

Tricia Crop Report, Week 30

Holland, July 25th, 2005

There is plenty of growth on most nurseries. Some growers should watch out that it will not become too vegetative. With light level decreasing every day now, it is important to keep the crop generative. In August it can still be difficult to use temperature as a generative tool thus we have to use other means.

Openness and Light

One easy tool is to keep the crop open by topping a stem around week 31 so that the stem density will slowly be reduced. But in practice we see very few growers doing so.

The final spacing will depend on many factors, such as CO₂ capacity, facility, and the date of topping. For those who want to extend the crop (harvest beyond mid-November), a stem spacing of 33.5 cm is simply too close. It will be better to top stems back to 37.5 or 40 cm.

Another method to open up the foliage and allow more light to penetrate is to take out some leaves. Taking a leaf from the middle of each plant in dense crops and from dense areas will be beneficial. Also make sure that the wire hooks are properly spaced.

By creating more space in the crop, it will tend to stay more generative and make stronger and longer trusses. Fruit size will also improve.

Irrigation

The irrigation strategy will become more important again. A grafted plant has a strong root system but nevertheless we have to take care of it. Make sure you water enough on summer-like days. Giving 3.5 to 4 times the light sum is no problem.

That being said, we will get some dark and humid days again. On such days the time difference between start and stop times must get smaller again. The best way to find out what you should do is to weigh the slab. Make sure that the water content is reduced by at least 10% overnight.