

Funky crop Report, Week #22
Holland, May 31st, 2005,

We have already had a taste of summer with a few days above 30°C and warm nights. Fruit temperature will be high during those days. It is known that fruits are warmer than the rest of the plant because they, unlike transpiring leaves, cannot cool themselves down.

It goes without saying that ripening of fruits goes faster with these high temperatures. This certainly applies to greenhouses with an east-west orientation, where the same rows are in full sunlight all day long.

Although Funky is regarded as a high quality variety, we will have to adjust harvest frequency in the months of June, July and August in order to produce the best quality. The advice is to harvest everything three times in fourteen days so that ageing and ripening spots are prevented. Growers who harvest green will also have to increase their harvest frequency to once in seven to ten days so that there will not be any partially colored fruits.

Some reminders:

- Aim for a slab EC of 3.0 to a maximum of 3.3 mS; a higher slab EC will increase the risk of BER and will reduce fruit size.
- A too low slab EC (<2.5 mS) will make plants weaker and increase the risk of stem Fusarium and fruit rot.
- Insufficient plant activity in the morning hours (not heating enough) will increase the risk of fruit rot. Humidity control and avoiding a too low humidity deficit (<2 gram) in the morning is essential.
- Therefore, a pipe of 40 to 45°C from sunrise until 10:00 hrs is desired.

Of course, the vents should be cracked early to let humidity escape in time.