

**Tricia Crop Report – Week #10**  
**Holland, March 7th, 2005**

We had very unusual weather lately. We broke a record for snow one day that was followed by the coldest night in March for over one hundred years!

Nevertheless, in general the crops are in a good balance with the first cluster not getting too large. Actually Tricia has been grown fast in most nurseries and thus we see the first fruits turning red early. Very often fruits begin to ripe when the seventh cluster is flowering and harvesting starts when the 8<sup>th</sup> cluster is flowering.

Growers that have already increased the number of heads to their final density have a lower 24-hr temperature (17-17.5 C) than the growers that have yet to leave their last extra stem. (18+ C).

**Grow-Pipe**

The most cost-efficient way to manage the grow-pipe is to use it in conjunction with the CO<sub>2</sub> condenser. But then the pipe temperature will not be much higher than 30 to 35°C. At that temperature, the effect on the crop is minimal. By having the grow-pipe at 45°C, plant activity will be much higher and fruit development will be improved as well. Try to get as much heat as possible inside the canopy.

The roots will also be healthier if the crop is more active and that is important in this period when there is fewer assimilate available for root development.

**Venting**

Continue to be careful with venting. Of course, we do not want a greenhouse temperature higher than 25°C. It is therefore necessary to crack the vents from time to time, but true venting (an opening of more than 2 cm) is not yet allowed. Only when the outside temperature is higher than 10°C can we be more aggressive with the vent openings. Otherwise, too much cold air will come in that could induce cold heads. A minimum pipe of 40°C is therefore needed while venting to counter this.