

# 2015 season





- Due to the early date of the PITs, APPC has not been able to complete the 2015 grade review for presentation this week. The final results will be distributed by APPC, as usual, in the last week of May.
- Various problems conspired to prevent Chris Joyce travelling this week. Thanks to David, Trevor, Craig & Jianlu for making the presentation.
- This presentations will make some general observations on the 2015 crop and the likely returns from the 2015 APPC Pool
- A future PIT will have the full explanation of the APPC Grade Out Turn Report.



# 2015 Crop

## **Most orchards yields down about 20% on 2013.**

Exceptions were the two recovering orchards and the new orchard now in years 7 & 8

- Many fruit buds did not open but those that did opened evenly. Maybe lack of chill albeit almost all growers applied oil.
- Why this reduction ? No ideas !
- most orchards have excellent to good bud set promising a good off-crop in 2016



# 2015 Crop

**Nut Size very small – average only 94 count  
Usually about 85 to 90**

- Supermarket specification is 90 count maximum
- California supplies at 88 count maximum
- Sirora is inherently smaller than Kerman
- Nut size is determined in Spring. Cool springs result in small nuts, but optimal water & fertiliser optimises nut size
- The two new (7 & 8 years old) orchard both achieve 84 count (per 100 g).
- Two large orchards achieved 90 and 92 count
- Most orchards achieved only 95 to 107 count suggesting better Spring fertigation could assist.



# 2015 Crop

## High Dark Stain for many growers

Many growers had high Dark Stain (fungal damage) from 8% to 18% despite a very dry season and a very dry harvest. This level of damage costs the grower about \$1,000/tonne in downgrades and extra sorting costs.

Growers who rigorously followed the PGA suggested program still had high, 5-7%, Dark Stain.

New orchards tended to have low Dark Stain suggesting that the absence of contamination from 2011 remains an issue for mature orchards.

**\* Orchard sanitation and a fungicide program essential \***

The PGA needs to look again at what are the causal fungi and what is the appropriate protections.



# 2015 Crop

## Low Closed Shell

2015 had perhaps the lowest Closed Shell ever – about 5% compared with a typical 8-12%

Probably caused by the cool spring, small nut size, and a hot January giving strong kernel expansion.

Only the traditional low watering had high Closed Shell and these were about 10% cf ~ typical 15%.



# 2015 crop – the market

- International prices remain very high albeit now below their peak..
- AUD still low ~USD0.80 albeit above its low of 0.75
- Iran had good 2014 crop. China transferred 25,000 tonnes of business from California to China
- High consumer prices (~\$30/kg for R&S including \$3/kg of GST) reducing demand. As Australia only producing about 40% of Australian demand, this will not impact on Australian sales. The lower demand will slow sales and delay cash flow to growers.



# 2015 Grower returns

**2015 returns to growers should be higher than the 2014 record prices.**

- Most of the 2015 Australian crop is now contracted at prices based on higher international prices and a lower AUD than today, i.e., very good returns.
- 2015 prices projected at above 2014 returns (provided that the buyers take the contracts). APPC will issue an estimated return to each grower week commencing 23/5.
- Cash flow will be slower than 2014 and 2013 due to consumer resistance to the high prices. Sales are slower, but the prices are higher !

Apologies for non attendance

