

## **MATRIX Crop report – Week# 29 Belgium, July 14th, 2003**

With these extreme weather conditions we must strictly focus on the climate inside the greenhouse, irrigation, and keeping enough foliage.

Mildew tolerance.

There is quite a lot of mildew, also on Geronimo (a mildew tolerant variety). This is because the mildew tolerance starts only at the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> leaf. The spore pressure has been very high and that has infected the first leaf. You will not see it anymore after the 9<sup>th</sup> leaf. In principle, nothing special needs to be done. But it will not hurt to spray once or use the sulfur burners once.

Climate Set Points

In view of the fact that the temperatures will be around 30°C for the next few days, it is important to have the set points very low. (15°C-15°C). also be careful with the pipe targets with this weather: start the minimum pipe N (for instance 30-35°C) not before 2:00hrs, minimum pipe D 40°C from 2-3 hrs before sunrise until 3 hrs after, with a strong reduction on light. Do not use a minimum pipe during the evening and pre-night as long as it stays warm. In short, no pipe and vents open all the way.

The cooler it is, the better the fruit set.

Irrigation.

With these extreme temperatures, irrigation is very important. Start at 8hrs and stop close around 18hrs. With darker weather start at least ½ hr later and stop before 17hrs. Keep in mind that the days are getting shorter. Adjust start and stop times weekly. Geronimo requires a little more water. Think of 4cc per Joule/m<sup>2</sup>. Also use the coolest water available.

In some places the EC is a bit high. With this nice weather it is better to give longer turns (for instance 150cc) than to water very often. Between 11hrs and 14hrs it is better to feed with an EC of 2-2.2. Watch out that the slab EC does not get too low by watering continuously with a low EC.

Start and end therefore with a sufficiently high EC (2.9-3.1) to make sure that the plant can take up enough minerals.

Replanting.

When replanting during this hot period it is recommended to white-wash the greenhouse.