

Matrix Crop report – Week#9
Belgium, February 25th, 2003

February will be one of the driest months in years, with sunny days and cold nights. As a result, the crops have power as well as speed. Plants have good balance and for the next period we want to maintain the power that the plants have.

Young Matrix crops start to show some growth spots in the leaves. Matrix has a lighter color anyway than other varieties, and can best be compared to Style, also in terms of growing habit. This means that fruits will swell easily and that the plant has to be steered towards power. In other words, the heating targets for day and night should be a bit closer.

A possible regime may be:

Day: $18\text{C} + 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ on light and $+1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for venting

Night: $17\text{C} + 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ on light.

We should try to limit the pipe temperatures:

Max. Pipe $70^{\circ}\text{C} - 75^{\circ}\text{C}$

On light $45^{\circ}\text{C} - 10^{\circ}\text{C}$

For younger crops the light increase can be a little higher but watch out that the greenhouse temperature does not get too high when very sunny (up to 500 W/m^2) and reduce the pipe temperature in time. The 24-hr temperature for such crops is 19°C on sunny days and 17.5 to 18°C on darker days. Early crops need a 0.5°C lower temperature.

Also keep an eye on irrigation. Stop in time: on light days 3 hours before sunset and on dark days 1 to 1.5 hour earlier. Watering too long will lead to growth spots, paler foliage and more humidity in the greenhouse. It is better to have the second irrigation quicker after the first one the next morning, no more than one hour after the first one. This way you will also be able to better maintain the right EC.