

**Matrix Crop report – Week#15**  
**Belgium, April 7th, 2003**

Now that harvest is in full swing, it is time to evaluate the situation to date. There are two totally different types of crops.

One type is generative, grown with a D-N difference (for instance N-D: 16°C-19°C). Fruits of these crops are rounder and larger. It is recommended to avoid 24-hr temperatures above 19°C in order to keep the heads strong.

The other type is a vegetative crop, grown without or with a small D-N difference (for instance N-D: 17.5 –18°C). These crops have more problems with square fruits. Style grown the same way has better shape.

There have been problems with fruit drop in both types of crop. This means that we have to be careful with lowering and deleafing. Keep up the boron concentration because low boron can contribute to this.

It is clear that where the first three clusters were pruned to four and the rest to five, the fifth fruit developed well. This can be attributed to the good light we have received during the past weeks.

Be aware of changes in the weather. Limit the maximum pipe to 60°C (between 09:30 and 16:30 hrs). It is better to have a low greenhouse temperature during a rain or hail storm than having the temperature too high as soon as the sun comes through again.

Keep the minimum pipe temperature at 45°C to keep the plants active and reduce it 5°C on light so that the temperature is sufficient to stimulate ripening speed. Too low a pipe temperature delays maturing of the fruits so that the fruit load continues to increase. Also keep the night temperature high enough for the same reason.