

QUEST Crop report – Week#36
Belgium, September 2nd, 2002

Plants will be topped during the next couple of weeks. The moment of topping is not important but the method is. Each year there are problems with the development of fruits because plants were topped too late or too soft. It is better to top a bit earlier so that the fruits can size properly; this will not reduce yield but may pay because it requires less work. Should you top late, remove those flowers that do not set within one week. This way more energy is left over for the remaining fruits.

Botrytis can become a bigger problem in the coming weeks, so pay attention to this. Following are a number of tips:

- Deleaf only in the morning, preferably on a day with good weather. Increase the minimum pipe to dry the wounds, especially during humid weather.
- Check the stems and cut out or treat diseased spots. Remove dead plants to reduce the spore pressure.
- A preventative chemical treatment of the stems can avoid a lot of problems. Repeat if necessary.
- Irrigation is also important. Stop in time and do not start too early. Both affect plant turgor and are the cause of wet wounds. This increases the risk of Botrytis. Keep in mind that the basis for Botrytis susceptibility was already created during propagation. Excessive watering during this period results in a watery plant that is very susceptible to Botrytis. If you restrict irrigation in this period and steer generative, the susceptibility will be much reduced. To avoid that the EC goes too high, increase the length of the cycle.

Next Crop Report on September 16th,