

LEMANCE Crop report – Week#13

Belgium, March 25th, 2003

It seems that the cold nights are behind us and starting this week we will get sunny days and milder nights. But we will also get dry Eastern winds more often.

The crops are at this moment strong generative. We want to work towards a strong summer crop and we keep that in mind already with the current weather conditions. We no longer take leaves out of the heads except where the stem density is very high (37 cm) and also depending on the condition of the plants.

Lemance tends to grow away from the string a bit. For the sake of labor efficiency we can now clip instead of twist. It is not necessary to twist every week. You can easily wait ten or even 12 days between clipping the plants.

As long the plants are not clipped, the lower leaves can be broken off. But it will be better to start cutting off the leaves where the plants were clipped. Especially near the clip is the risk of Botrytis higher if the leaf is broken off.

In addition, we take out the light dependent influences on the venting setpoints with this sunny and mild weather. The sun itself causes an important increase in temperature as a result of the greenhouse effect. In the morning, ramp up with a minimum pipe (45°C) to make the plants active. A plant that transpires cools itself and continues to cool the greenhouse when the sun rises higher. Reduce this pipe (-5°C) on light in the 250-400 W/m² range.