

Funky Crop Report, Week 24

Holland, June 13th, 2005

The longest day will be next week and pepper growers want to know how far they are then. If harvested ripe, they need to be at least at 10 kg/m² to have good final result in terms of kilos.

And we assume that we have half of the financial return at that time. Let's hope that this is not true this year, because compared to other crops, the peppers are not doing well financially.

As we look back, we see clearly that Funky likes high 24-hr temperatures. We saw this in the spring and it also applies in the summer months. Growers who now run week averages of 22.5 to 23.5°C for 24-hr temperatures have more generative crops with a larger fruit load. (>40 fruits/m²). Funky certainly needs such temperatures during the period with the best light (week 20 till week 30).

Funky crops grown at too low 24-hr temperatures often become too heavy and do not set easily as a result. We do not have to be concerned about size and fruit weight with Funky, both will stay good at high temperatures.

Funky also likes warm mornings; 21°C well before sunrise and a venting set point of 23°C is ideal. This can go until 2.5 to 3 hours after sunrise, even on a warm summer day. Then venting can be more aggressive, depending on the outside temperature. Vents may be cracked of course to reduce excess humidity but true venting in the early morning hours is not wanted.

Judging vigor, flowering and especially bud position critically is important. Should the flowers bend poorly, use a pre-night of 18 to 19°C starting at 1.5 hrs before sunset. Because the nights are still cool enough, the pre-night does not have to last more than three to four hours.