

LEMANCE Crop report – Week#9
Belgium, February 24th, 2003

February will be one of the driest months in years, with sunny days and cold nights. As a result, the crops have power as well as speed.

Keep in mind that the sun can already be powerful (to 500 W/m²) and that the greenhouse temperature can easily go up to 26-27°C. This is quite high for plants with a large fruit load. But rapid venting is not good either with regard to cold heads of the plants. Vent at 0.5°C above the heating target. If it is cold, vent at 1°C above the heating setpoint. Do not start with this too early but wait until 10:00 hrs. Keep in mind that Lemance is quite sensitive to chimera. Venting too early and too aggressively can lead to chimera. In addition, it can lead to leaf scorch.

Also reduce the minimum pipe temperature at a light range of 150 to 300 W/m², but let it go higher again later in the afternoon in order to keep the solar heat in the greenhouse longer. Especially when the plants demand this.

Also keep an eye on irrigation. Stop in time: on light days 3 hours before sunset and on dark days 1 to 1.5 hour earlier. Watering too long will lead to a watery crop, growth spots, more humidity in the greenhouse, the plants transpire more and more venting will be required for the plants to get a dark color. It all starts with irrigating too late. It is better to have the second irrigation quicker after the first one the next morning, no more than one hour after the first one. This way you will also be able to better maintain the right EC.

Still be careful with reducing the venting temperature too much when it is humid in the greenhouse. Use a small minimum crack and also a maximum vent opening when it is cold outside.