

Tricia Crop Report – Week #12
Holland, March 27th, 2005

Judging by the weather, spring has definitely sprung. The forecast for the next week is also very good and we already all forgot about the severe frost of a few weeks ago.

The current condition of the crops is very good. The earliest growers have harvested a little. The eighth cluster was flowering here. Quality was good. Coloring was uniform and the shape was deep. Fruit size is fair at the moment but it will be even better starting at the third cluster. Growers who pruned the first truss to three fruits have a fruit size of about 140 gram now. The first truss weighs 450-500 gram on average. The 24-hr temperatures vary from about 18°C to a solid 19°C. The venting temperature is close to the heating target from sunrise on.

Venting

Pay close attention to the venting strategy during the coming period with mild weather. Adjust the P-bands on both the lee- and wind side so that venting will be more aggressive and the greenhouse temperature will not increase too quickly. The temperature can rise fast in the morning already. Maintain a venting temperature that is just above the heating set point. If needed, work with a minimum crack of 2 to 3%.

Other Points

A pre-night is a handy tool to achieve the 24-hr temperature. Although, a low or long pre-night may lead to slower flowering if the other set points for the day are not changed. More generative steering can be done by extending the day. This will be easier in the next days because of the mild weather.

Continue to irrigate enough to make sure that there's no BER developing in the recently set fruits. If there's any, it will show up in the following couple of weeks. Give 3 to 3.5 times the irradiance and give an evening irrigation if necessary.

Also keep an eye on the potassium and calcium ratio. A potassium reading of five to six mmhol when calcium is nine to ten mmhol is good. The phosphate concentration should be at least 1.5 mmhol.

Keep in mind that more venting means less control over the CO₂ concentration. You may consider changing your setting to let say: 1000 with a light influence of 800 ppm at a light intensity of 200-500 Watt.