Winter Sweetz™ Grapefruit (USA)

The Challenge

The grapefruit category was in long-term decline. Consumers found grapefruit confusing (taste, selection, "good vs bad fruit"). A deep-pocketed competitor entered the market, threatening Lone Star Citrus's multigenerational business. Without change, the category — and Lone Star's future — was at risk.

The Strategy

Through consumer insight, we identified "seasonal and origin confusion" as the barrier, as both impacted grapefruit flavor. We reframed Lone Star's Texas grapefruit through simple, persuasive brand storytelling:

- Developed new consumer brand: *Winter Sweetz™*.
- Positioned around key consumer cues: *sweet, tree-ripened, winter = peak taste*.
- Designed packaging and communication to eliminate confusion and highlight enjoyment.

Strategic Actions:

- Introduced consistent messaging on packs and in marketing.
- Built new consumer territory around "winter" (local advantage in Texas).
- Engaged retailers and buyers with a clear, differentiating story.

The Results

Launched *Winter Sweetz $^{\text{TM}*}$, repositioning Lone Star's Texas grapefruit as sweet, seasonal, and desirable.

- Retailers embraced the new brand \rightarrow stronger buyer interest.
- Early season demand exceeded supply, with strong excitement from consumers

The Testimonial

"Lisa was the strategist we needed — not just a designer. She transformed grapefruit from a declining category into a consumer-centric brand."

April Flowers Lone Star Citrus Growers

Why It Matters Today

Winter Sweetz™ is still in the market and thriving. This case shows how packaging + branding can transform a declining category by removing barriers and reframing consumer perception.

