

## **Lemance Crop report – Week#15**

### **Belgium, April 7th, 2003**

Contrary to previous years we have seen some irregular clusters on Lemance. The cause is the initiation of clusters during the preceding period. Much light and a relatively low fruit load and cooler nights are possible causes. Next week the trusses will already be more uniform. The coming truss however may still have some boat shaped fruit, in particular the first flower and especially if it stands straight up. Remove this one early to make the work easier.

In spite of the good light we see some fruit drop, especially half-size fruit. In other words, mature clusters do not have this problem. Crops that have been pushed are a little more affected than crops that have been grown cooler. For the coming period:

- Be careful with lowering
- Cutting leaves with a knife is preferred
- Giving extra Borax is an option as the need for this may be a bit larger with fast development

At present we have sunny days with cool nights. Be careful in the morning with aggressive venting. To let cold air in increases the risk of Silvering. Do not vent too quickly in the morning. Limit the maximum pipe temperature at 55°C from 9:30 hrs to 17:00 hrs and reduce rapidly on light. For instance, minimum pipe 45°C and –5°C at a light range of 250-400Watt/m<sup>2</sup>. Leave the wind side closed with NE wind and low temperatures.

Keep at least two clusters exposed for fast coloring. This will also improve the quality of the green parts due to hardening.

Supporting clusters is almost finished. Because of the relatively long cluster stems it may be advisable to continue. However, the strength of the stems increases quickly with the better light. Consider stopping with supports once re-growth begins.

### **Irrigation and Nutrition**

With a change in the weather it is important to adjust irrigation. Roots will suffer if too much water is given on dark days. Roots have a hard enough time already on dark days when the supply of assimilates is limited and nothing or very little is left over for the root system. On a dark day 15% drain is plenty while the target on a sunny day is 30-35%. On dark days drain should occur between 10:30 and 14:00 hrs.

As a result of the large nutrient uptake in the last period the EC in the slabs is not so high anymore. An EC of 4mS is very common. It is therefore important that the EC of the feed is adequate so that there is enough for the plants. This is a must for the quality. The EC of the drip should be 3 mS. On a bright day the EC may be reduced 0.5 mS but only from 11:00 to 14:00 hrs.