

Matrix Crop report – Week#13 Belgium, March 25th, 2003

According to the weather forecast it will stay sunny during the coming period. It will stay dry and the night temperatures will be above freezing. Only wind may have an extra effect on the climate, for instance a dry eastern wind.

The first fruits of Matrix had good quality and coloring was also good. Sometimes the fruits are a bit looser on the plant than with the earliest planting dates. Keep an eye on the B concentration and give some extra Borax for a little while.

The leaf color of matrix is a bit lighter; occasionally there is some necrosis. Steer the crop strongly on growth. Keep Day and Night temperature closer together, for instance D/N setpoints of 18/17°C. Venting target can be close to the heating target (+0.5°C).

With this sunny and mild weather we do not have the light increases on venting. The sun itself looks after the long temperature increase (greenhouse effect). Ramp up in the morning with a minimum pipe (45°C) to activate the plant. A transpiring plant cools itself and continues to cool the greenhouse as the sun gets higher. Reduce this pipe (-5-10°C) on light at a radiation of 250 to 400 W/m².

We keep the plant strong by limiting the Day temperature with adequate venting in the morning. If the sun shines all day, try to keep the 24-hr temperature from going higher than 19°C. Make sure that net photosynthesis is higher by using less sugars as compared to with a higher temperature.

Do not let the pipes get too cold at the present time. The effect on ripening fruit is important, as is the air circulation at the bottom of the crop. Limit the maximum pipe (at 55 to 60°C for instance) when the typical April weather (rapidly changing conditions) arrives. Otherwise the greenhouse temperature will overshoot too much, leading to more BER risk.