

MATRIX Crop report – Week# 19
Belgium, May 6th, 2003

Blocky Fruit

In some places we see some blocky fruits. This can be because of too high a fruit load at the moment that these fruits were mid-size and the 24-hr temperatures fairly high for this type of crop.

Sometimes these fruits are hollow. Hollow fruits are caused by forced conditions in vegetative crops. Avoid a too high pipe temperature, allow the fruits to size quietly and work on power. The higher trusses seem to become rounder.

What we also see in such crops is that the Ca level can be low. Do not ignore the amount of Ca and temporarily switch to the baby-schedule.

Botrytis

The risk of Botrytis is present. This was already so when we had sunny weather. Especially in cooler crops where the fruit load continues to increase and the heads get thinner and weaker.

Spray the stems after deleafing with for instance Sumico or treat infected parts individually. It is better to cut leaves than to break them off. The risk of Botrytis is especially large near a clip.

Interplanting

One of the most important preparations is of course topping. This can be done according to the schedule below.

Top	Planting date	Removal 1 st plant	1 st harvest
W17	W19	W24	W26
W18	W20	W25	W27
W19	W21	W26	W28
W20	W22	W27	W29
W21	W23	W28	W30
W22	W24	W29	W31

Crops in hanging gutters can be topped later and crops in older greenhouses a little earlier so that there is a three week period between the first and second crop with no harvesting.

Chronological tasks when interplanting.

Week 1 (after seeding)

- Make plant holes but leave covered.
- Remove old stakes
- Hang strings

Week 2

- Hang grow-pipe *one* metre high
- Deleaf in order to lower the plants for the last time without leaves coming too close to the ground
- Lower for the last time in such a way that the plants will not reach the bobbin or hook within two to three weeks

Week 3

- First round of extra deleafing
- Move support wires closer (40 cm apart)
- Rip clusters off the plants from 25 to 125 cm from the floor

Week 4

- Second round of extra deleafing (about 1.5 m from the ground free of leaves)
- Join plants with for instance S-hooks at a height of about one metre.
- Top

Week 5

- Plant and move dripper
- Tie strings

Week 6

- Deleaf old crop to maintain enough distance between heads and lowest leaves of old crop
- Sucker and wind young plants