

Funky Crop Report, Week #14

Holland, April 4th, 2005

The growers who seeded mid-October are almost done with the first red harvest. And apart from the occasional fruit, the quality has been very good.

The second set have already started to turn color and we expect that set to produce a fair amount of large fruits as well.

In the meantime, the third flush is setting and the quality of the flowers is excellent. As long as the growth is strong enough, the flowers will be nice and big. Funky is easy to judge by its bud size; when these become too large (which results in large flowers), increase the 24-hr temperature.

The growers who seeded between October 15 and 25 should aim for a fruit load of about 35 fruits/m² in week 15. To support this number of fruits, we need 9,000 to 10,000 Joule per week. The long-term average for week 15 is 1,400 Joule per day and that meets the requirement of the 35 fruits /m² load.

Setting takes place high in the plant heads, and thus we should steer vegetatively in the next period. We have to make sure the adequate growth is maintained. Although we had good growing weather during week 13, there will be days when we will have to create the proper climate inside the greenhouse.

Some timely reminders

- Start venting in time so that the greenhouse temperature does not exceed 26°C. Venting at a higher rate should not be done until the outside temperature is 15°C or higher. Avoid tough looking plants caused by aggressive venting when cold outside.
- Think about putting a shade curtain above the concrete path to avoid extremes in transpiration. This screen will also protect the harvested fruits from the bright sun.
- Screening the east and south gables will prevent BER and fast increases in temperature there. Condensation often starts at these gables and we know that condensation on fruits and flowers will lead to internal rot.
- Fruits with an 'ear' are more common in the coldest corners. The flowers in these corners are also too large. Especially now that we exceed 7,000 Joule per week, the 24-hr temperature for a variety such as Funky should be 21.5 to 22°C.

From April on we have a full-grown crop with good light interception. Accordingly, the rate of transpiration is large during the lightest period of the day (from 11:00 to 16:00 hrs). Give 300 ml/m² for every 85-90 Joule in this period. Also aim for a drain of 40% per turn during this time.