



## Summary of three netting experiences

NSW DPI 2017 Citrus roadshow

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- Dean Morris (Moricom)
- David Stevens (Seven Fields – Nutrano)
- Payap Produce (Ryan Arnold – Payap Produce)

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## Common comments

- Increases 1st grade packout 0-25%
- Wetter longer/ morning dews & rain
- More insect control – regular pest monitoring essential
- Delayed or mixed colour development – more pruning for light into the tree
- Afourer more vigorous upright growth
- Good/faster early tree growth



## Common comments

- Afourer mandarins have economic benefit under nets from seedless fruit (seeded fruit still have a reasonable price, but are becoming lesser in value).
- Do your sums for your specific situation; net cost \$40-\$60K

## Moricom – Dean Morris



- Moricom (Leeton, base of large hill – noticeably more windy than flatter regions)
- 2017 Afourer : + 12 % 1st grade with no thinning.
- 2016Afourer: about + 20% 1st grade - a windy spring.

## Moricom – Dean Morris



- Unnetted blocks were thinned for blemish at a cost of \$3000 /ha, no thinning required under netting
- 1.5 ML/ha less water used
- Colour development is harder if not pruned well each year
- Seedless fruit = premium price most years; influenced by size of national crop







## Seven fields Afourer (Sunraysia)



- Flat topography with mallee tree boundary
- Afourer mandarins have a clear economic benefit under nets from seedless fruit (seeded fruit still have a good price, but are becoming lesser in value).
- Mature tree ~ 10% more first grade under net vs outside;
- Some seeded fruit on headland; under nets and in isolated areas.

## Seven fields Afourer (Sunraysia)

- In totally isolated area with no pollen source, economic benefit of nets could be variable – highly depends on site situation?
- NCF farms : As trees mature they protect each other and differences of inside and outside of the net is not much

## Seven fields Navel (Sunraysia)

- Fruit tended to be dryer.
- No benefit or negative economic benefit (pulling out trees)
- No gains in packout or yield for mature trees









## Pyap produce, Loxton (2016 season; hillside)

- Navellina: 58% (outside) to 79% (net) 1st grade = + 21% = +\$122/t
- Washy: 37% (outside) to 66% (net) 1st grade = +29% = \$234/t
- Afourer: 70% (outside) to 73% (net) = + 3 % = + \$240/t, mainly due to seedless fruit
- Moricom (Leeton, base of large hill – noticeably more windy than flatter regions)
- 2017 Afourer : + 12 % 1st grade with no thinning.
- 2016 Afourer: about + 20% 1st grade - a windy spring.





