

**Tricia crop Report, Week #18**  
**Holland, May 2, 2005,**

**Current Condition**

In general most crops seem to have become stronger but still generative, an excellent combination for high yield. The rate of cluster development is close to one per week now. Fruit size is still excellent and the quality is also quite good. The fruit load will still be increasing, certainly as long as there is no harvesting from the extra stem.

**Climate**

The outside conditions can vary much in May. One day can be very warm and humid, and the next day can be cool and wet. Keep this in mind when venting. Increase venting strongly on light, but do not overdo it. Because of the tough plant condition, leaf scorch can develop in the plant heads, and too much leaf scorch can lead to Botrytis later in the season. Thus, limit venting on the wind side. Always have a lag of a few degrees and have a larger P-band than on the lee side. Maintain proper temperature and humidity conditions by striving for a venting target of 23-24°C late in the afternoon. Provided the outside temperature is above 11-12°C, venting during the pre-night would be ideal for aggressive generative steering.

**Pipe temperature strategy**

The grow-pipe is now ideal to stimulate ripening of the trusses, especially now that the fruit load is large. Pay attention to the height of the grow-pipe. Where the pipe can be moved, the best height is that of the second to third cluster. A pipe level at or below the lowest truss will have very little effect on coloring and ripening. Maintain a minimum pipe temperature of about 40°C. This can be reduced with sufficient light (>500-600 Watt).

**Other Items**

- CO<sub>2</sub>: the best growing crops will benefit the most. Dose, if possible, some extra liquid CO<sub>2</sub> if there is not enough boiler-CO<sub>2</sub> available due to full storage tanks. Do not give too much CO<sub>2</sub> to thin crops with a large fruit load and large fruit size. This would only be counterproductive.
- Evening irrigations should be seen as a top-up or extra turn to avoid that the water content of the slabs drops too much overnight. It will also have a vegetative effect, and that can be what we need for thin crops. Crops that have plenty of growth often do not need this.