

Horticulture Innovation

Australian Citrus Postharvest Science Program (CT15010)

Funding: Horticulture Innovation and NSW Department of Primary Industries

Status: Ongoing project

Key research provider: NSW Department of Primary Industries

What's it all about? The development of rots and decay (such as green mould) after harvest is a serious problem for growers and packers, particularly in export markets where the fruit are stored and transported over many weeks. The Australian Citrus Postharvest Science Program (CT15010) is working to develop best practices to manage current fungicides and sanitizers to control decay and to ensure Australian citrus remains clean and green, with ultra low residues. The project is continuing to review and extend the best ways to control postharvest decay and improve the quality of Australian citrus.

What's the latest update? The project is facilitating the adoption of new and existing postharvest approaches through face-to-face interactions across key growing regions (such as the Sunraysia and Gayndah) as well as through regular industry articles in *Australian Citrus News* and *The Packer Newsletter*. Project activities have focussed on the assessment of fungicide resistance across Australian citrus packingsheds. Nationwide surveys of packinghouse hygiene and resistance to postharvest fungicides was conducted during the 2017 and 2018 growing seasons. The results of this survey showed there is room to improve sanitation practices and the use of fungicides within some packinglines. These results have been reported and discussed with industry at workshops and postharvest forums around Australia. More work is continuing on maintaining quality during storage and alternative decay control treatments.

Regular articles from the Project are published in:

- Australian Citrus News
- The Packer Newsletter
- Citrus Connect (NSW DPI)

More information can be found on-line at:

Citrus Australia:

<https://citrusaustralia.com.au/growers-industry/post-harvest>

NSW Department of Primary Industries:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/citrus>

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