

QUEST Crop report – Week#34
Belgium, August 19th, 2002

Long Crops

The weather was very nice the past week with several days above 30°C. Night temperatures also stayed above 21°C. The result of this was that it was difficult to keep the 24-hr temperature down. The more generative varieties have some white fruits because of exposure to the sun. These fruits will not be very shiny when mature.

The production was very low during the past week (1.1 to 1.4 kg/m²) but this week it will be 0.5 kg higher. At this point in time the fruit load is very low (about 55 fr/m²). And the weather has changed already; we have already had two days with thunderstorms.

Keep in mind that under these conditions the fruits will grow faster and that the roots will be stronger so that the fruits may get bigger than anticipated. This means the following for the next period:

- Keep the minimum pipe sufficiently high, i.e. 40°C.
- Two hours before sunrise increase the pipe temperature to 45- 50°C, +humidity, and -light.
- Increase the night temperature to for instance 17°C as soon as the nights get cooler. This is especially necessary if the heads are strong and the fruit load is small. In an interplanted crop this may have to be even 18°C.
- Keep an eye on irrigation; do not water at night. More important, stop in time, about 3 hours before sunset and 90 minutes earlier on dull days, this all depending on the substrate volume.
- The slab EC may increase during this period. To avoid this, give longer irrigations, of 150 cc or more. To control EC without changing the water content of your substrate, it is better to give fewer long turns than more small ones.