

Funky Crop Report – Week #8
Holland, March 2nd, 2005

With snow flurries followed by bright sun, it was difficult to create a good growing climate this week. Actually, you can never do the right thing with such weather.

The screen can no longer stay closed all day. It must be open for at least three to four hours per day to maintain an active climate. Opening time can be played with; delay opening if necessary till 11:00 or 12:00 hrs if there are snow flurries. Ditto for the closing time; it can be closed from 15:00 hrs on if the weather is bad.

Keep the maximum pipe temperature limited to 65°C and accept a lower greenhouse temperature during a snow flurry. Allow the pipe temperature to go down to 40°C on light and do not use any light dependent increases of greenhouse temperature or CO₂ with this changeable weather because such increases will often not be realized until the next shower and are certainly not needed then.

Fruit set of the second setting is disappointing everywhere. I see many dark-green small fruits, which will fall off again. Apart from lack of light and too large a fruit load, snow flurries (rapid drop in greenhouse temperature) also contribute to this.

Growers who thinned the first set to one have the best second setting now. A number of Funky growers are harvesting the first set (or part of it) green and this will also improve re-growth and setting. Quality and size look good; mostly 80-ers.

Because we hardly reached the desired temperature during the day this week, it is important that the night temperature set-points – under a closed screen – are high enough to reach a 24-hr temperature of about 20°C. We have to, after all, work on growth. Fruit set can only happen if there is enough growth.

At the same time, we want to maintain the vigor of the buds, flowers and recently set fruits. Use therefore a short pre-night (a maximum of three to four hours) of 18°C, and have a set-point of 20°C for the rest of the night in order to get the necessary growth. A day average of 21°C is standard.