

## **Draft Media release - Australian Citrus**

Gary Pandolfo of Mario's Packhouse in Griffith (NSW) is a naturally cautious man; asked about the packhouse's newest deal, the installation of high-tech blemish grading from Compac Sorting Equipment, he chooses his words carefully.

The six-lane unit is still in the honeymoon period- in June it was just one week into commission – but according to Gary, it looks like performing to expectations. “If it goes as well as expect, then it has the potential to be a great piece of equipment,” he adds.

Frank Nardi, of Twin Palms Orchards, shares Pandolfo's optimism on Compac's InVision 9000 blemish grader potential – having installed an InVision 9000 system at around the same time. “It's working really well for us; we're able to split three grades evenly and in a hard year, where the fruit has a lot of blemishes, it's picking them up well,” he says.

Nardi agrees it's early days, but he says Compac's InVision 9000 blemish grading system is performing to expectations. He is pleasantly surprised, though, at its 'up and running' capability.

“We never expected it to do so well, so quickly. Right from day one it was doing the job really well, when we'd usually expect that machinery with this sort of sophistication would have bugs that needed to be ironed out. For Compac's InVision 9000 blemish system, this just hasn't been the case; basically we just put it in, turned it on and away it went.”

Mario's chose Compac's InVision 9000 blemish grader to make inroads on efficiency and economy, and reduce errors on its 10-15,000 tonnes of export Navels. The decision followed excellent performance reports from out-of-state and Californian packhouses who were already running with the Compac system.

“We could see they were getting better results at the other end, particularly with splitting grades,” he says. “Ultimately we are looking at putting in another machine for pre-grading blemished fruit, in the future.”

While still coming to grips with the potential of the system's capabilities, Gary says a big benefit has been the service, response and reliability from Compac that has been crucial through the early stages.

Compac's man on the spot, Pari Padrevita, says both the Mario's installation and two lane unit at Twin Palm Orchards in Leeton have been significant deals for Compac and mark the beginning of the company's successful expansion into NSW, Riverina region.

“Both installations were signed within days of each other and chosen on performance in both cases,” says Pari Padrevita. “InVision 9000 blemish grading is a logical progression for citrus pack houses looking to increase blemish grading accuracy and consistency while reducing labour costs.”

The Twin Palms machine made a big impression on a visiting US citrus packer and importer, who saw the machine running in its first days of commissioning and felt it was already performing better than his machine from a US manufacturer had been able to achieve after two years of operation.

Compac's smart-thinking innovation is becoming increasingly the system of choice in Australia, with software that typically analyses 6 to 8 times more pictures of each fruit than other systems. Compac's InVision 900 blemish grading system identifies and determines

the grade on the best view of each blemish to ensure the grading is accurate, giving simpler and more accurate splits between grades.

More information:

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