

# Competing forces in the juice category

What are the opportunities for Australia?

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## An update on NT Citrus Canker suspected detection

- Citrus Canker symptoms detected in early April
- CA aware of detection through the Emergency Plant Pest Response DEED
- CA has been embedded in response, working from control centre in Berrimah Farm, Darwin, NT
- Very different circumstances to Emerald outbreak in 2004
- Presenting unique challenges
- Well managed response being conducted by NT DPIR

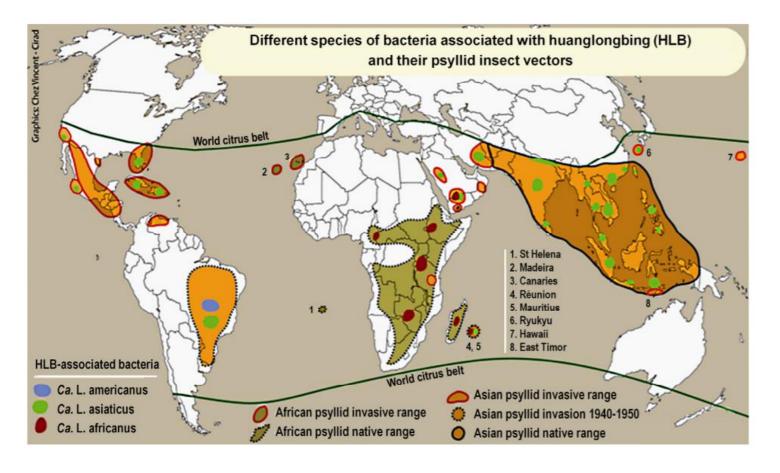


Thick and spongy lesions of citrus canker



# World production

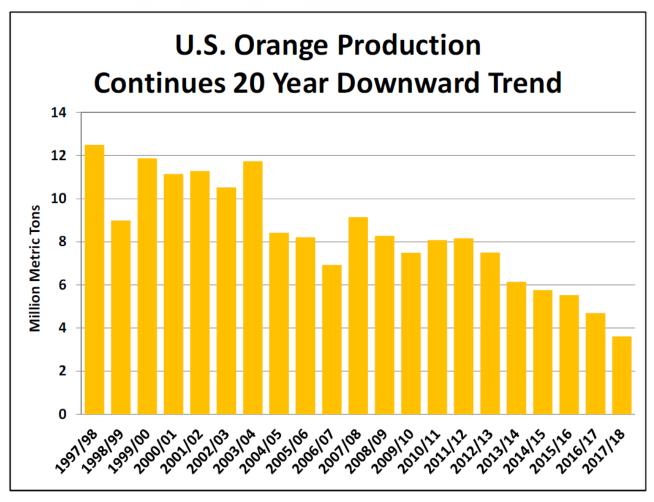
- Single biggest threat to world citrus production is the impact of HLB and other plant pests and diseases.
- They're destructive, incurable and expensive to manage





# Decline in production in USA

- Production to fall below a third of peak production in 97/98
- Underlying cause is Huanglongbing, (HLB), Citrus Canker
- Hurricane Irma blew the crop off the trees and flooded orchards
- California's production also declining
- Bearing acres reduced by 28% since 2007



**USDA, FSA 2018** 



#### **Production trend in Brazil**

- Brazil supplies 80% of the worlds juice market
- Over 18% of trees affected by Huanglongbing –
   20 million trees removed in 8 years
- Smaller growers unprofitable
- Larger orchards have been relocated, difficult growing conditions
- Doubts remain over long term viability without a breakthrough in HLB management





#### Australian juice production

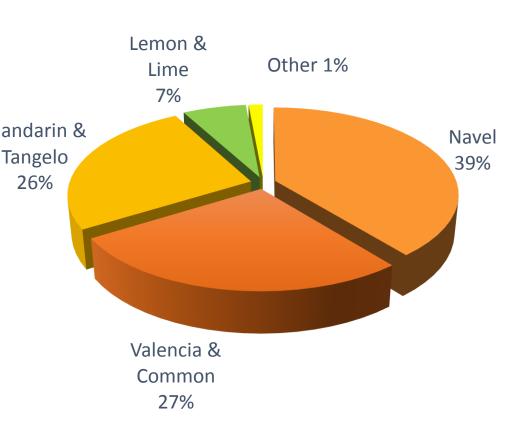
The Australian citrus production area is
 25,000ha – predicted to grow 20% in 5 years

• Juicing varieties are just less than a third of Mandarin & production hectares — 6,700ha

Tangelo

60% of trees in the juice category are over
 21 years

 The largest juice growing region is the Riverina, 4,170ha (64% are <21 years old)</li>





# Why is the juice production base so old?

- Trees naturally live to an old age.... Yes, however:
- Poor returns have meant little investment on farm and in the category
- Why have returns been poor concentrate was cheap
- Adoption of new or improved varieties is difficult in poor returning markets
- Many growers have moved to mandarin or navel orange production or into other horticultural crops, such as almonds or grapes



#### Market signals

- As world production declines we see an increase in prices, notably for imported concentrate
- Decrease in production base in Australia plus:
  - seasonal fluctuations
  - export demand for fresh Valencia
- Have driven up prices for Australian processing fruit to better than break even



#### Market signals

- On the domestic market we face:
  - High retail prices, obsession with retail 'own brands'
  - A sugar tax
  - Juice substitutes health drinks, water

#### **IMPLEMENTED SUGAR TAXES WORLDWIDE**

1. COOK ISLANDS 2. KIRIBATI 3. FRENCH POLYNE DOMINICA 9. SPAIN (CATELONIA) 12. FRANCE 23. SEYCHELLES 25. NAURU 26. FIJI 27. SAMOA 28. TONGA 7 US CITIES (so far...)\* 4. OAKLAND, CA 7. PHILADELPHIA, PA

## What do growers need?

- Clear signals from the processing industry
  - Is this a long term change in direction or a blip?
  - Will returns be maintained? Can juice growing be profitable?
- Are retail prices for juice sustainable? Will we lose customers?
- Can export markets be developed for Australian juice
  - Not from concentrate
  - Fresh variants
  - Tapping in to demand for Australian citrus in Asia







