

Tricia Crop Report – Week #2
Holland, January 9th, 2005

Thick Flowers

We have noticed in several greenhouses that first flowering is not really spontaneous. The flower buds are very strong and heavy; they look pregnant. But it often takes a long time before they open. The lower temperatures during plant raising, to make the shoots nicely even, certainly played a role in this. The Tricia plants were very uniform and we begin to wonder whether next year we can keep a higher 24-hr temperature during propagation than with other varieties.

It is now important to force flowering. Also when there is only little light, the afternoon temperature should be 22°C in such cases. Create this boost between 13:00 and 15:00 hrs. Don't be tempted to take it easy because of the slender plant type. This certainly applies to those crops that will be planted on the hole in this period. The stem diameter under the truss indicates that there is more than sufficient power in the plant. Also look at leaf length; leaves of 45 cm are more the rule than the exception.

Screen

Most greenhouse operations work with a fixed plastic screen. It is of course important to maintain an active climate under the plastic. It is wise to work with a lower pre-night than in greenhouses without a screen. This way the pipe temperature will not be low for the entire night. It is better to have a period in the night (pre-night) with a cold pipe followed by the 'after-night' with a warm pipe that will create sufficient activity in the crop.

Stay alert when using a fixed screen. The weather forecast calls for mild temperatures. When the second truss is about to open, it seems wise, with these mild temperatures, to open the screen or even remove it.