Title	Sooty mould cleaners, and high-pressure washing - improving citrus fruit quality for export markets
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Abstract

A study was conducted to examine the role of mould cleaners (X77, sodium metasilicate, Wuncer, Fruit and Vegetable Kleen 451 and 440, Agrichem, Kloralkafoam and sodium hypochlorite + sodium bicarbonate) and high-pressure washers in packingsheds under Australian conditions. Valencia oranges were picked from an orchard and rated according to level of sooty mould before treatment, dipped in detergent/cleaner and subjected to a modified washing line at 100 psi and initial dwell time of 30 seconds. Cleaners were tested at two more dwell times (10 and 20 seconds). All treatments reduced the sooty mould rating. Fruit Kleen 440, Kloralkafoam and sodium hypochlorite + sodium bicarbonate at shorter dwell times of 10 and 20 seconds showed that they were significantly better at cleaning than the control, however there were no significant differences between the two dwell times. It is concluded that high-pressure washing alone is responsible for the decrease in sooty mould rating. However, when a cleaner is present, this rating can be further reduced. High-pressure washers used at dwell times shorter than 30 seconds are also effective as long as the cleaners used to pretreat the fruits are effective.