

QUEST

CROP REPORT 2002

QUEST January 8, 2002

Planting dates in Belgium can be split into 2 periods. The largest group of growers plants during the first half of January and the other group planted earlier (seeded from Nov. 1)

The earliest sowings are already on the hole, especially after the nice weather around New Year. Those who still have to put the plants on the hole have to keep the following factors in mind:

- Make sure the irrigation frequency is high enough to ensure good rooting into the slabs. Once roots are in the slabs, root development must be stimulated by reducing the water content of the slabs.
- Proper equipment is necessary to follow the water content: a weigh scale or a water content meter.
- During periods of frost, a nighttime irrigation (approx. 22.00 hrs) may be needed. This will avoid too much drying out of the blocks (also substrates with a small rooting volume (i.e. V – systems)).
- Because Quest is a vegetative variety, it is advisable to increase the minimum pipe 5 to 10 degrees C for the first few days after putting the plants on the hole. As long as the plant has not rooted into the slab, the pipe temperature has more effect on the above –ground parts and we will get a generative effect. If we continue with this for too long, the effect will become vegetative (especially during dark days).
- During the subsequent development of the crop, we can get a generative effect by creating a Day/Night difference. This can be started at an early stage already.
- temperature setpoints for early sowings may be:
 - Night: 16.5°C + 1 degree on light
 - Day: 19°C + 2 degrees on light
- for later plantings:
 - Night: 17°C + 2 degrees on light
 - Day: 19°C + 3 degrees on light
- During the afternoon one extra degree can be added or the minimum pipe can be increased to 60°C to obtain a good color.