

QUEST Crop report – Week#30
Belgium, July 22th, 2002

This year's production will not be higher than last year. We have just passed the mid-point of the production and we have lost the 2 kg/m² advantage we had so far. Light is still important and the low radiation levels in May caused the lower yields of the past few weeks. This is the opposite of what we experienced last year. The first half of July is not great either.

Those continuous showers alternating with sunny periods followed by cool nights means that we continue to have a strong growing climate. No need to change our summer set points.

At present we are harvesting the last clusters which were pruned to 5. As a result of pruning to 4 as well as the longer development period, we expect that the next clusters will have the maximum fruit size. It should be possible to have 60 to 70 percent in the 82+ grade.

It is the quality aspect (summer quality) as well as the fruit size that has made Quest an important variety. Nevertheless we at DE RUITER SEEDS continue to work on improvements of our varieties. We can expect two new varieties for next season, namely DRW 7106 and DRW 6336. Both are more productive and more generative than Quest. Fruits are larger and a little higher and performed well in shelf life tests. In addition, the plants are more labor-friendly. In the interplanting we already see the speed of DRW 7106. Both varieties will be planted next year fairly extensively.