

**QUEST Crop report – Week#22**  
**Belgium, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

The yield has been fairly good during the last two weeks but this week the production seems to be much lower. This is partly caused by the smaller size (at least 50 % +72mm) of fruits which started to develop during the low light period in April or because they are the first tomatoes from the clusters which were pruned to five.

The fruit load is now lower: 70 – 72 fr/m<sup>2</sup>. For the next two weeks, clusters should still be pruned to 5 in order to maintain the proper fruit load.

Breaking plant heads was very common during the last two weeks. Try to clip every week if at all possible and also when the plant turgor is low. If a head breaks, prune the next truss to 3 or 4 or remove it entirely if it is weak.

Give clipping a higher priority should you have a shortage of labor. If you fall behind with this job, it will go even slower. It is better to be behind with deleafing.

At the moment we still have 24-hr temperatures of about 19.3 to 19.5°C with an average light sum of 1900 Joules/day. The set points can still stay as they were. When the nights are warmer, resulting in higher 24-hr temperatures, it is best to have the venting set point very close to the heating target.