

## **QUEST Crop report – Week#16**

### **April 15th, 2002**

The sunny weather (with days of up to 2000 Joules) is behind us and we expect changeable weather for the coming days. During the last period we have seen that the heads of Quest grew away from the string and broke easily. Measures to counter this were discussed in the previous tips. In addition, I want to emphasize the measures against BER in the previous tips as well.

In the market place, the largest size gets the best price. It seems to make sense to focus on increasing size. This means that we should delay pruning clusters to 5 fruits until May. Only the strongest plants should be pruned to 5.

Why not prune all trusses to 4 fruits? For plant balance.

Once we are in June, the fruit load decreases while we have the most light. If everything is pruned to 4, the fruit load is too small and the risk of BER increases. In addition, the fruits can get too large. And yes, Quest can get some russeting. Because of its shine, it is not obvious. But as the French say, “Trop c’est Trop”.

Large tomatoes warm up slower than smaller ones. Russeting and condensation are avoided by ramping earlier and having a higher night temperature than for smaller types.  
Night temperature: + 17 degrees C (minimum). Pipe at 45 degrees C from 2 hours before sunrise.

Vent close to heating temperature (for instance, at or 0.3°C above heating target). During really cool nights, add 0.5 degrees to this. With very tight greenhouses, have a minimum vent of a few cm, just pull it open a little. (Note: this applies to Venlo greenhouse). By means of the P-band, we open the vents slower before 10.00 hrs than after 10.00 hrs.

Let the sun warm up the greenhouse further and reduce the minimum pipe on light in time. Otherwise, the climate will be too humid and ‘sticky’. For instance, to – 10°C between 350 – 600 W/m<sup>2</sup>. If too dry, an additional – 10°C, when too humid + 5°C.

It is best to have the grow-pipes at the height of the lower clusters. Here they stimulate ripening of the fruit so that the fruit load does not increase too much. We want to keep a strong head in the plant. If the pipe is at the level of the middle trusses, these fruits will swell too quickly and add to the fruit load.