

Tricia Crop Report – Week #4
Holland, January 24th, 2005

Plastic Screen

The combination of Tricia with a plastic screen appears to be a very good one. As said often before, Tricia must be grown fast and slender. This can be done very well under a fixed screen.

Of course, the light in week 2 has had a positive effect as well. Week 3 was also pretty good. Those who still have the screen in will certainly benefit from it. The combination of Tricia and a fixed screen will work very well with the cold and clear weather that has been forecasted.

Crop Condition

Most Tricia crops are a bit too strong. The reason for this can be a low pre-night. A pre-night slows down the growth too much at this stage. In a number of cases, Tricia stretches too much. We have positive experiences with reducing the temperature (1 to 2°C) one hour before sunrise and ramping slowly to the day temperature after sunrise. Such a strategy also has a positive effect on the strength of the truss. It must not go of course at the expense of the 24-hr temperature. The best solution is to increase the afternoon temperature. If that is not possible because of the crop condition or fuel consumption, increase the pre-night a little.

Irrigation and Cluster Pruning

The period for reducing slab water content is now over. The plant carries enough fruits now and these may not lack for water. It is not really possible to give a general recommendation for cluster pruning. There is too much variation in seeding dates, plant densities and grafting and topping systems. It is important to realize that Tricia is large and that we like to grow fast. Try to stay above 18°C during the coming weeks. If we now have too many large fruits now, we will have to apply the brakes later. This is not desirable and keep that in mind when deciding how to prune the clusters.