BEST PRACTICES FOR HARVEST TIMING, HARVEST & FRUIT HANDLING



ADAM ENGLEHARDT

© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Influence of Agronomic Aspects on Olive Oil Quality



Agronomic Aspects

Factors which are difficult to change:

- Variety.
- Environmental conditions.

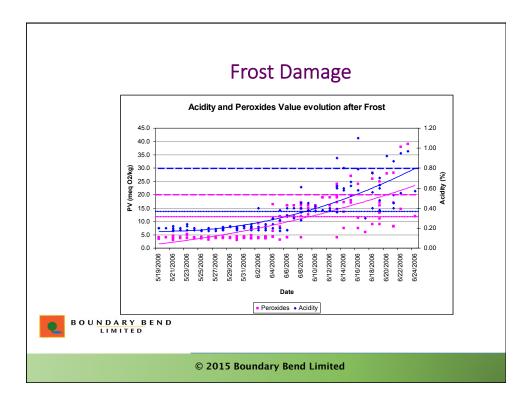
Factors which are easier to manipulate:

- Pests & diseases.
- Irrigation.
- Harvest & transport.
- Pruning.
- Fertilisation.



© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Frost BOUNDARY BEND LIMITED © 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

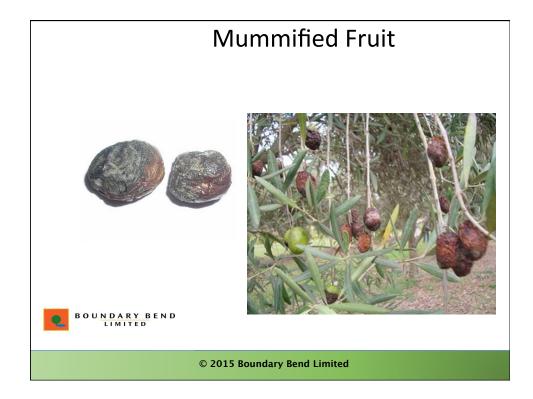


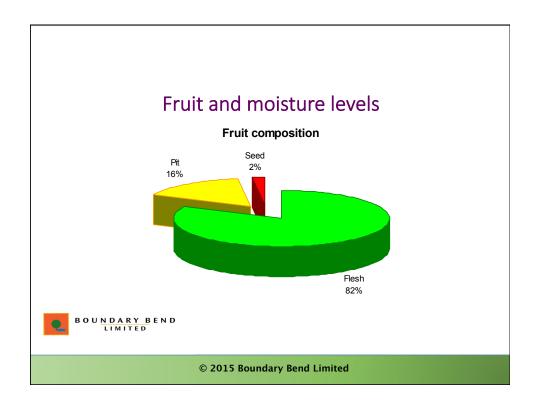
- Sudden cold change will turn the olives into a brownish colour.
- Gradual cold change could lead to olive dehydration (Reversible or not).
- Both will affect the organoleptic characteristics of the oil, its acidity and peroxides value.

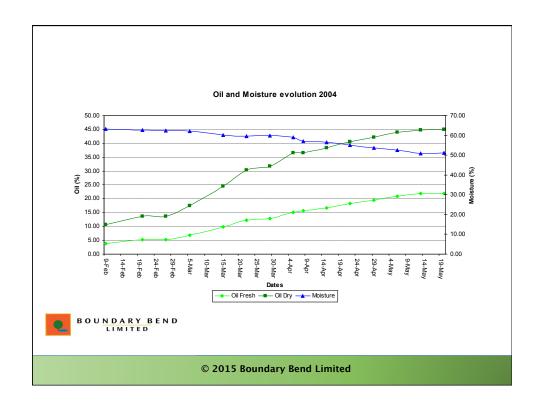


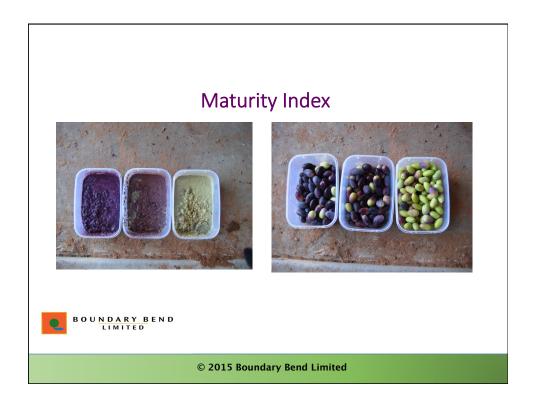
- Frost fans.
- Harvest immediately.
- Low areas first.
- Crush with large grids and low temperatures in the malaxer.
- Deodorization.

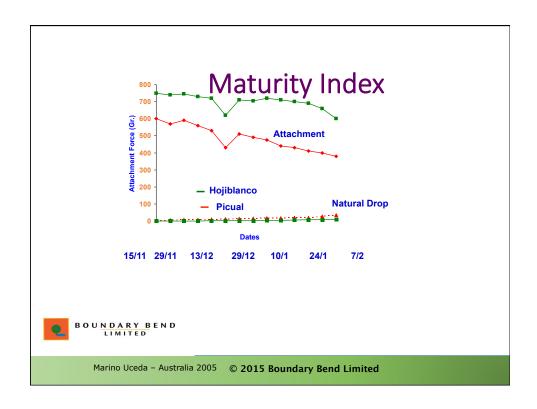


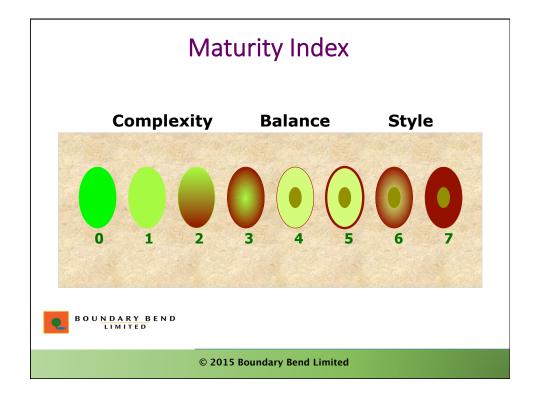


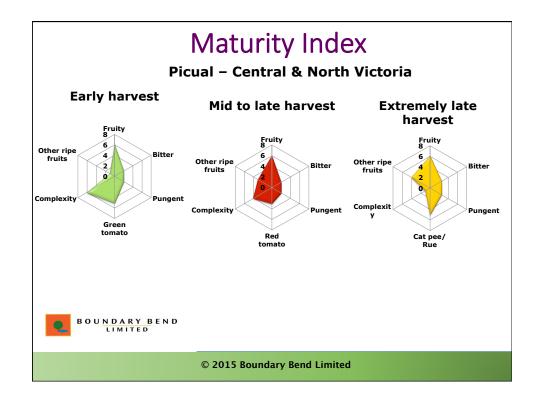














Harvester Performance Fruit damage

Average oil acidity vs. harvester (Olive West)

Harvester	Acidity (%)
Ag-Right Heads	0.31
AOH Shaker + beaters	0.28
Colossus	0.22
Grape Harvester	0.20
Gregoire 133	0.31
Hand harvest	0.13
Sicma shaker + pneumatic rakes	0.56
Sicma shaker	0.13



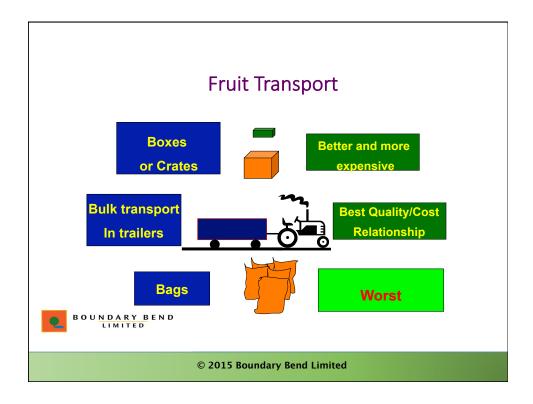


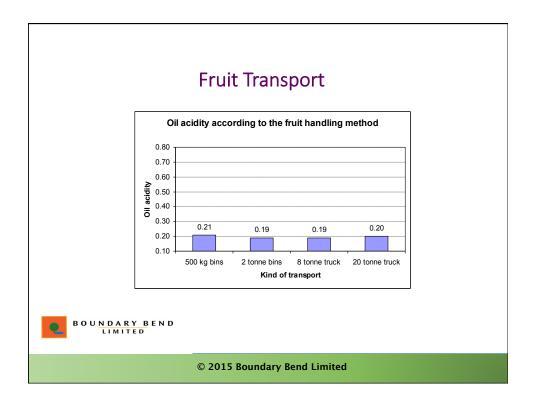
Materials Other than Olives (MOO)

 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{Optimal:} & < 5.0\% \ (0\text{-}1) \\ \text{Good:} & 5.0\text{-}15.0\% \ (2\text{-}3) \\ \text{Dangerous:} & 15.0\text{-}25.0\% \ (4\text{-}5) \\ \text{Not acceptable:} & > 25.0\% \end{array}$

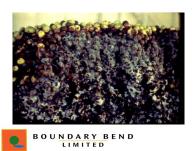
- Feedback to grove manager about harvesters.
- Avoid astringent leaf flavours in the oil (More than 1% MOO).
- Avoid problems with washing equipment.







Fruit Temperature



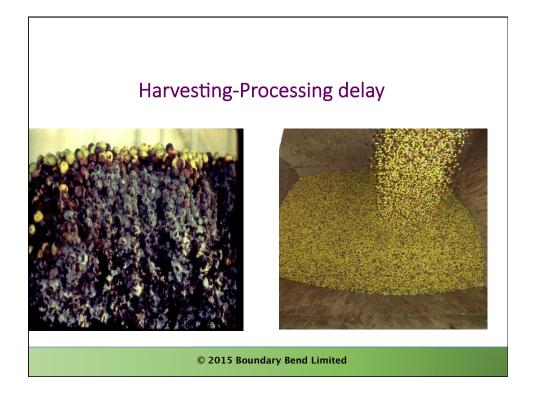
Depth (cm/inches)	Temperature (°C/°F)
0	22/72
10/4	38/100
30/12	45/113
50/20	42/108
80/32	45/113
120/48	32/90
150/60	32/90

Fruit Temperature

Optimal
Good
Increasing risk
Quality affected
Not acceptable

< 5°C (9°F) above air T° 5-10° (9-18°F) above air T° 10-15° (18-27°F) above air T° 15-20° (27-36°F) above air T° >20° (36°F) above air T°







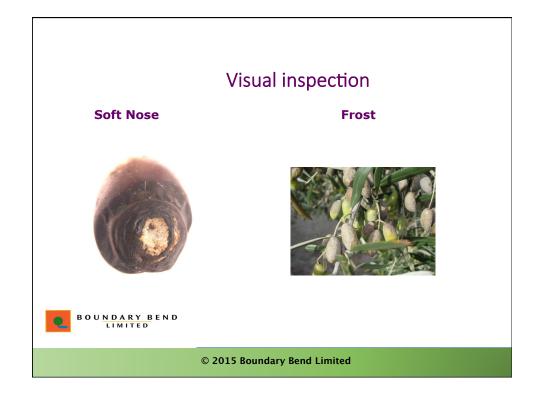
Harvesting-Processing delay

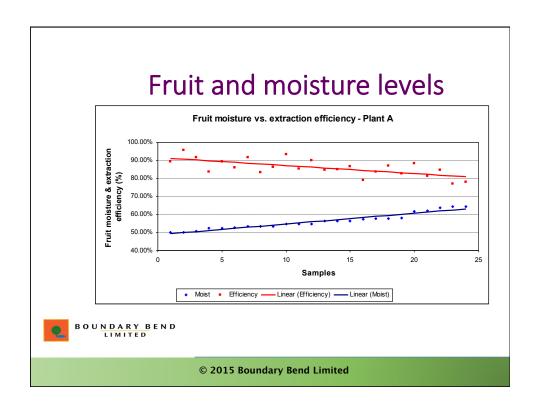
- One of the most important parameters affecting oil quality.
- Fruit should be processed within 12 hours to avoid quality issues.
- A delay longer than 24 hours will most likely have an impact on the oil quality.
- Aerobic and anaerobic fermentations inside the fruit pile end up increasing FFA, FAEEs, DAGs, etc.
- Organoleptic problems = Fusty and Musty!!



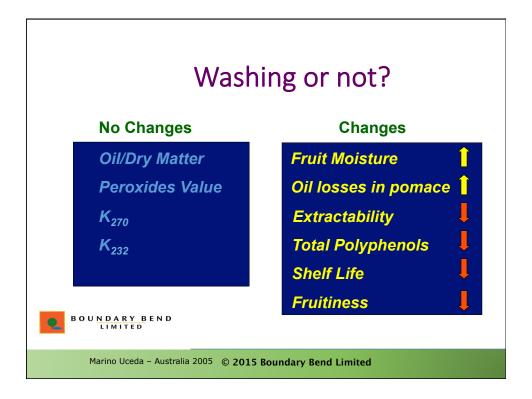


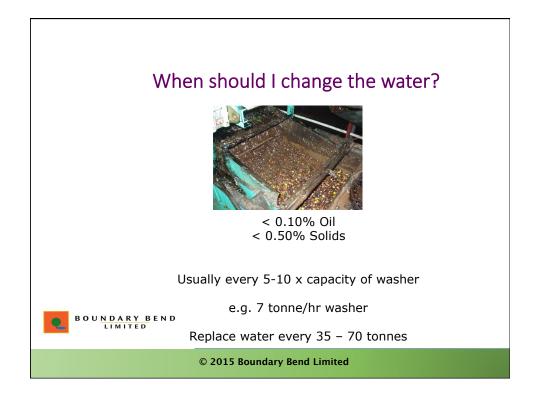












Fruit storage

- High risk of ↑↑ **FFA** & "fusty" defect if not frequently inspected
- High risk of ↑↑ **FFA** if ripe, mashy fruit
- ↑↑ Chlorophyls content and greener oil if olives start fermenting
- Risk of increasing E+U, FAEEs and DAGs





BOUNDARY BEND

© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Before the season:

- Suggest improvements in the receival area.
- General cleaning and maintenance of the receival equipment.

During the season:

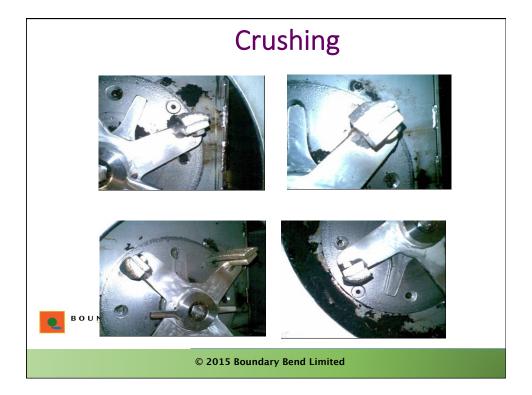
- General cleaning and maintenance of the equipment.
- Inspection of the fruit and directing lines or washing needs.
- Fruit sampling.
- Changing washing water.
- Evaluating oil losses in washing water.
- Evaluating MOO after washing.
- Rotating fruit in clean fruit hoppers.



BOUNDARY BEND

Crushing Paste Preparation Malaxing Temperature & Time









Crushing

Processing degree of difficulty

- 1. High fruit moisture. Emulsions formation.
- 2. Lipophyllic affinity of the pulp.
- 3. Poor paste preparation.



© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Crushing

- Lower bitterness with double grid hammer mills
- ↑↑ rotating speed gives higher polyphenols and oxidation stability to oil
- Risk of ↑↑ **PV** if hammers wear out leaving metal traces in oil
- Smaller grid sizes: Higher chlorophyls content (greener oils) & higher polyphenols





BOUNDARY BEND



Malaxing

Visual checks:

- There is a large amount of oil floating on top of the paste in the last vat of the malaxer.
- The blades of the malaxer come out clean from the paste
- The paste shows an evident cracking with a bright dark colour
- The paste behaves as a solid, not as a liquid



Malaxing

- Time.
- Temperature.



© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Malaxing

What temperature?

- As low as possible but not lower than 22°C (72°F). (Problems with efficiency and solubilization of PPH and chlorophylls)
 • EC regulation "Cold extraction" < 27°C (80.6°F).
 • Between 25°C and 30°C (77°F & 86°F).

- Start at 28°C (82°F) and apply variations controlling the oil in pomace.

How much time?

- As short as possible but not less than 45 min.
- Between 45 min and 120 min.
- Start at 75 min and apply variations controlling the oil in pomace.
- · According to research studies, sealed malaxer minimise the negative impact
- •of longer malaxing times on quality.



Temperature

- ↑ ↑ PV
- ■↓↓ Rancimat® stability
- ↑ ↑ Polyphenols & ortodiphenols
- ■↑↑ Bitterness & "harshness" taste feeling
- ■"Overcooked" defect
- ■↓↓ Fruitiness in nose
- ■个个 Chlorophyls
- ↑ ↑ Trans fatty acids (18:1T).
- 个 ↑ E+U, Stigmasterol and Total sterols



© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Time

- ↓↓ Polyphenols & ortodiphenols
- ↓↓ Bitterness
- "Pomacy" taste feeling
- ↑↑ E+U and Stigmasterol
- ↑↑ Waxes & aliphatic alcohols



- \circ Talc & microtalc powder: essential with difficult pastes or high moisture fruit. No impact on oil quality
- o **Common salt**: Low cost option. No impact on oil quality, though there is a significant increase in conductivity of pomace
- o **Calcium carbonate**: another cheap option. High paste extractability. Increases pH of pomace and could impact quality if not properly used
- o **Enzymes**: Effective under most conditions. Doses depend on the year and fruit ripeness. No impact on oil quality
- o **Warm dipping**: Difficult to implement. Only effective with temperatures above 60°C. It does change the oil quality
- o Ultrasound: Promising technology. No impact on quality
- \circ Microtalc powder & enzymes could be an interesting combination depending on the fruit condition





Oil storage

- Temperature: 15 (59°F) 18°C (64°F)
- No light.
- Settlings drained regularly.
- Nitrogen: Max. = [4.0%] of O2
- Minimise head space



© 2015 Boundary Bend Limited

Oil storage

- Insulated.
- Electric illumination only.
- Well designed drainage system.
- Temperature control system.
- Secure.



