

Rijk Zwaan

Pepper News

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Crop manual Baselga RZ
Yellow blocky pepper

Newsletter 28 February 2008

Current conditions

At this time even the later planted Baselga crops are well under way. And now we get to see some of the early fruits of our labour:

Because of earlier generative cues (high ec, CO₂) that were given, we see that a relative short period of too vegetative a climate is ok for the plant. So not everything is lost when there are a few nights of extra cold temperatures for example. When you make good quality flowers and set the plant in a generative direction - you won't lose because of a few days of poor weather (or poor climate settings). Keep in mind also that even in some crops where Baselga was given a very low preN temperature (because of another variety in the greenhouse); the resulting flowers and fruit quality have been ok as long as the grower kept a high enough 24 hour temperature.

Our early focus on keeping an adequate average temperature with Baselga has paid off. With the deep and long preN needed for other varieties to set, it slows down the plant speed and fruit ripening. With Baselga we didn't need to go to 15C preN's and then try to get back to our night temperature - which can lead to low overall nights and not enough average temperature. With Baselga, we've kept the speed.

Because of having a high enough 24 hour average temperature in the earlier stages, we are now seeing the fruits develop fast. This can be seen at the early planted crops where the first fruits are being harvested now and the second set has fast developing fruits with the 3rd flush now setting. In these crops we are aiming to get the fruit count up to the high 20's per m².

Future focus

So our focus now with Baselga is for fruit size and maintaining the speed in the plant.

We can use the preN for the fruit size. The preN builds root pressure and keeps assimilates going into the buds, flowers and fruit.

Baselga growers are successfully using an afternoon boost in temperature and in this case the preN can also prevent too high a 24 hour average temperature. Although it's not often we see too high 24 hour temperatures – it's still possible.

Prune the fruits with an eye to avoid too high a fruit count and then the resulting lower fruit size. A high 24 hour temp can also prevent too high fruit counts. The plant will naturally abort some fruits. So over all, maintaining an

adequate 24 hour temperature is beneficial in many ways for Baselga.

The plants are making their own humidity now and this is good. This means the plant is active. It's a good sign for the summer (to come) because you know there are good roots. We see in the afternoon boost period that the humidity is sometimes too high. And the temperatures outside are often still too low to open the vents much. So keep in mind that a high ec will help to keep the humidity down. It's nice to see the plants so active and starting to make their own climate, but it's also necessary to ward off an inactive climate because of too high humidity's. Don't forget to review your pipe settings for this reason.

The variety descriptions, sowing, planting and harvesting dates and growing advices in our catalogues, leaflets and letters or communicated in any other way, have been composed in good faith and as precisely as possible, based on the experiences in trials and practice. However, final results of a crop depend on various factors such as local conditions. Rijk Zwaan cannot, under any circumstances, be held responsible for the results of the crop of any customer.

More information

For more information you can contact our local advisor for greenhouse crops John DeVries by phone (519 324 6669) or e-mail (j.devries@rijkszwaan.com). Please also visit www.rijkszwaanusa.com

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