



Performance of the new dwarfing plum rootstock WUR S766

Production and sorting figures: cultivation year 2017

Marc Ravesloot, Alma van der Heiden, Pieter van der Steeg
Paul Janssen, Luciano Schrama, Alwin Ebbens, Pieter van Rijn



Introduction

In May 2015, pilots were started at 10 locations in the Netherlands with three rootstocks (St Julien A, VVA-1 and WUR S766) for the Opal and Reine Victoria plum varieties. On this poster you will find the production figures and the size sorting of 4 locations in the Netherlands concerning production year 2017. The objective is to gain practical experience with WUR S766 at reputable Dutch stone fruit growers. The resulting image from research is confirmed at these demonstration sites: the dwarfing plum rootstock WUR S766 combines yearly high productions with high average fruit weights. This leads to a higher profitability of the cultivation.

Opal

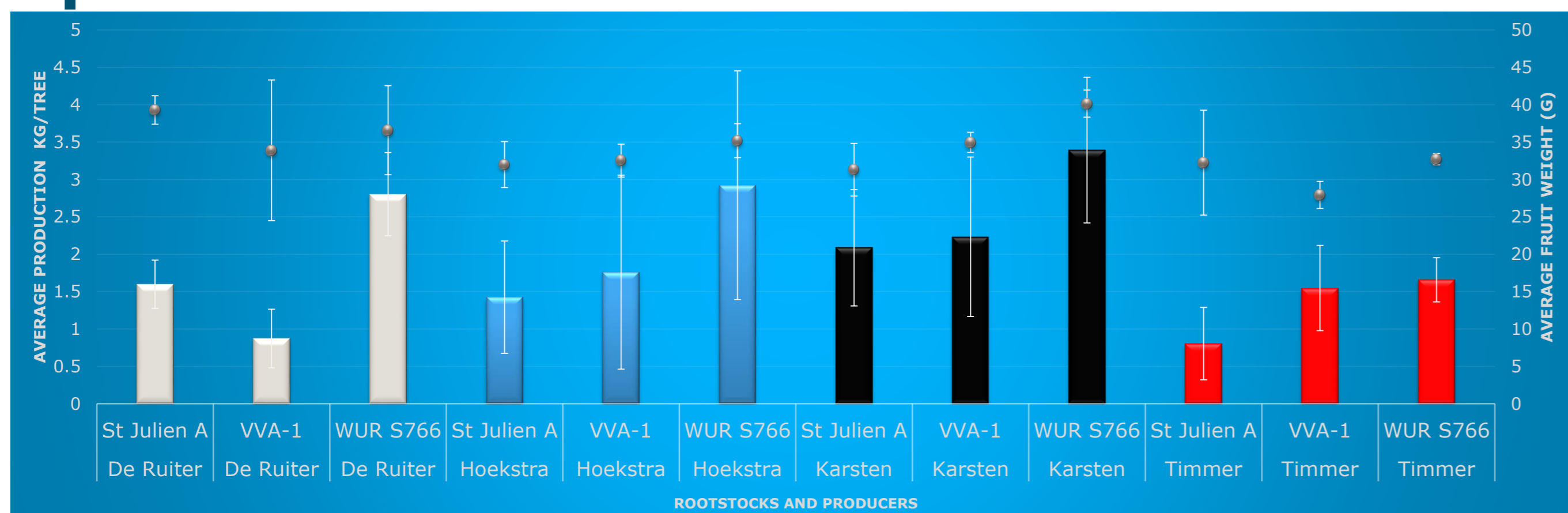


Figure 1. The average production (kg/tree) and average fruit weight (g) of the plum variety Opal (#trees=4/5 for every location) of 4 stonefruit growers in the Netherlands.

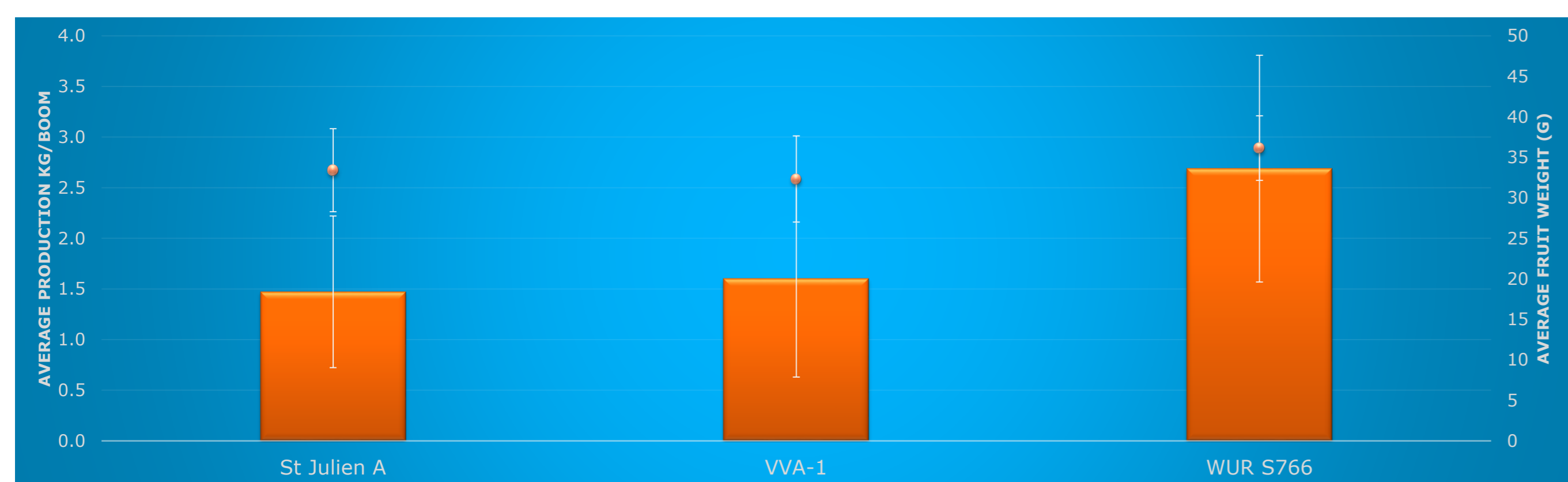


Figure 2. The mean average of 4 locations (De Ruiter, Hoekstra, Karsten, Timmer). Shown in the graph the average production (orange rods in kg/tree) and average fruit weight (dot in g).

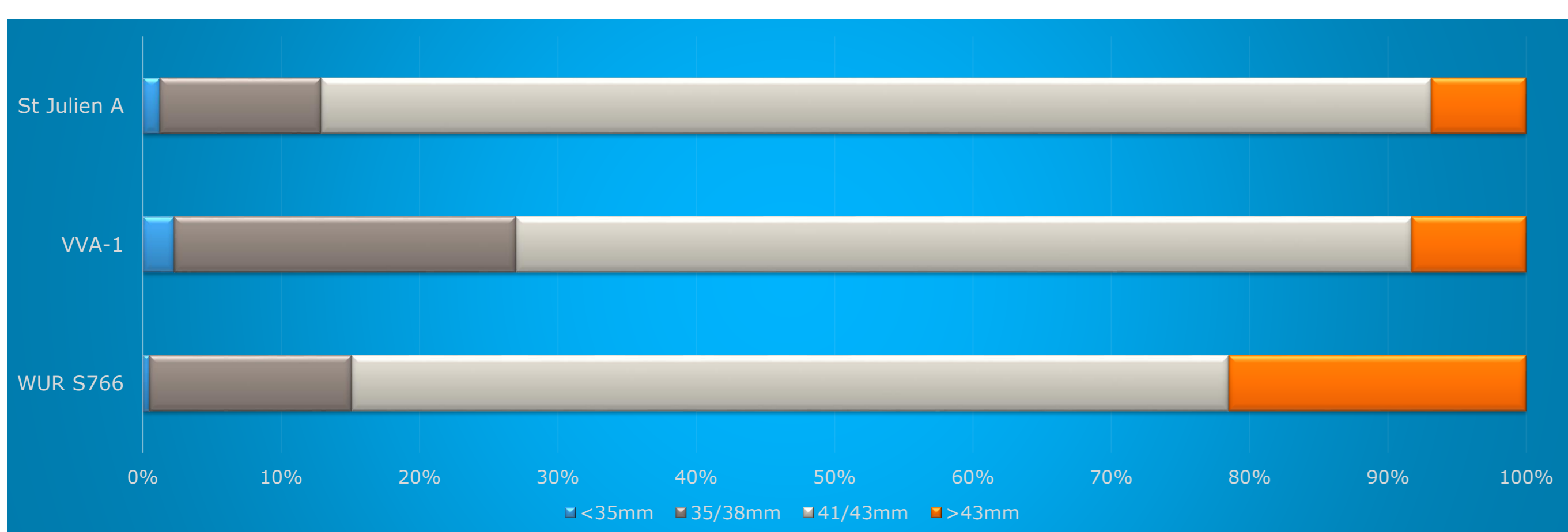


Figure 3. Sorting classes (%) of Opal grafted on St Julien A, VVA-1 en WUR S766.

Summarizing variety Opal

- It is important to mention here that the fruits of Opal have all been picked at one moment, which means that not all measured fruits have been able to grow completely. As a result, the displayed productions are slightly lower than in practice.
- It appears that the production of Opal on WUR S766 is higher than the VVA-1 and St Julien A at all four locations (figure 1).
- The production of Opal on WUR S766 is higher than when using the rootstocks VVA-1 or St Julien A (figure 2) and in the second year of production it amounted to about 1 kg/tree more.
- St Julien A and VVA-1 were almost the same in production in 2017
- Most fruits are in size class 41-43 mm. With the VVA-1 some more fruits fall in the category 35-38 mm.
- Use of WUR S766 leads to a shift to heavier size sorting classes for the plum variety Opal (figure 3).

Reine Victoria

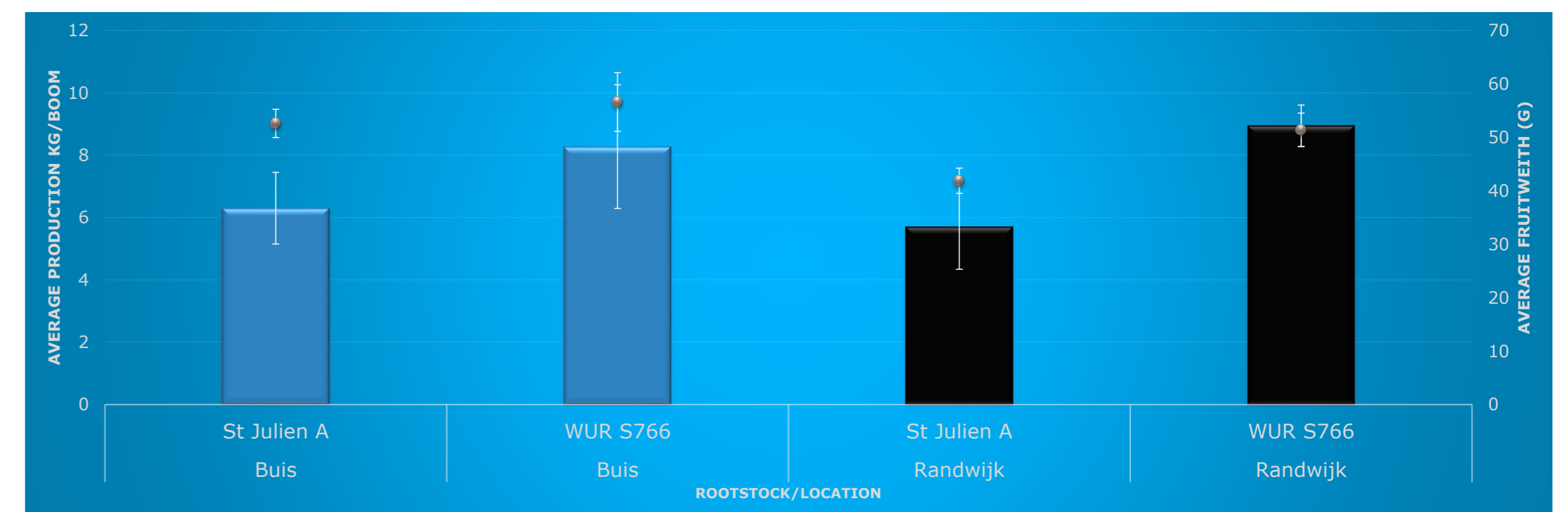


Figure 4. The average production (kg/tree) and average fruit weight (g) plum variety Victoria (#trees=4/6 for every location) of 2 stonefruit growers in the Netherlands.

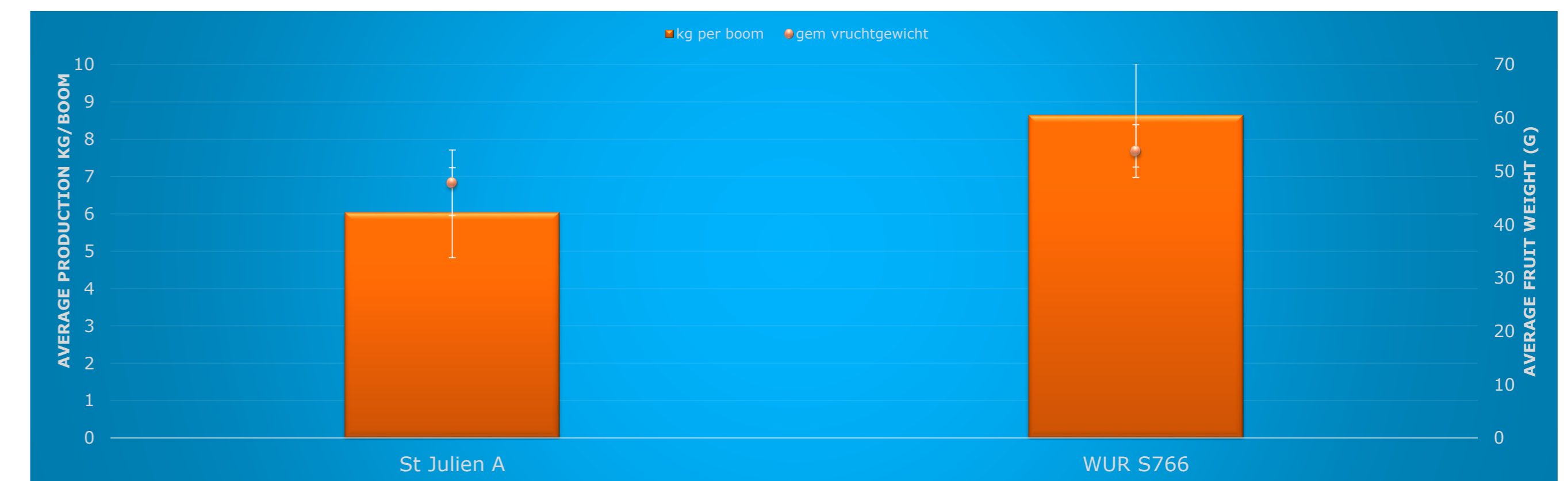


Figure 5. The mean average of 2 locations (Buis/Randwijk). Shown in the graph the average production (orange rods in kg/tree) and average fruit weight (dot in g).

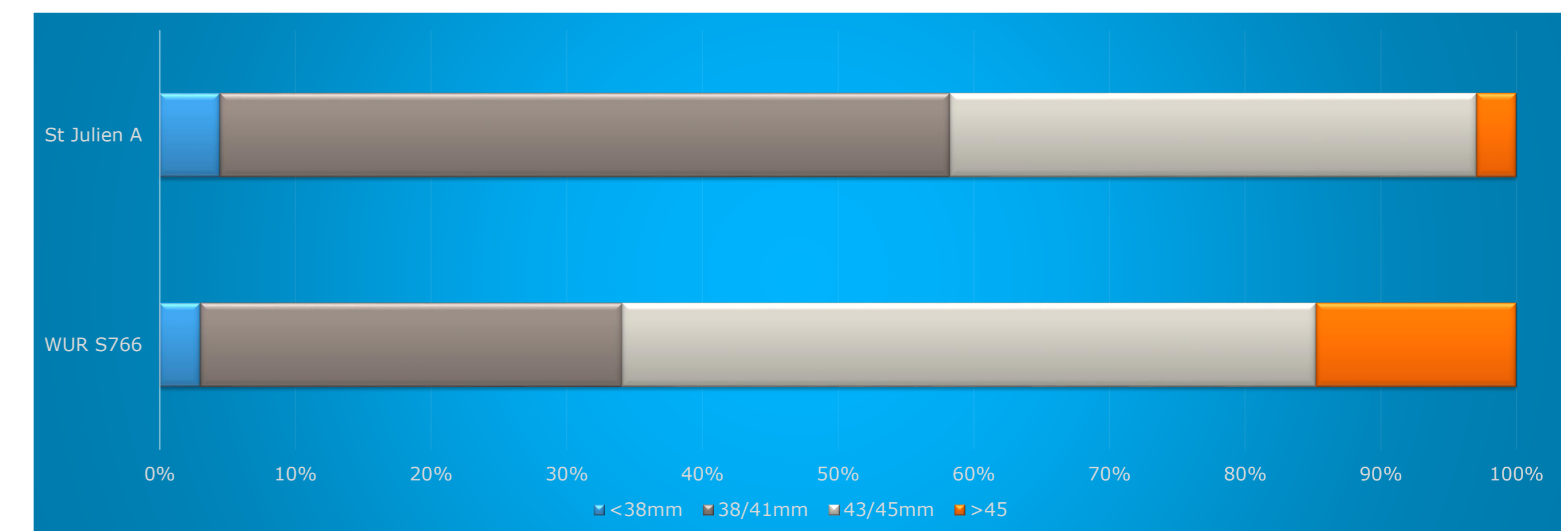


Figure 6. Sorting classes (%) of Victoria grafted on St Julien A or WUR S766.

Summarizing variety Reine Victoria

- The Reine Victoria measuring trees are harvested on several optimal harvesting dates.
- The production and average fruit weight of Reine Victoria on WUR S766 were higher than on St Julien A at both compared locations. This is not significant, mainly due to the small sample size (figure 4).
- This same picture is obtained if the production and fruit weights are averaged over the two compared production companies (figure 5).
- The average fruit weight is significantly higher at the location Randwijk (the shown standard deviation corresponds to 95% confidence interval).
- Use of WUR S766 also leads to a shift to heavier size sorting classes for the plum variety Reine Victoria (figure 6).

