

Irrigation Options Update

Hazelnuts

David Armstrong

AK Consultants



Topics

- Markets
- Resource requirements
- Sources of information
- Questions



Production

- Aus production about 80t per year.
- Aus imports 2,000-3,000 t per year.
- World production 617,000 tonnes 2010/11
(most in Turkey).
- Ferrero to grow 5,000 tonnes in NSW (2,000
ha farm, \$70m investment).



Markets

- Most imports go into confectionery and bakery products.
- Local production goes into food service outlets, processing and some exports.
- Hazels represent less than 1% of fresh nut retail sales; leading products are almonds and cashews.
- Australian consumption is low by world standards, 3.3 g/head compared with 227 g/head in U.S..



Markets

- Imports typically smaller in size, available at lower cost and go to processing.
- Local production mostly sold via retail markets (as fresh nuts, for baking and in health foods), plus roadside stalls and farmers' markets.



Site requirements

- Bud break September, harvest March
- Need winter chilling; generally Hazelnuts grow where apples will grow.
- Frost tolerant when dormant, but late spring frosts can damage emerging buds.
- Prefer well drained loamy soils, at least 60 cm deep
- Flat land easier for harvesting
- Areas of the Midlands well suited.



Establishment

- Need irrigation
- Parts of Midlands well suited (soils, climate)
- Establishment costs, \$8,000-\$10,000/ha
- 10-15 years to reach full yield



More information

- **DPIPWE**

 - Hazelnut Market Profile

 - Hazelnut growing in Tasmania

 - Hazelnut Gross Margin & Investment analysis

 - <http://dPIPWE.tas.gov.au/agriculture/investing-in-irrigation>.

- **Hazelnut Growers of Australia**

 - www.hazelnuts.org.au



Summary

- Markets are available – for retail and food service, possibly export, limited for processing.
- To be profitable, need to develop your own markets?
- Parts of Midlands well suited (soils, climate)



Questions

