

## **LEMANCE Crop report – Week#3**

### **Belgium, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

At present Lemance is one of the main varieties in the Flandria segments Elite and Tomabel in Belgium. Lemance has also been used in France for a few years already. Lemance is in demand by the trade because of the truss shape and the uniformity.

In Belgium about 80 to 90 per cent of the acreage is grafted on Maxifort and the majority will be planted late, i.e. in January. Plants are grafted to improve fruit development at the end of the season and it also helps to minimize yellow calyxes.

To compensate for the extra cost of grafting, plants are spaced wider and with each plant the first strong shoot (at the 1<sup>st</sup> cluster) is kept on. Plant spacing varies from 75 to 90 cm, which leads to a stem spacing of 37 to 45 cm.

In early sowings of grafted Lemance it is better to keep the extra shoot at the third cluster, in order to avoid a large fruit load under low light conditions.

All clusters should be pruned to five.

Temperature set points can be as follows. It is no problem if they cannot be realized. Think in terms of plant temperature and the direct effect of the heating pipes.

Set points for the early sowings can be:

- Night: 17°C + 1°C on light
- Day: 18.5°C + 2°C on light

Later sowings:

- N: 17°C + 2°C on light
- D: 19°C + 3°C on light

Keep in mind that a night irrigation (22.00 – 23.00 hrs) may be necessary to avoid drying out of blocks and also where rooting volumes are small.