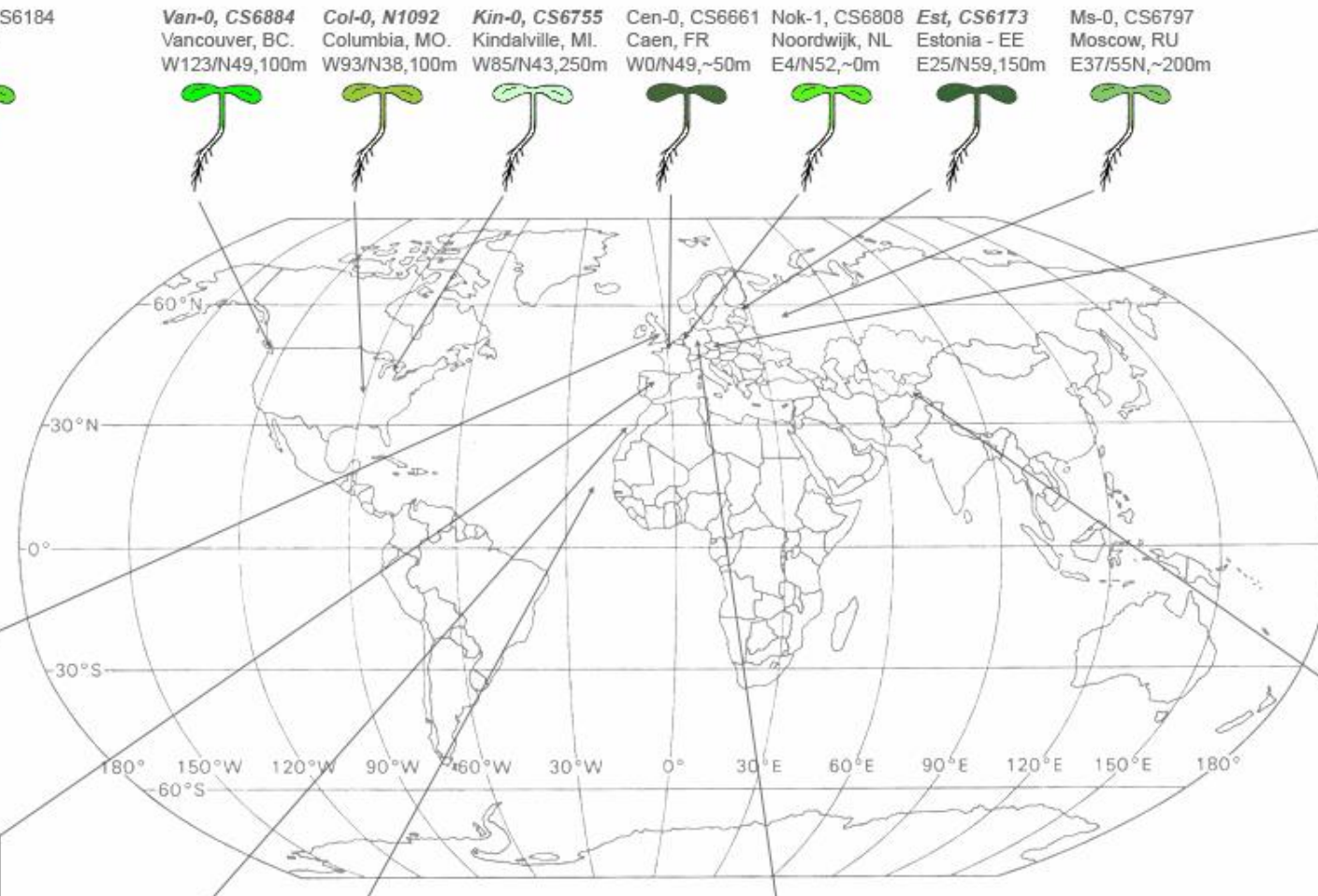
**Nw-1, CS6812** Neuweilnau, DE  
E8/N50, ~150m



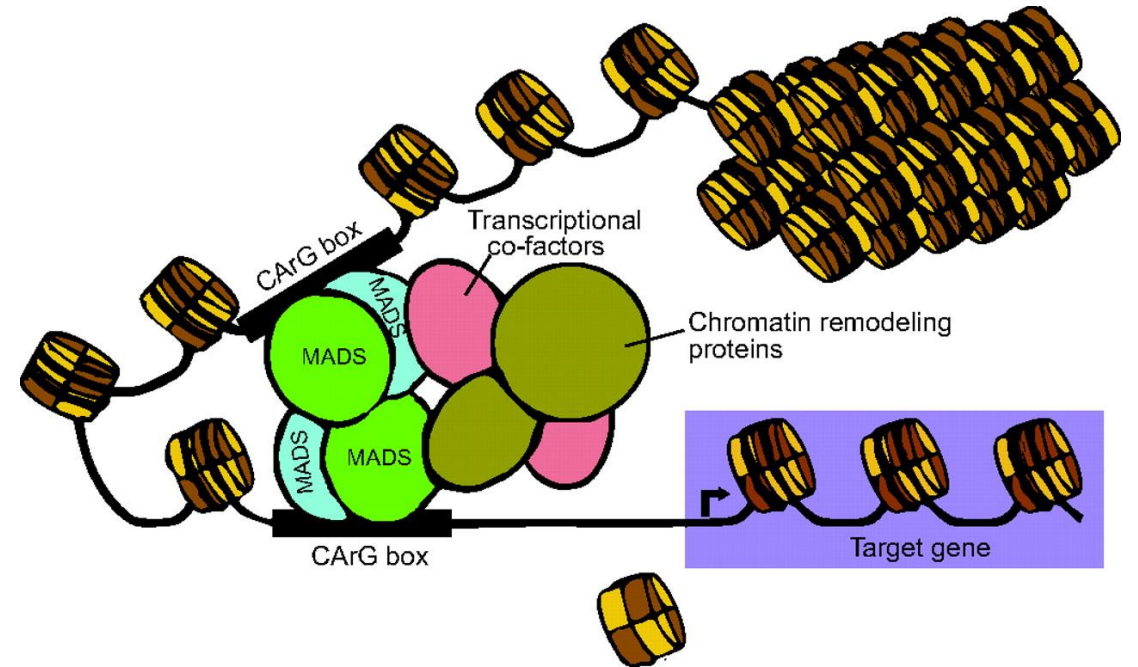
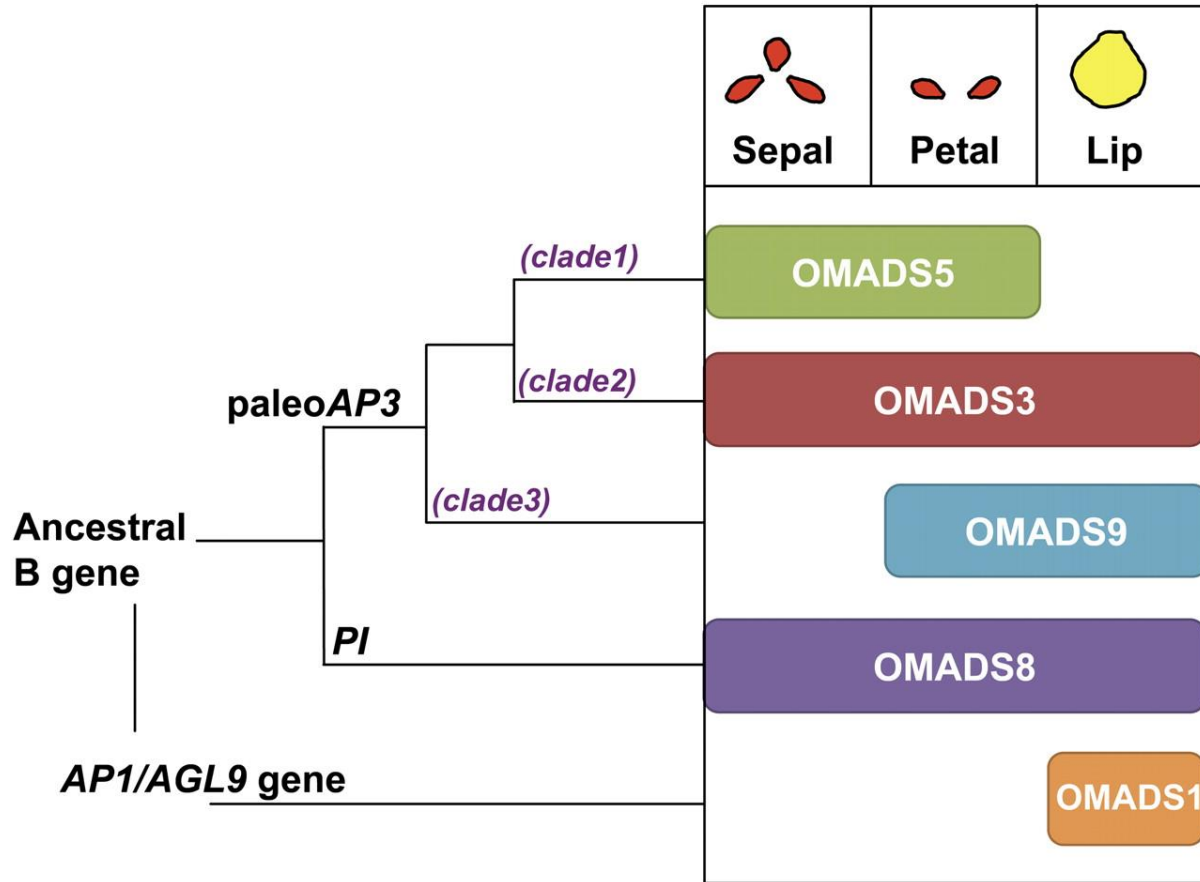
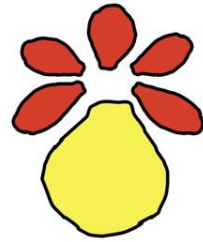
**Uk-3, CS6880** Umkirch, DE  
E7/N48, ~250m



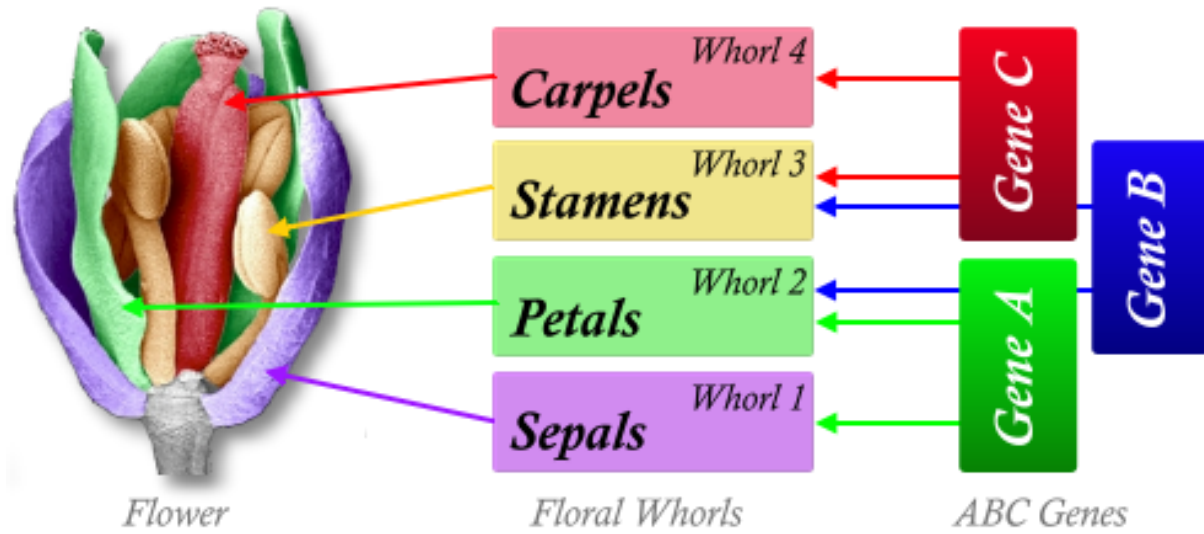
**AK-1, CS6602** Achkarren, DE  
E8/N48, ~250m



# Other Famous MADS-BOX



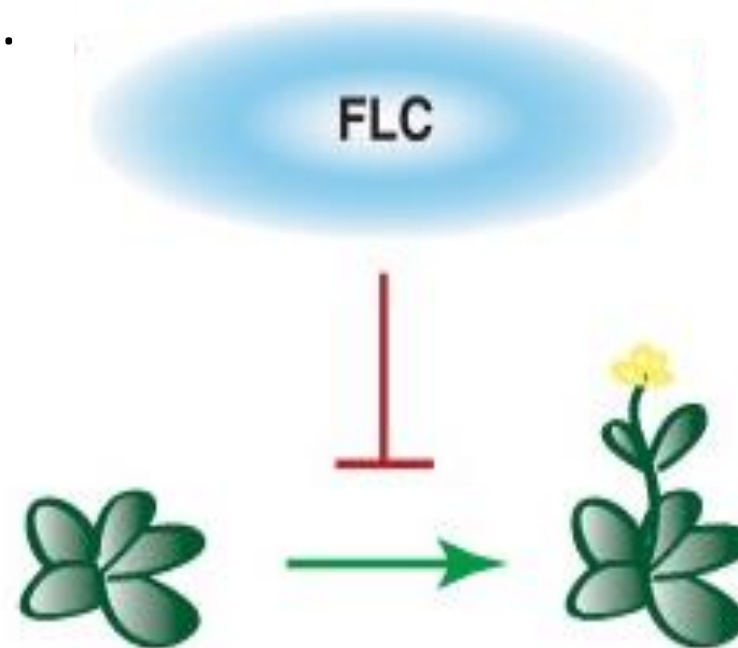
# ABC models





# Vernalization – a cold-induced epigenetic switch (cold memory)

- Vernalization: the acceleration of flowering by the prolonged cold of winter.
- FLC (FLOWERING LOCUS C): a MADS box transcriptional repressor involved in silencing the genes that are required for the switch to flowering.



## Vernalization – a cold-induced epigenetic switch

Jie Song, Andrew Angel, Martin Howard and Caroline Dean\*

John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Norwich NR4 7UH, UK

\*Author for correspondence ([caroline.dean@jic.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.dean@jic.ac.uk))

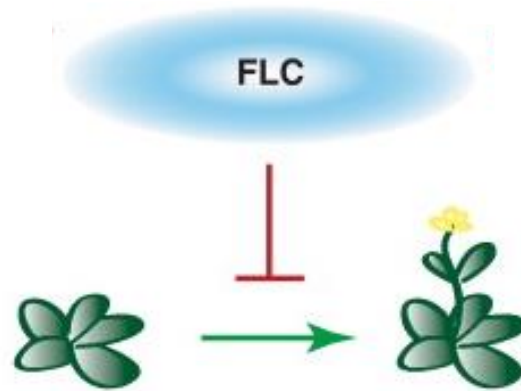
*Journal of Cell Science* 125, 3723–3731

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doi: 10.1242/jcs.084764

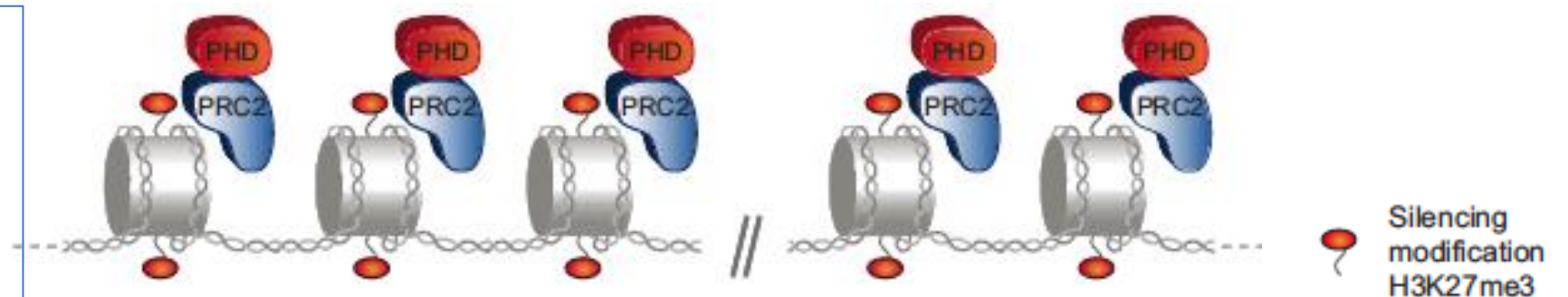
# Vernalization – a cold-induced epigenetic switch (cold memory)

- FLC: a MADS box transcriptional repressor involved in silencing the genes that are required for the switch to flowering.



The quantitative nature of vernalization is reflected in the progressive accumulation of H3K27me3 at the nucleation region with increasing lengths of cold exposure

PRC2 or polycomb repressive complex 2: a conserved protein complex that is involved in chromatin silencing through methylation of the lysine 27 residue on histone H3.



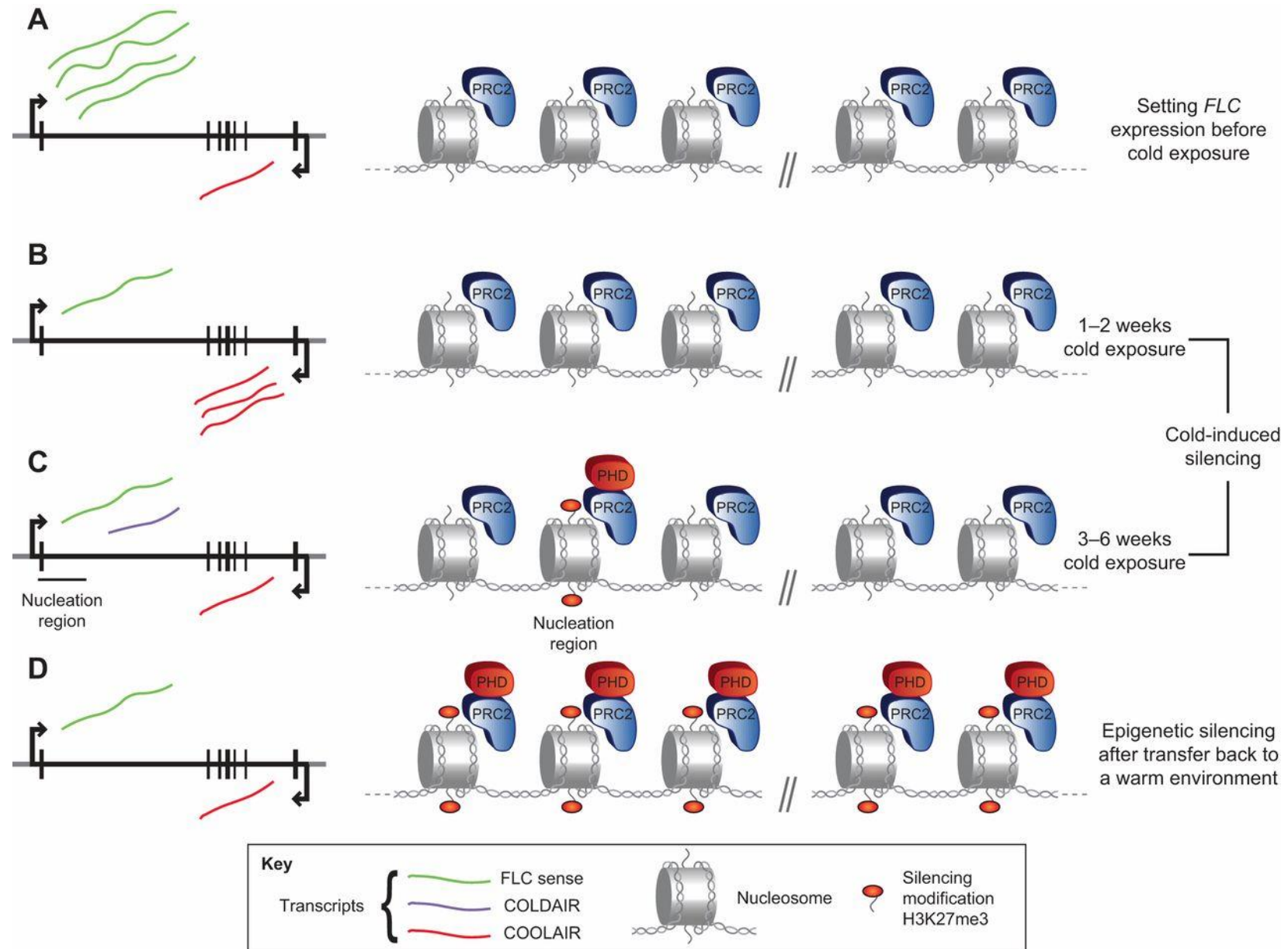
# FLC expression during different stages of vernalization.

full-length sense transcripts  
(green)

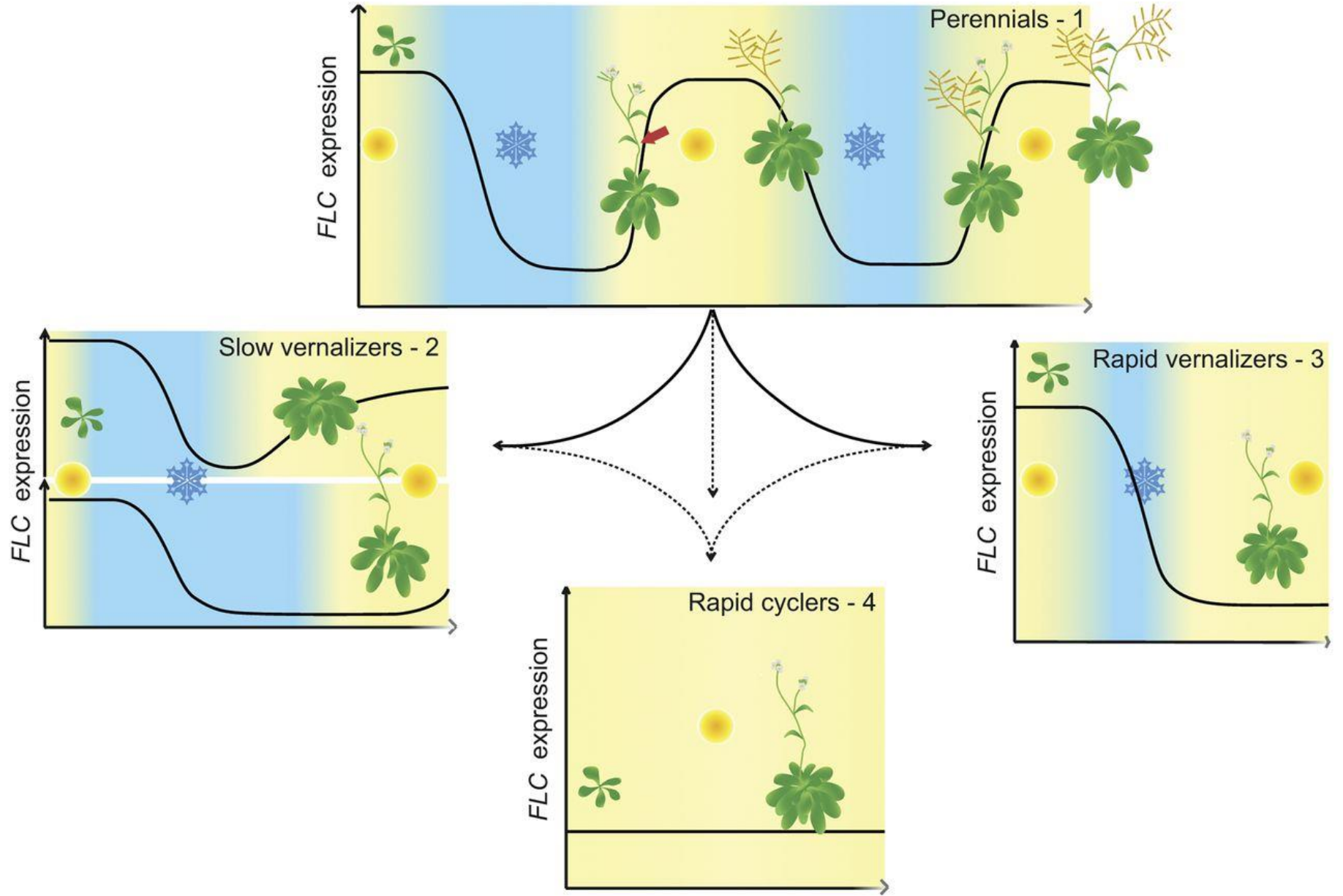
non-coding antisense  
transcripts, COOLAIR (red)

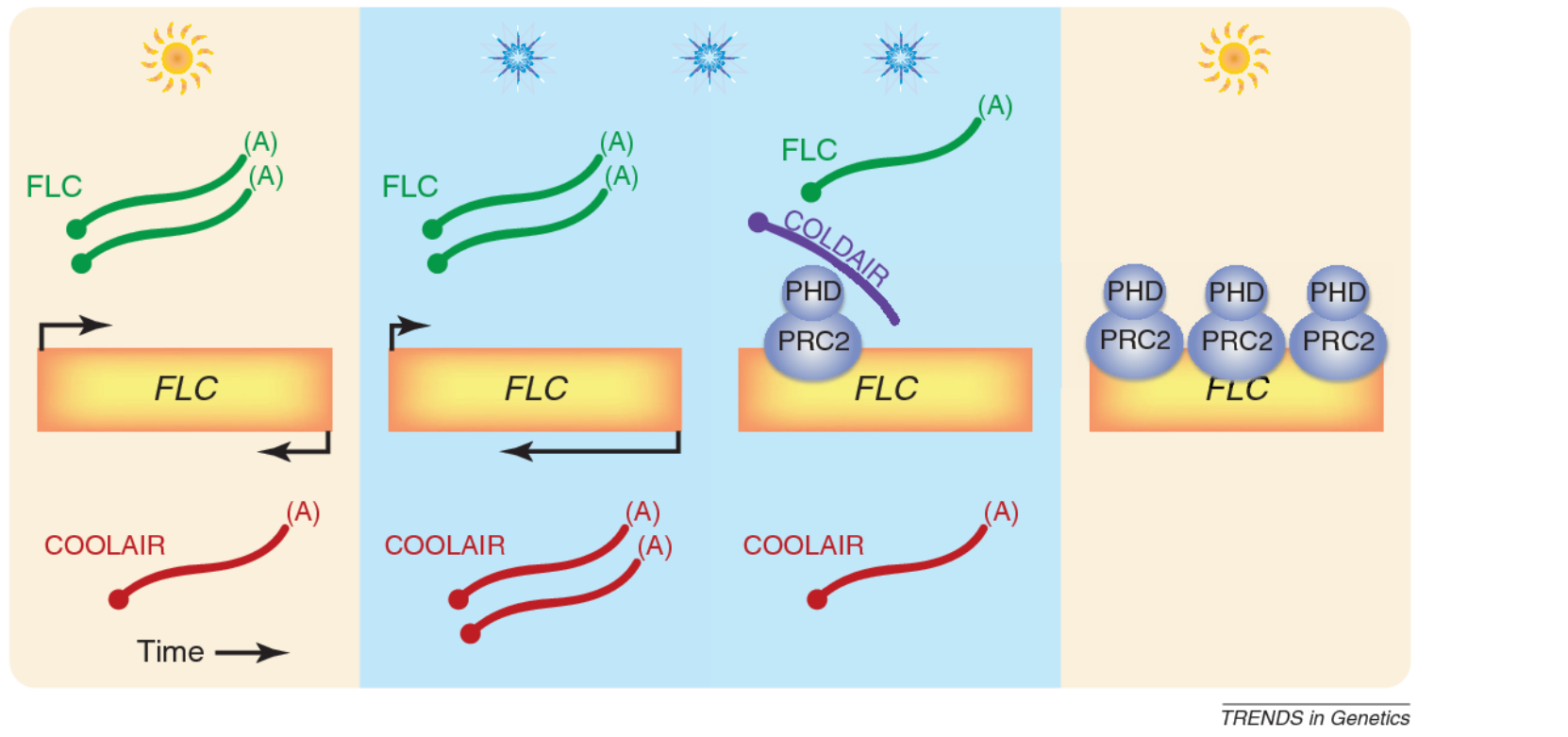
Cold induced non-coding sense  
transcripts, COLDAIR (purple).

**DIFFERENT LEVELS OF  
REGULATION**



- Vernalization: the acceleration of flowering by the prolonged cold of winter.
- FLC (FLOWERING LOCUS C): a MADS box transcriptional repressor involved in silencing the genes that are required for the switch to flowering.





ernalization silences *FLC* epigenetically. Vernalization is the process whereby flowering is accelerated in response to the prolonged cold of winter. Time runs

- COLDAIR is required for stable repression of *FLC* after vernalization and a lack of COLDAIR lead to late flowering after vernalization.
- COLDAIR binds PRC2 complex protein CURLY LEAF (CLF), with maximal interaction after 20 days of vernalization / cold exposure.
- COLDAIR is required to recruit PRC2 to the *FLC* locus allowing deposition of the repressive H3K27me3 chromatin mark.
- COLDAIR did not impact the expression of other genes that repress flowering.

TECHNOLOGY

# GMO clover trial pricks methane bubble

 Richard Rennie  
March 20, 2024



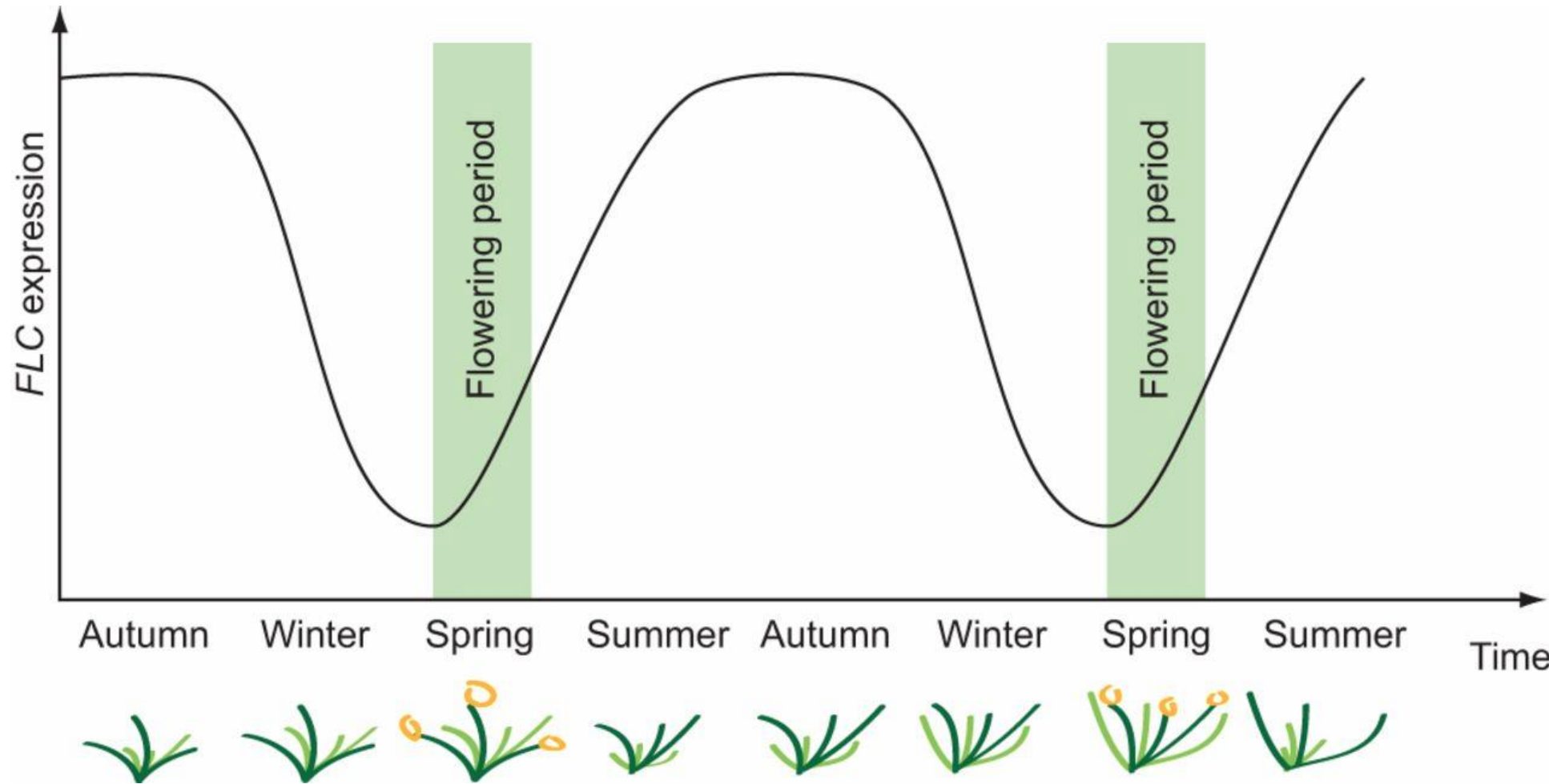
There is a corner of a foreign field that is pretty much New Zealand-developed gene-edited pasture.



IS IT TIME TO  
UPGRADE  
YOUR  
FEEDING?  
DeLaval

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.nz/technology/gmo-clover-trial-pricks-methane-bubble/>

# Changes in epigenetic silencing underlie differences in life history.

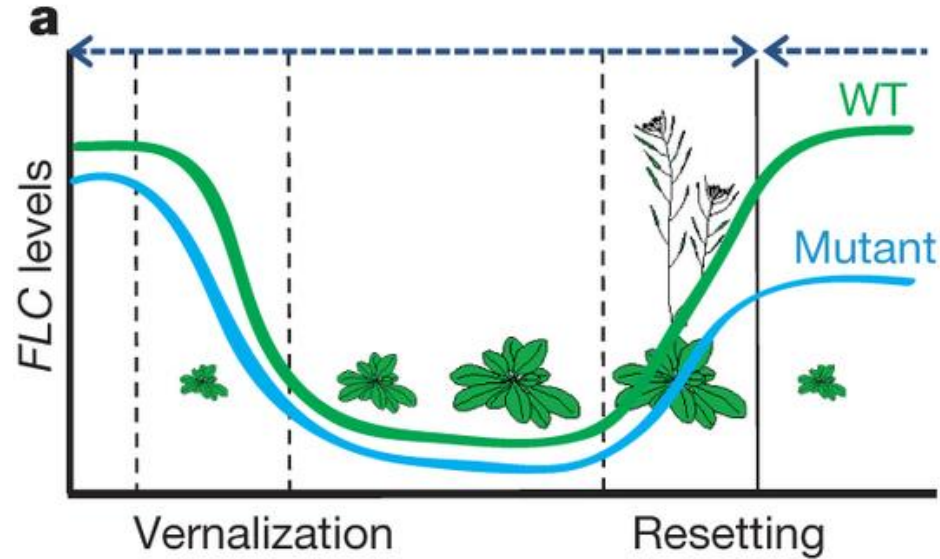


In some perennials, some parts of the plant do not switch to reproductive development after one winter, and remain vegetative, thereby maintaining the adult plant over many years.

In **perennial** *Arabis alpina* plants, FLC expression is transiently but not epigenetically silenced by exposure to cold. Older meristems flower after one winter but newer meristems remain vegetative until the subsequent winter.

# Epigenetic reprogramming that prevents transgenerational inheritance of the vernalized state

The resetting of FLC expression occurs in the early globular embryo.  
Isolation and characterization of the resetting mutant.

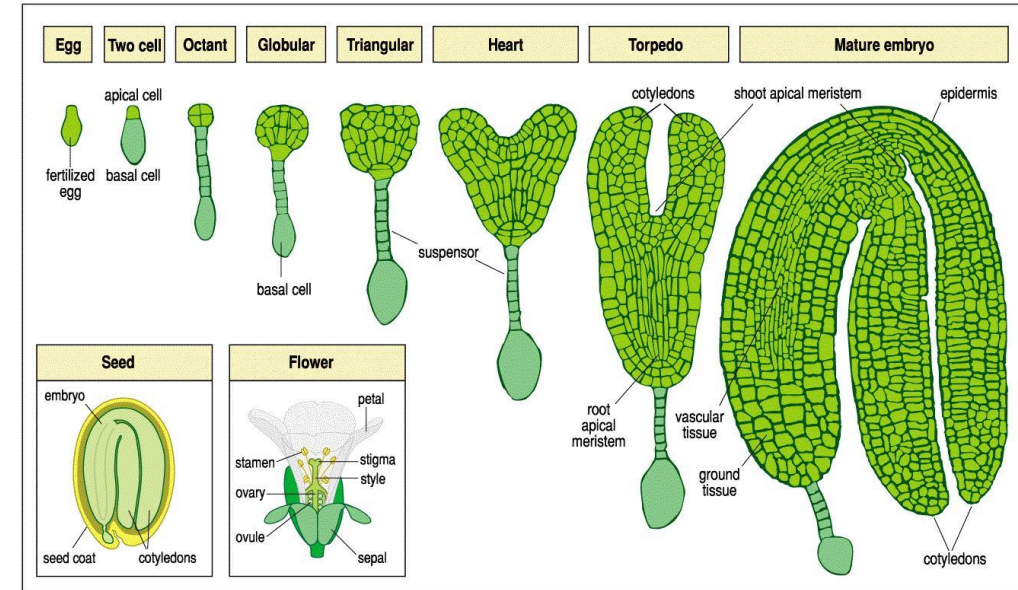
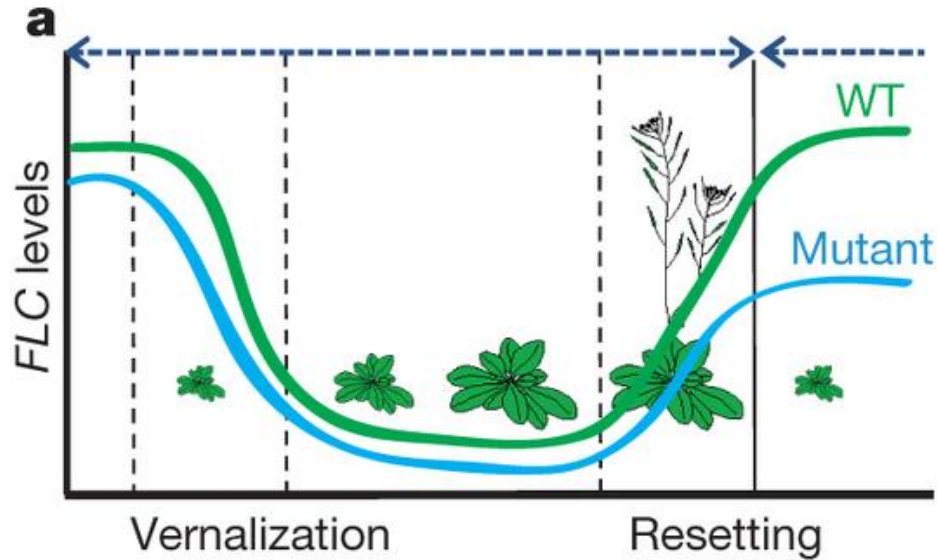


What happens to a mutant with a progeny carrying low FLC expression levels?



# Epigenetic reprogramming that prevents transgenerational inheritance of the vernalized state

The resetting of FLC expression occurs in the early globular embryo. Isolation and characterization of the resetting mutant.

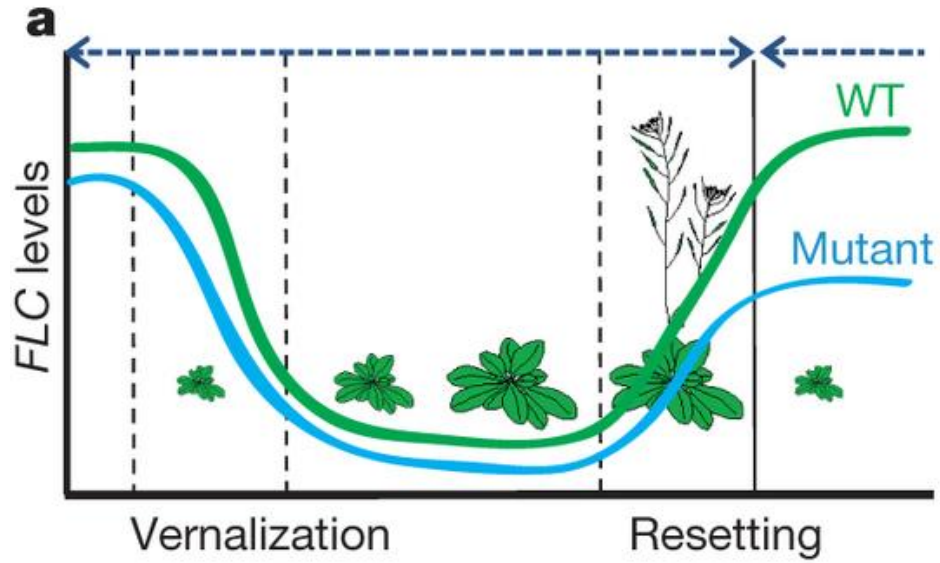


## LETTER

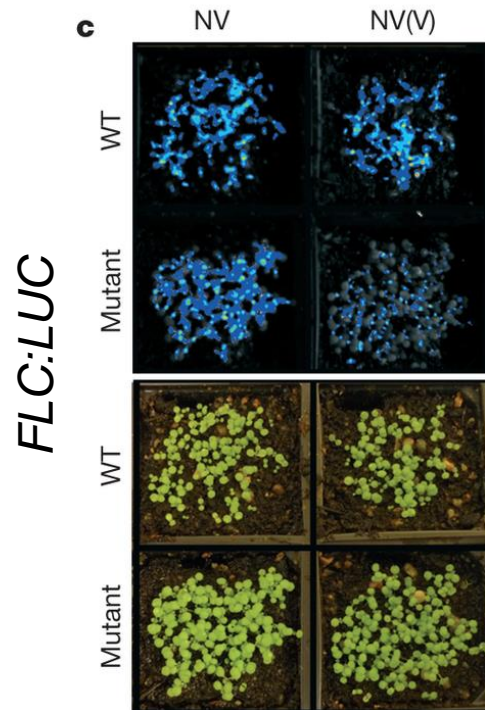
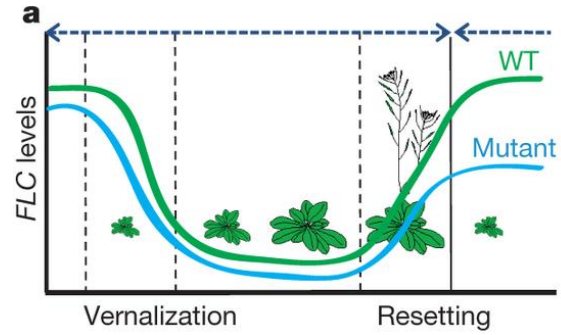
doi: 10.1038/nature13722

## Epigenetic reprogramming that prevents transgenerational inheritance of the vernalized state

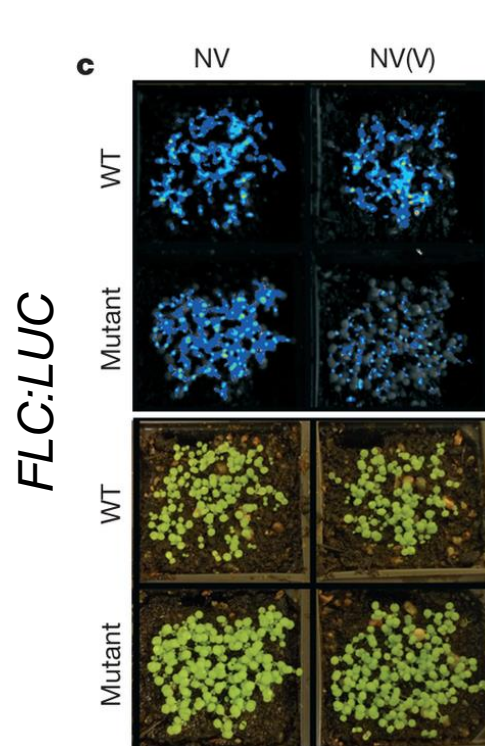
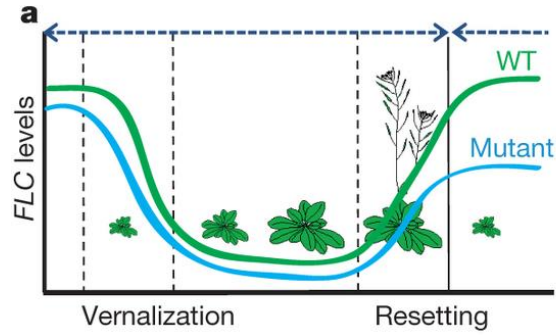
Pedro Crevillén<sup>1†</sup>, Hongchun Yang<sup>1</sup>, Xia Cui<sup>2</sup>, Christiaan Greeff<sup>1†</sup>, Martin Trick<sup>1</sup>, Qi Qiu<sup>2</sup>, Xiaofeng Cao<sup>2</sup> & Caroline Dean<sup>1</sup>



How could you quickly look for mutants with an altered FLC expression level?

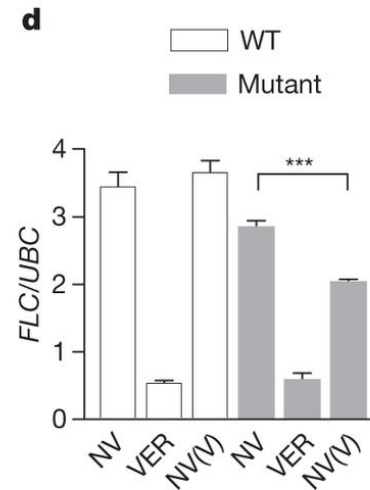


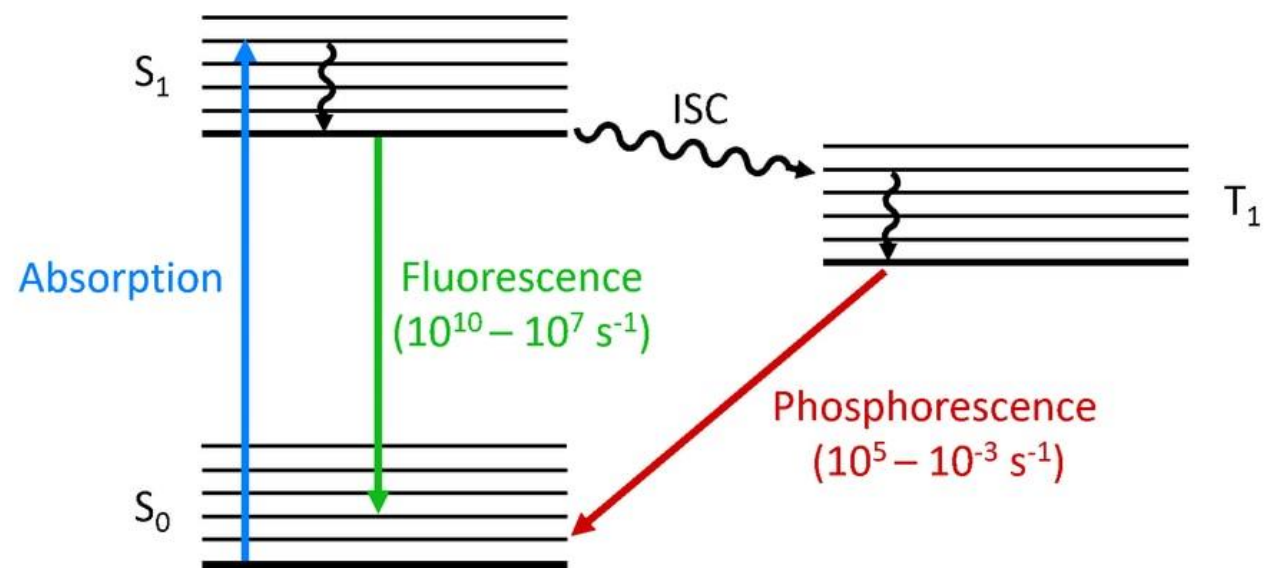
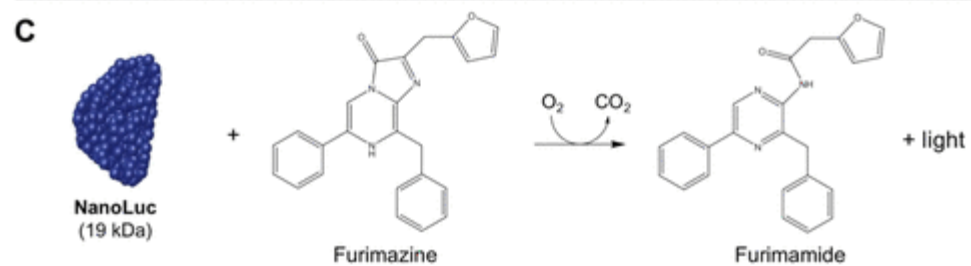
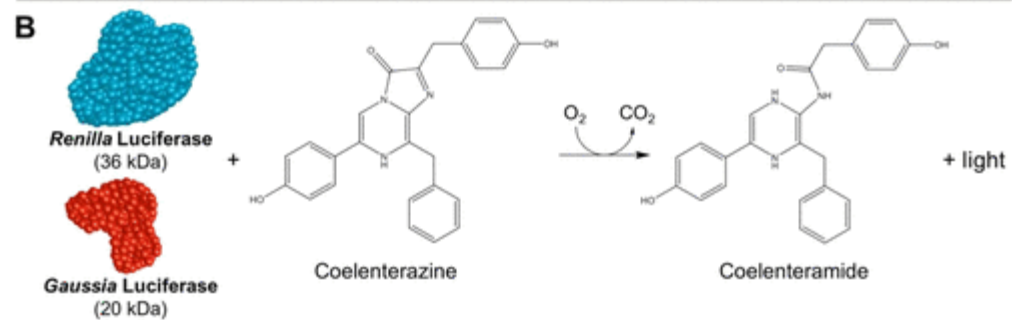
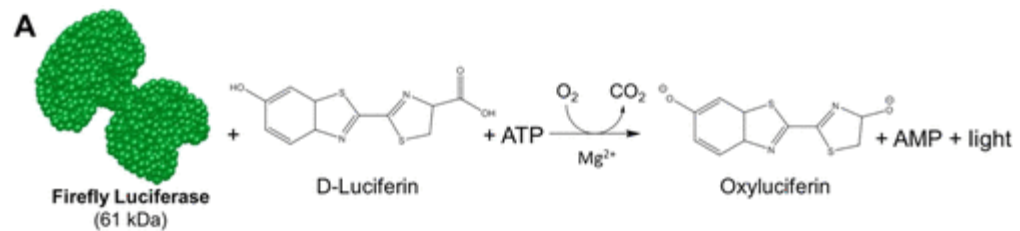
NV, non-vernalized;  
NV(V), non-vernalized following vernalization in the previous generation;

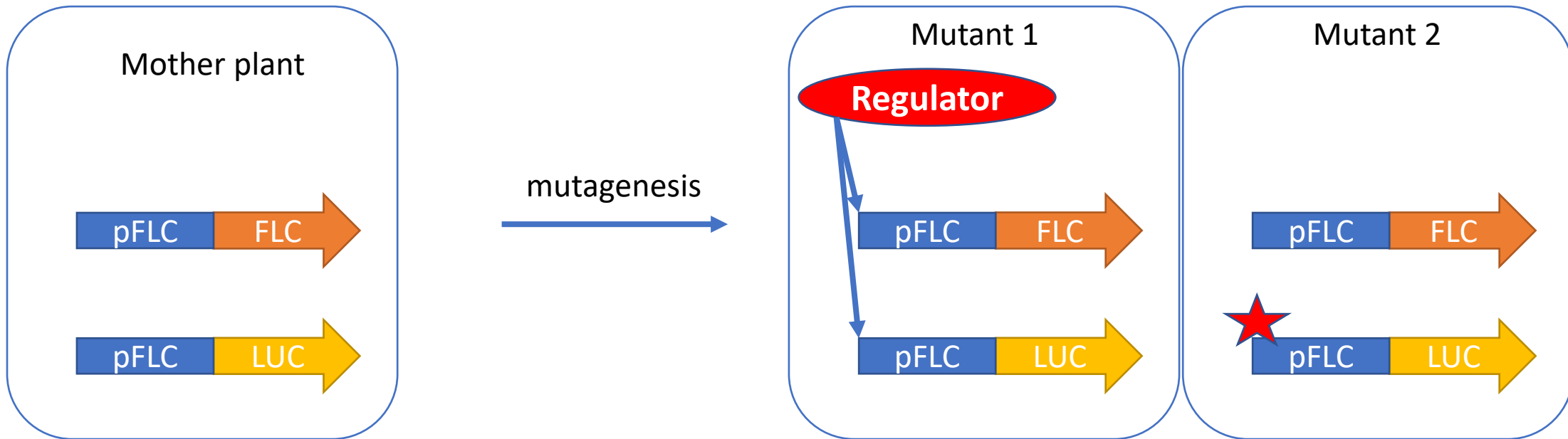


Crevillen et al., 2014

NV, non-vernalized;  
 VER, vernalized  
 NV(V), non-vernalized following vernalization in the previous generation;





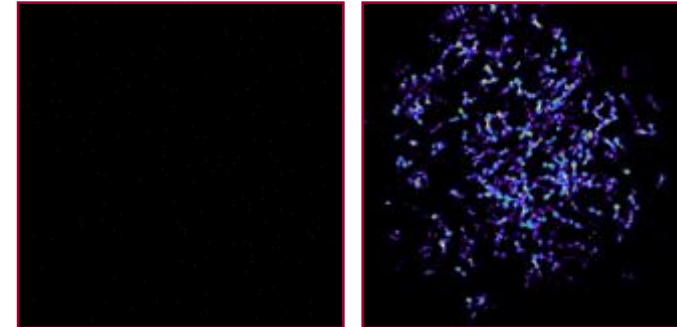


# *Nii::Luc* mutants analysis

- ✓ *Nii1* promoter from tobacco foliar nitrite reductase fused to *Luc*.



{ T. Engelsted, T. Hoff, J. Mundy, N. Durand,  
MT Leydecker and HN Truong }



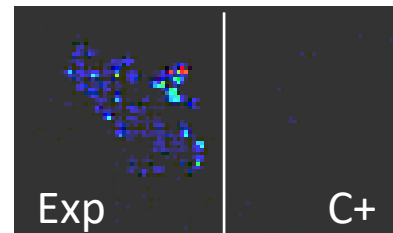
**gln**

**nitrate**

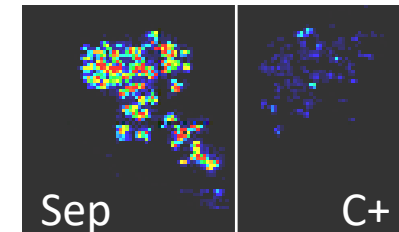
*EMS mutagenesis*

1<sup>st</sup> screening in Denmark and 2<sup>nd</sup> screening in Versailles

- ✓ 2 Exp\_mutants:  
overexpressing luciferase  
on Gln

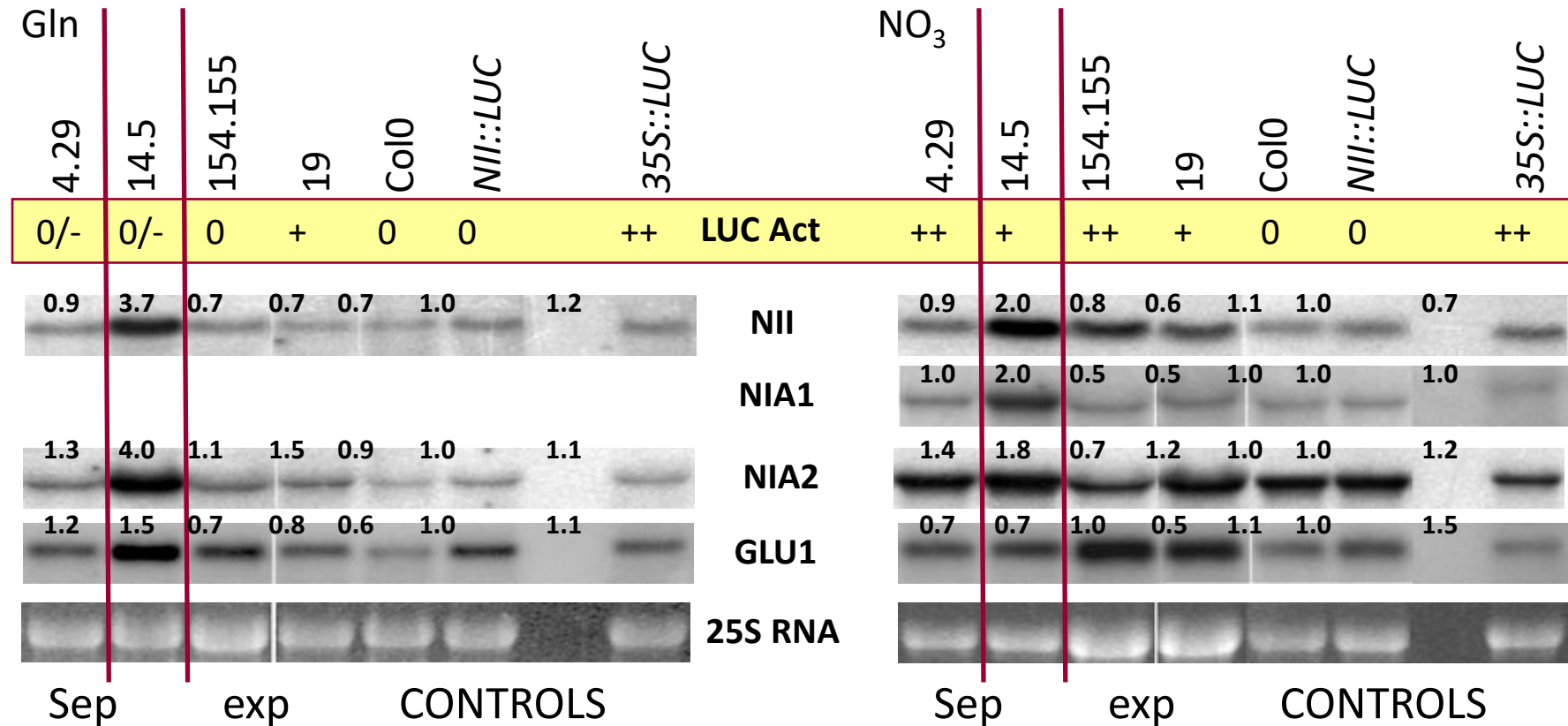


- ✓ 6 Sep\_mutants:  
overexpressing luciferase  
on NO3



# Gene expression analysis

- Northern Blotting, 10 days old *in vitro* plantlets:

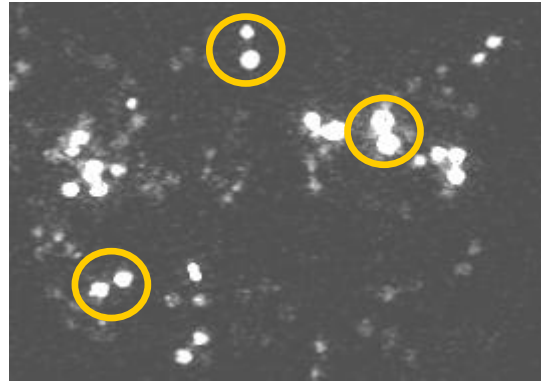


- ✓ 14.5Sep mutant has a higher expression of *NII* and *NIA*, especially on Gln



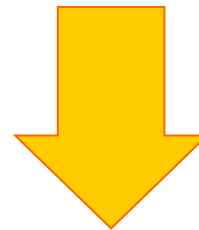
# Mapping 14.5Sep mutation

- ✓ Crossing Ler X *NIILUC* (F2)
  - Ler X 14.5Sep (F2)
- 



14.5Sep backcross (F2)

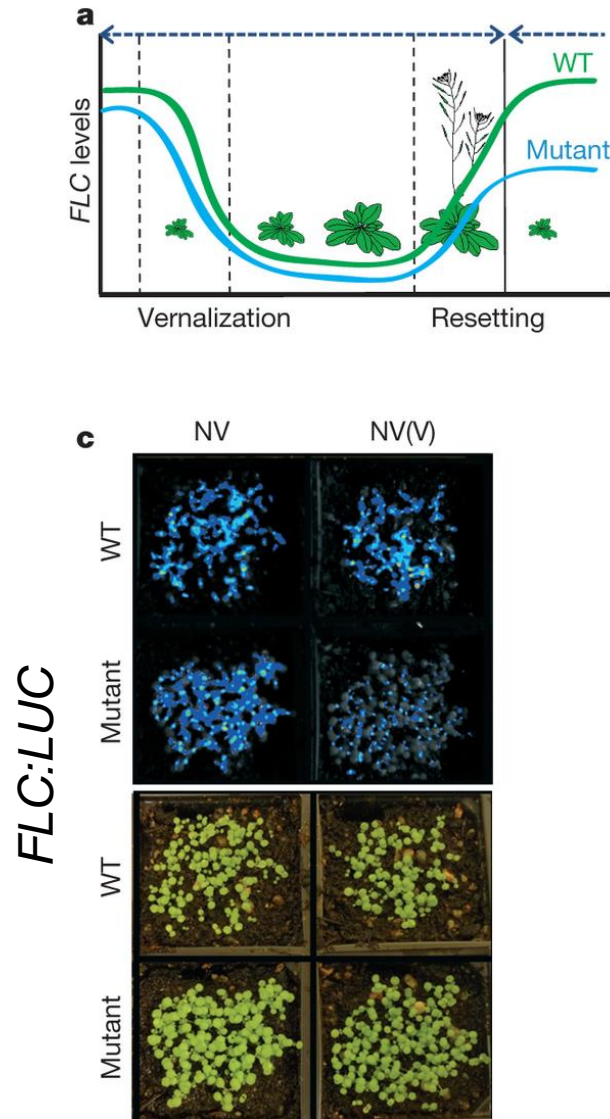
Visualisation on  $\text{NO}_3$



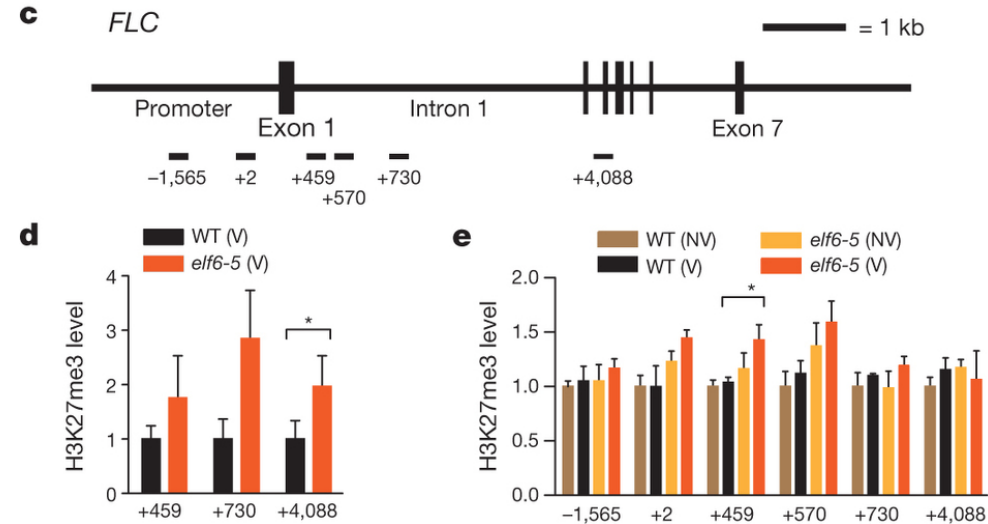
Transfer in the greenhouse

DNA extraction+PCR

ELF6 has H3K27me3 demethylase activity, and its mutation reduced this enzymatic activity in planta.



Crevillen et al., 2014



Resetting FLC is a process activated by H3K27 demethylation (example, ELF6).

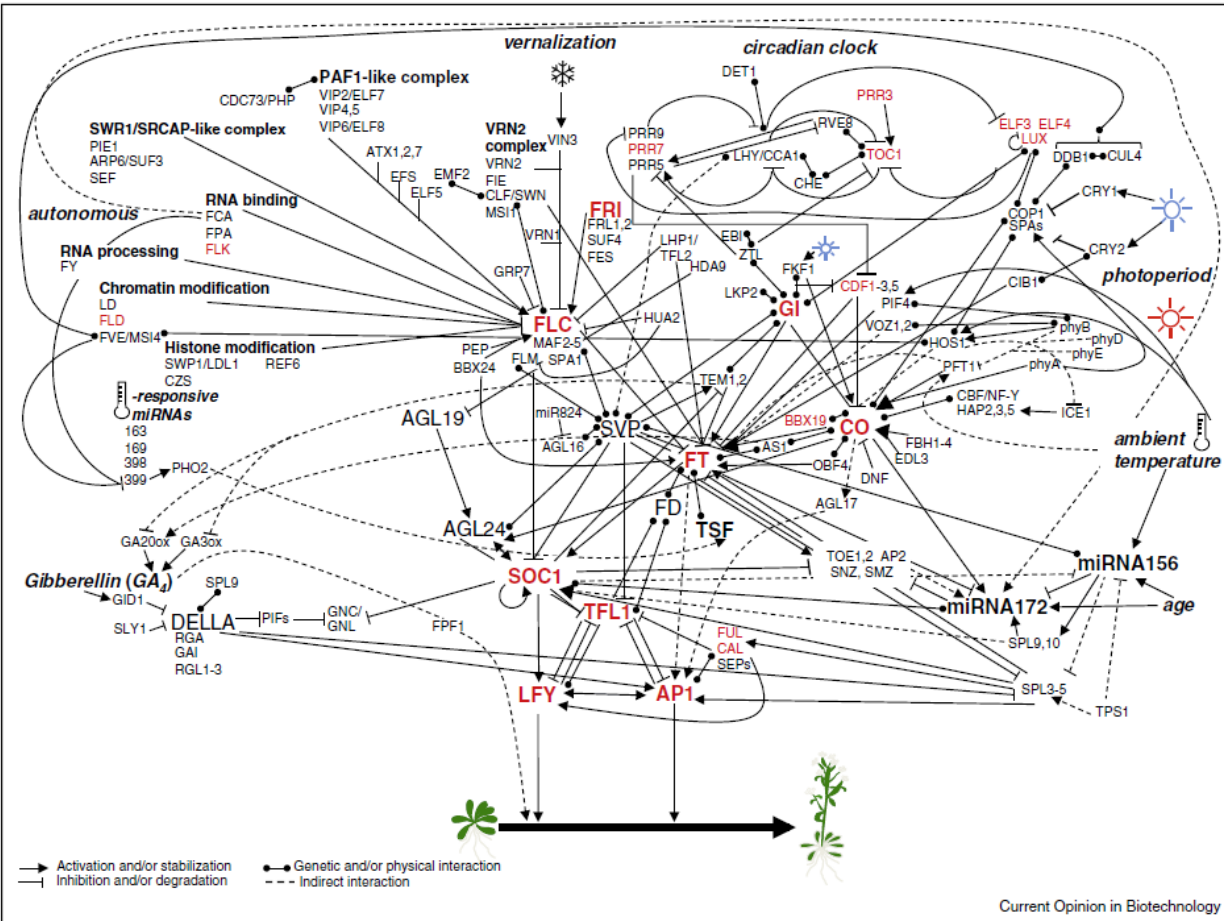
**Epigenetic reprogramming avoid trans-generational transmission of certain phenotypes.**

# VERY COMPLEX PATHWAY

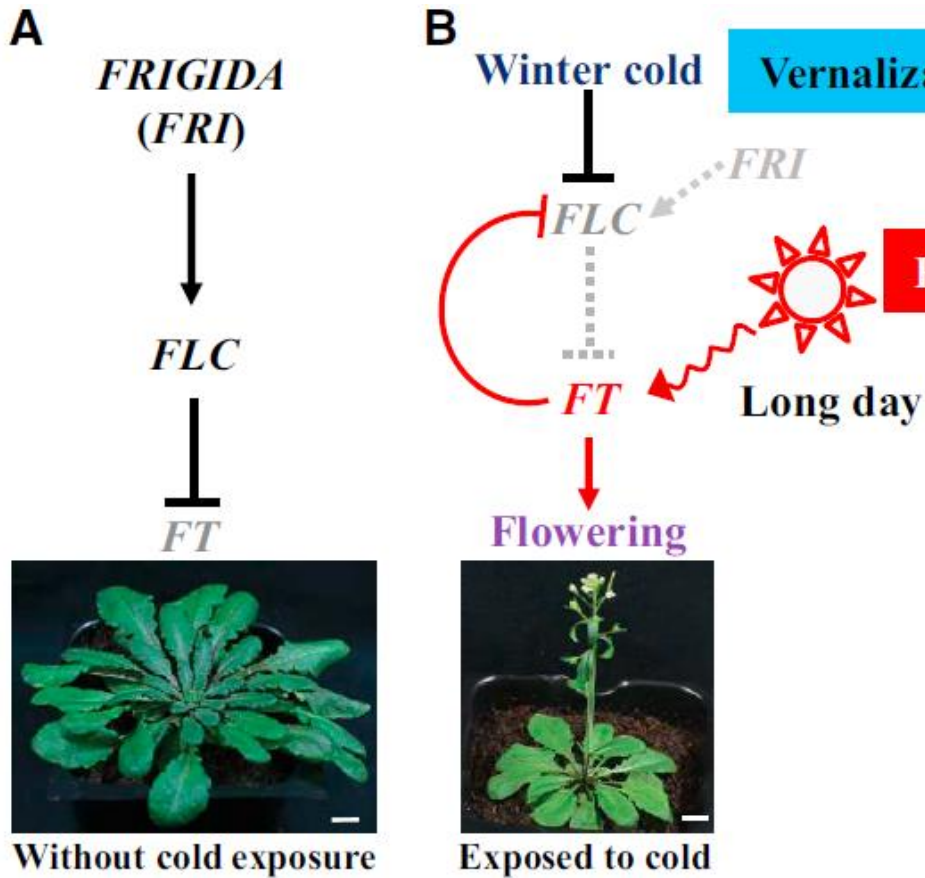


## Flowering time regulation in crops – what did we learn from *Arabidopsis*?

Martina Blümel<sup>1</sup>, Nadine Dally<sup>1</sup> and Christian Jung<sup>1</sup>



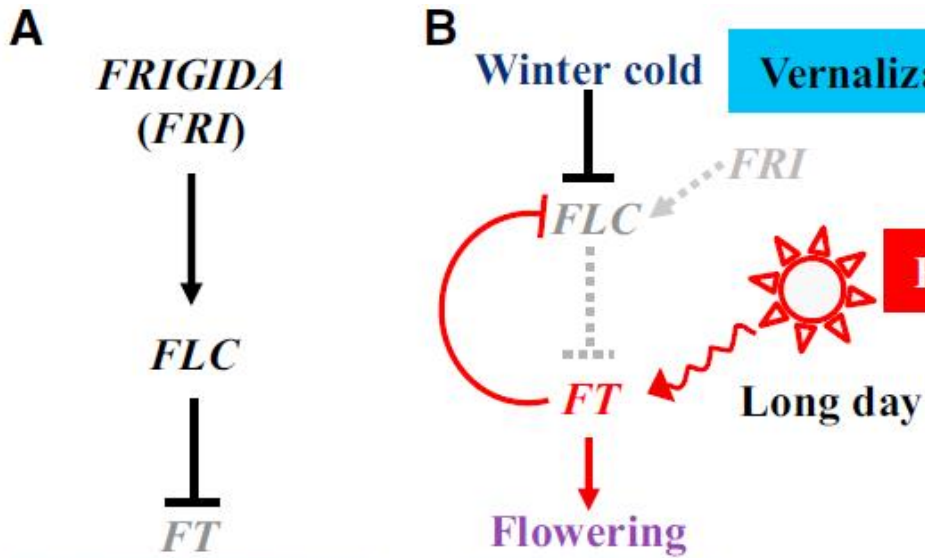
Flowering time gene network with known genetic and epigenetic regulators in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Arrows indicate a promoting, T-ends indicate an inhibiting genetic interaction. Round dots at both ends mark an interaction without a known direction. Dashed lines denote an indirect interaction. Genes attributed as major regulators in the different flowering time pathways are written in bold. Red writing indicates the functional characterization of a gene as a flowering time regulator in cultivated species — although not necessarily with the same function as in *Arabidopsis* — by mutant analysis, sequencing and complementation analysis or heterologous expression, RNA interference, or clear linkage with a major QTL.



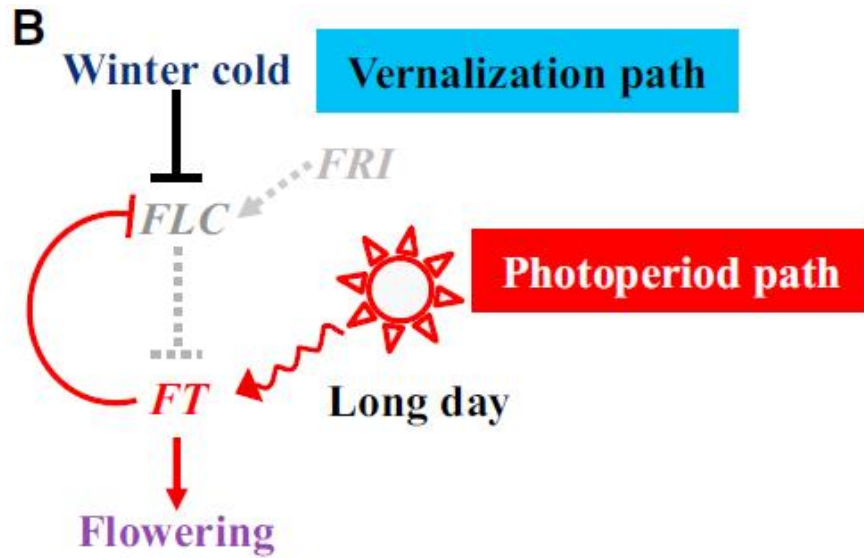
(A) **No VERNALIZATION AND SHORT-DAY PHOTOPERIOD.** A winter annual Arabidopsis line without prolonged cold exposure. *FRIGIDA* activates the expression of the floral repressor *FLC* (for FLOWERING LOCUS C), which directly represses the expression of the florigenic *FT* (for FLOWERING LOCUS T) gene to inhibit flowering.

(B) **After experiencing winter cold,** Arabidopsis winter annuals in temperate regions flower in late spring in response to increasing day length. Winter cold, through the vernalization pathway, represses *FLC* expression and thus relieves *FT* repression. This enables long-day induction of *FT* expression by the photoperiod pathway to promote flowering. *FT* feedback represses *FLC* expression.

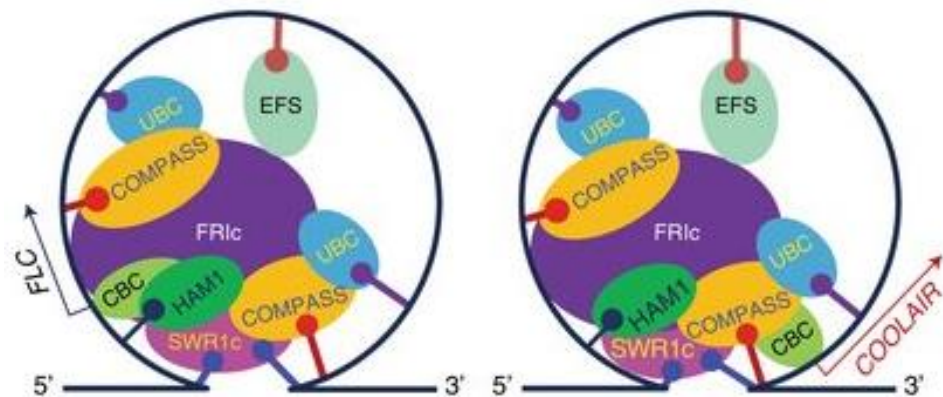
**FLC TO FOCUS ON EPIGENETIC CONTROL**



Without cold exposure



Exposed to cold



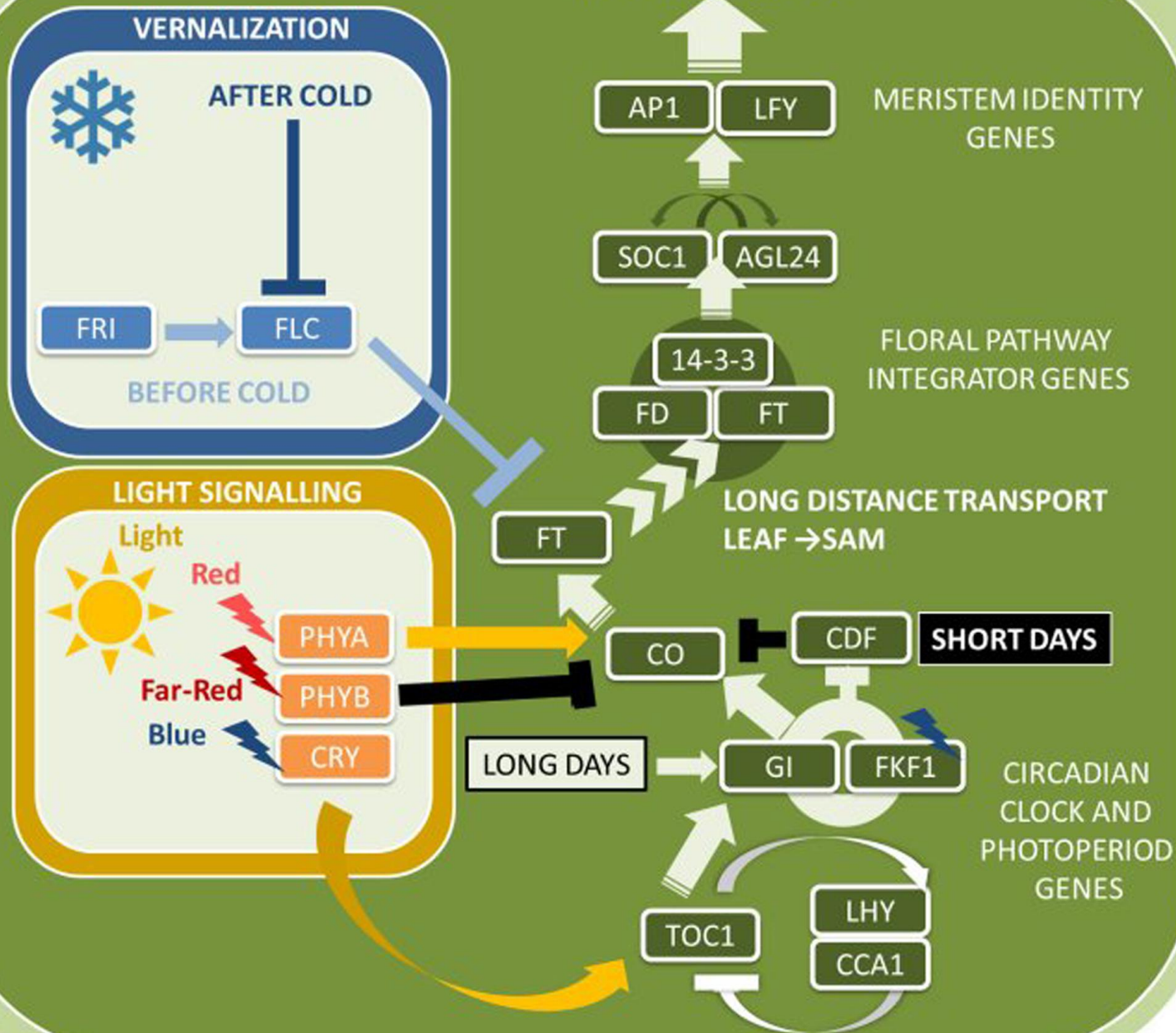
The winter annual growth habit is conferred by *FRIGIDA* (*FRI*) and *FLC*. *FRI* encodes a plant-specific **scaffold protein** and functions dominantly to upregulate *FLC* expression to a high level that inhibits flowering.

Before winter cold exposure, the scaffold protein *FRI* is located at *FLC* in a region around the transcription initiation site, and physically associates with a few transcriptional coactivators, among which are the histone 3 lysine 4 (H3K4) methyltransferase complex COMPASS-like, the histone acetyltransferases *HAM1* (for HISTONE ACETYLTRANSFERASE OF THE MYST FAMILY 1).

Working models for *FRI*sc-mediated upregulation of *FLC* and *COOLAIR*.

# ARABIDOPSIS

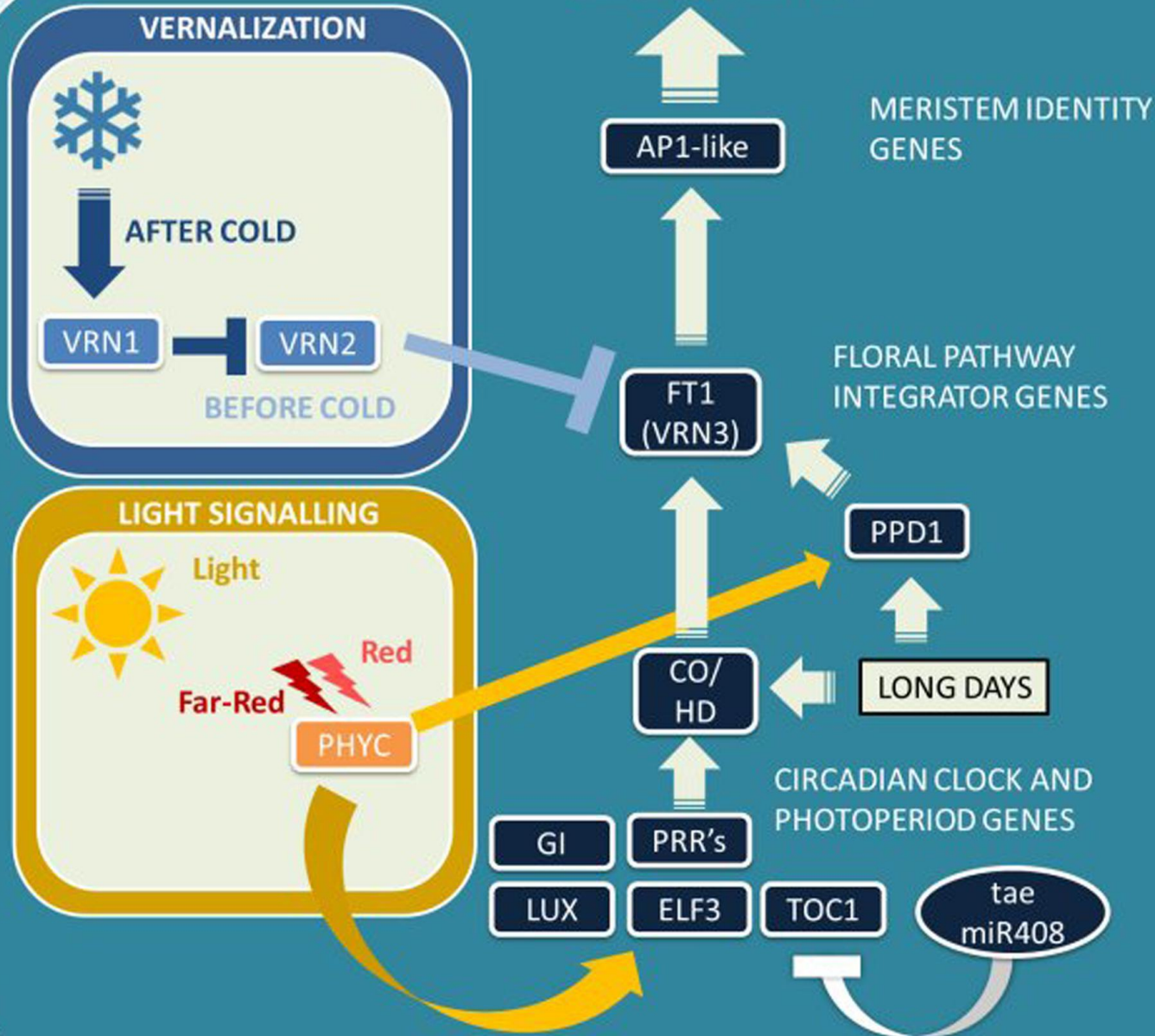
## FLORAL TRANSITION



**Major flowering pathway genes of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.** Positive and negative regulatory connections are indicated by arrows and lines with T-ends, respectively. White and black arrows or T-ends indicate regulatory connections occurring primarily under long days and short days, respectively.

# WHEAT AND BARLEY

## FLORAL TRANSITION



**Major flowering pathway genes of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.).** Positive and negative regulatory connections are indicated by arrows and lines with T-ends, respectively. White arrows or T-ends indicate regulatory connections occurring primarily under long days.

Traditional breeding and phenotypic selection of natural genetic variants at flowering loci was used to optimize flowering time within a given production environment to achieve greater yields

**AGRICULTURAL IMPACT**