

## **LEMANCE Crop report – Week#11 Belgium, March 10th, 2003**

The first clusters of Lemance were harvested in week 10. This concerned a December 15 planting, which was grafted on Maxifort. Plant spacing is 75 cm with an extra stem on all plants after the first truss. Fruit quality is excellent and average fruit weight of the first clusters is between 95 and 105 gram.

The large amount of light during the past weeks has resulted in strong crops with a lot of speed and good cluster development. Late plantings still reached 24-hr temperatures of 21°C. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> truss are flowering in these crops.

Go back in time with the 24-hr temperatures; the plants react very quickly now to lower light. Fruits demand a lot of assimilates now. During dark days the 24-hr temperature can for sure be reduced to 17.5-18°C, while on sunny days it may be 18.5 -19°C. Appropriate 24-hr temperatures for early crops are: 17°C on dark days and 17.5 –18°C on bright days.

Be careful with too low night temperatures or too large pre-nights. The plants work stronger on their fruit now and this can go at the expense of vigor. Those who use a low night temperature certainly must use a sufficiently high pipe temperature (for instance 50°C). The purpose of this is to speed up the ripening so that the fruit load is reduced sooner. The cooler air temperature keeps the heads stronger.

During the next few weeks the plants remain sensitive to silvering. Pay attention to the following points to prevent this.

- With cool nights and sunny days, be careful with aggressive venting early in the morning. This can be caused by the minimum pipe in the morning followed by radiation from the sun. The greenhouse temperature increases too quickly and the vents open too quickly, resulting in cold air coming into the greenhouse.
- Consider a higher venting temperature in the morning, e.g. +1°C until 10:00 hrs and then +0.5°C.
- Or be more careful with the P-band (4.5 to 5) until 10:00hrs to avoid cold air coming into the greenhouse.

The same settings can be used 15:00 – 15:30 hrs. During the middle of the day it may be smaller. Avoiding cold air coming into the greenhouse will also reduce the risk of Botrytis.