

Permanent Citrus Netting

Local experience
The good the bad the dollars

NSW DPI 2017 Citrus roadshow

David Stevens (Nutralano / Seven Fields)

Why Do I Need Netting

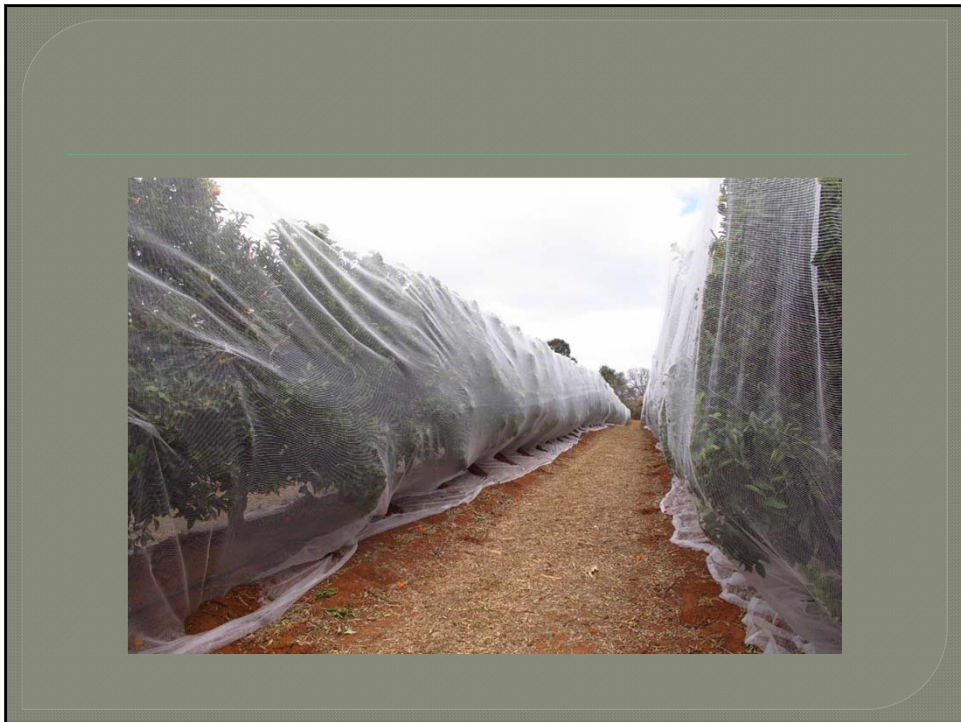
- Wind blemish reduced = improve packouts & increase returns
- Afourers reduce seeds due to bee exclusion pollination pressure
 - Seedless Afourers have a premium
- Faster tree growth under the net
- Marketing, buyers love the net

Management

- Pest pressure under the net
- Fruit quality under the net (dryness)
- Density under netting
- Varieties, different density & tree canopy
 - Volume Requirements
- Pruning (hedging) requirements under netting vs outside

Chislett navel: yields & packouts

- Density in and out: 666 trees per ha
- Yields averaged over two seasons
 - inside 35 bins per acre (36t/ha)
 - outside 35 bins per acre (36t/ha)
- Packout
 - inside the net: 78%
 - outside the net 79%





Show Me The Money

- Cost of netting
- Citrus farm purchase cost
- Same density return inside vs outside (Afourer) averaged over two seasons
- Under net high density 666 trees per ha (Washington)
- Outside traditional planting 272 trees per ha (Washington)
- Double planted outside 995 trees per ha (Washington) 329 more trees per ha (\$5,264/ha more at planting)
- Approx 45K – 50K per ha
- Approx 30k – 75k per ha
- Inside packout 65% @ \$390 per bin,
 - 60 bins /ac = \$23,400/ac (\$57,564/ha)
- Outside packout 67% @ \$402 per bin
 - 60 bins /ac = \$24,120/ac (\$59,335/ha)
- Under net 85% @ \$380 per bin
 - 60 bins /ac = \$22,800/ac (\$56,088/ha)
- Outside packout 78% @ \$350 per bin,
 - 60 bins /ac = \$21,000/ac (\$51,660/ha)
- Outside packout 85% @ \$380 per bin
 - 80 bins /ac = \$30,400/ac (\$74,784/ha)