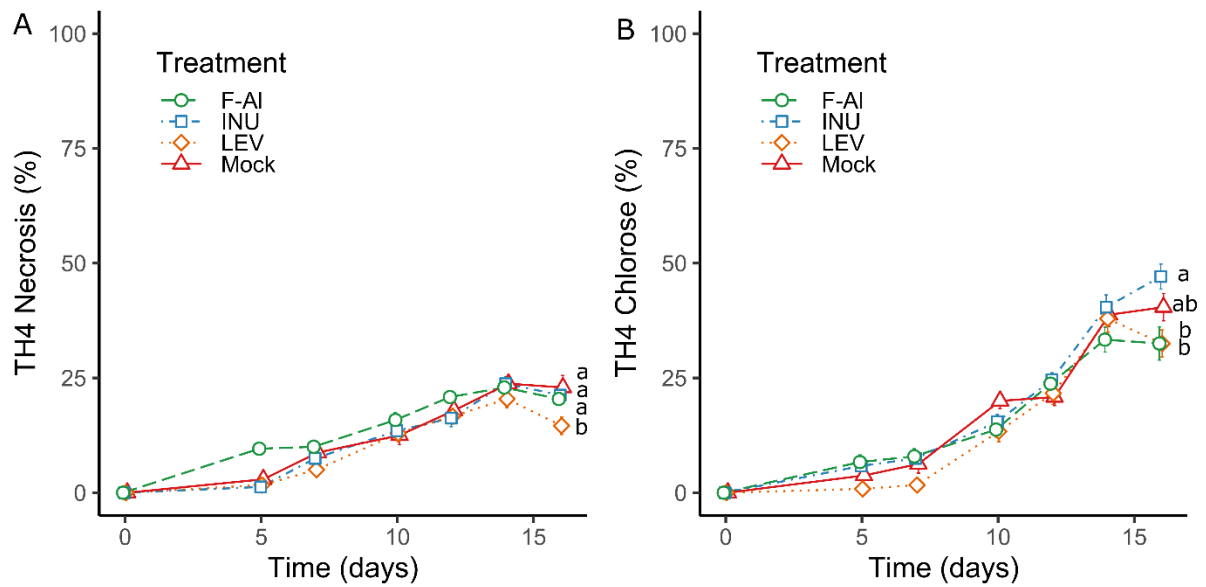
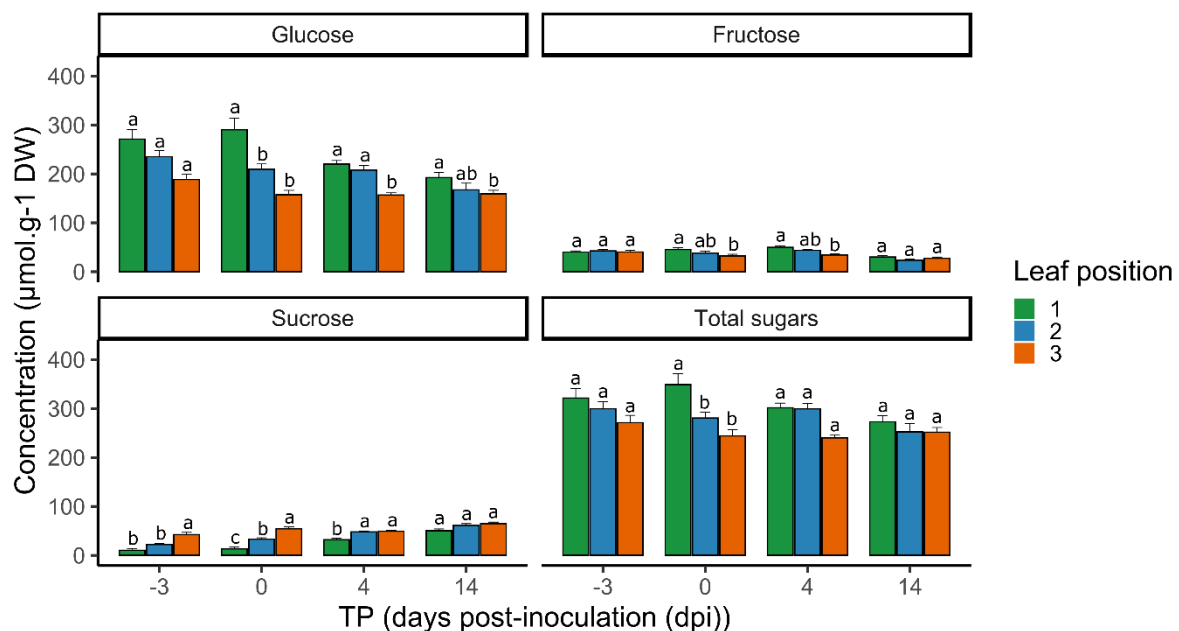


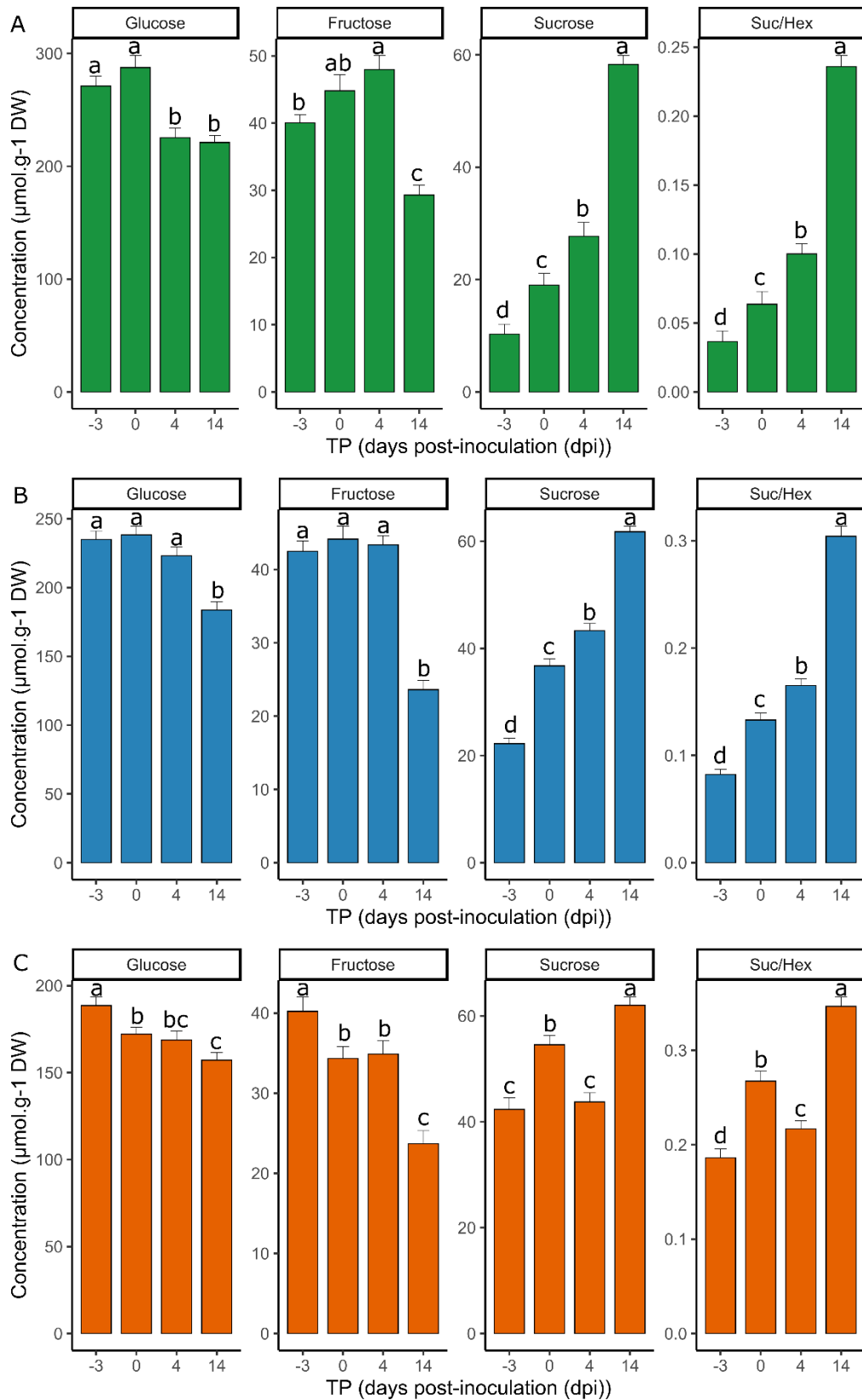
Supplementary Materials.



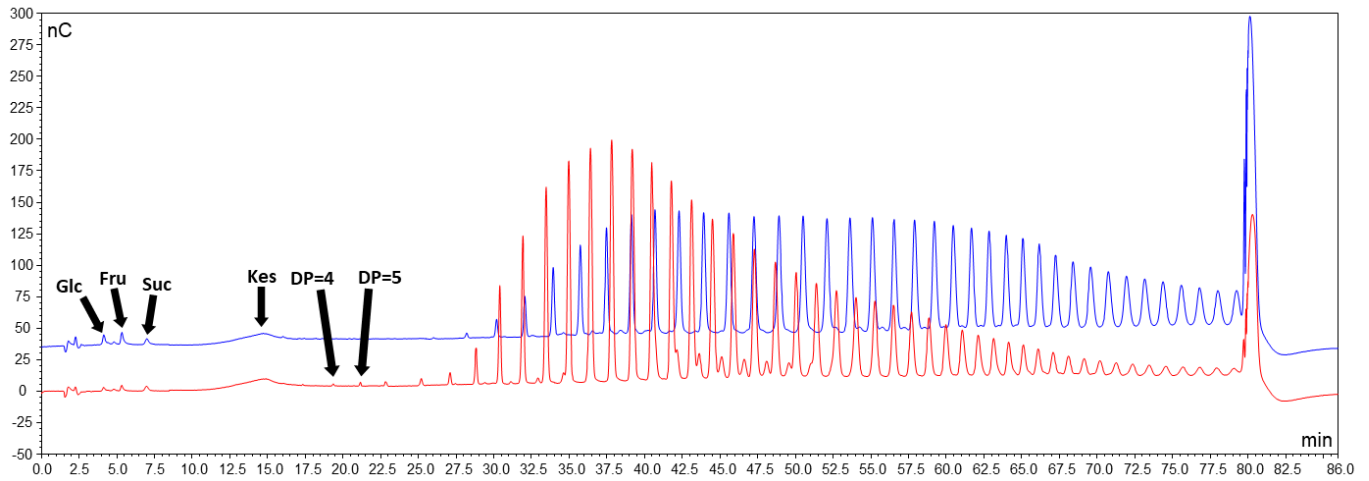
**Figure S1.** (A) Means of TH4 necrotic symptoms of *Venturia inaequalis* on three apple leaves sprayed with different elicitors. F-AI = fosetyl-AI 1.25 g L<sup>-1</sup>, INU = inulin 1 g L<sup>-1</sup>, LEV = levan 1 g L<sup>-1</sup>, Mock = water-treated and TH4 = Townsend-Heuberger with the number of symptom-showing classes (n = 20 ±SE). (B) Means of TH4 chlorotic symptoms of *V. inaequalis* on apple leaves sprayed with different elicitors. F-AI = fosetyl-AI 1.25 g L<sup>-1</sup>, INU = inulin 1 g L<sup>-1</sup>, LEV = levan 1 g L<sup>-1</sup> and Mock = water-treated (n = 20 ±SE). Statistical significance at 16 days post-inoculation is indicated by different letters (p < 0.05). This experiment was repeated 3 times with consistent results.



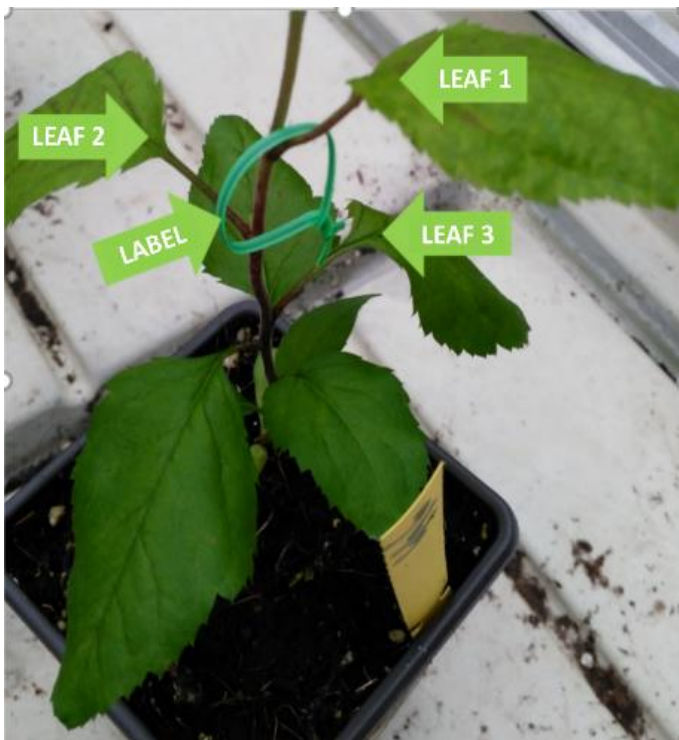
**Figure S2.** Mean of soluble sugar concentrations (in μmoles/g DW) in mock-inoculated leaves 1, 2 and 3, treated with water. The Y-axis represents the soluble sugar concentration in μmoles/g DW (n = 6 ±SE), while the X-axis represents the sampled time points (TP) in days post-inoculation (dpi). Total sugars are defined as the sum of the glucose, fructose and sucrose concentrations. Statistical significance between the different leaves is indicated by different letters (p < 0.05). This experiment was repeated 3 times with consistent results.



**Figure S3.** Mean of soluble sugar concentrations (in  $\mu\text{moles/g DW}$ ) over all four treatments in mock-inoculated leaves as a function of time (dpi). TP = time point and dpi = days post-inoculation. Total sugars are defined as the sum of the glucose, fructose and sucrose concentrations. (A) Sugar concentrations in leaf 1. (B) Sugar concentrations in leaf 2. (C) Sugar concentrations in leaf 3 ( $n = 6 \pm \text{SE}$ ). Letters indicate statistical differences between the TPs ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure S4.** Comparison of chromatograms of the fructan solutions used as priming agents in this study. Blue line = levan and red line = inulin. Glc = glucose, Fru = fructose, Suc = sucrose and Kes = 1- kestose. Subsequent peaks represent fructans with a higher degree of polymerization (DP). Y-axis = detector response in nanoCoulomb (nC) and X-axis = retention time in min.



**Figure S5.** Photograph of a representative apple seedling used in this work, showing the positioning of the leaves relative to the apex used for priming, sampling and disease scoring assays.