

QUEST Crop report – Week#26 Belgium, June 24th, 2002

In this issue we'll talk about interplanting. We have had nice weather with day temperatures of over 30°C and fairly high humidity. As a result there are no problems yet with the long crops.

However, in the interplantings we see a vegetative start of the plants. This should be avoided as much as possible. Otherwise we will get split heads and an overall weakening of the plants. We already see a little bit of this in the early interplantings. Measures to avoid this include:

- Removing the leaf above the flowering truss. Do this from the first to at least the third truss.
- When the first cluster is flowering, 4 leaves below this truss are more than enough.
- When heads split, remove one of the heads as soon as possible. The remaining head will grow better.
- Maintain a minimum pipe of 40-45°C, also during the day. During the day it can be reduced to 35-38°C, at night about 40°C. In somewhat older crops the pipe temperature can be reduced on light but it should not be eliminated. "Generativeness" of Quest is in part determined by the pipe temperature. If there is a grow-pipe, the minimum pipe may be eliminated when there is much light and the 24-hr temperatures are too high.

In an interplanting or a new crop the temperature targets may be higher than in a normal planting. Certainly when it is sunny, the venting line can be set a bit faster and closer. A possible target can be: 20-21° D and 18.5-19° N. The pipe temperature can be taken out earlier during days with a high 24-hr temperature. If the crop has just been planted, apply some whitewash to the greenhouse or mist the entire crop from time to time. Otherwise it will get much too hot, the quality of the pollen is reduced and the bees won't fly.

If the first crop is Style, the temperature targets should be lower to avoid too high 24-hr temperatures in order to reduce the risk of BER. If there is too much stretch in the young crop, the temperatures may be reduced to 17°C D and 17°C N. In the earliest interplantings with Quest, the first truss or first two trusses can be pruned to 5, depending on the greenhouse. These plantings still have enough light.