Maintype	Substrate
Crop	Cucumber
Croptype	
Variety	Mystica RZ®

Cultural manual Mystica RZ F1

On the plant raising nursery, Mystica RZ is slightly shorter and broader than, for instance, Armada RZ. It needs about another half day to grow into a transplantable size. Using the standard propagating temperature, Mystica will always give a slightly broader plant.

First phase of the crop

Once planted at the grower's nursery it becomes evident that Mystica is less susceptible to so-called "spoon" leaves. That means, in practical terms, that a day/night differential of 2°C may be used.

This can also give longer internodes without going too far, as it can only be positive in a winter crop to have an extra leaf below the wire. At the moment when the fruit load starts playing a part, the temperature can then be maintained without the crop being affected too much.

Keep watching the plant closely during the pre-fruiting period: Mystica develops well as a plant in this period, with temperatures of 23°C day, depending on light, and 21°C night. A 24-hour temperature of around 21°C should be the aim, but let the set point depend on the amount of available light.

The fruits of Mystica start demanding energy from the plant at an early stage, so that it will be necessary to operate a fairly level temperature regime quite soon.

Harvesting starts remarkably early with Mystica but, as already mentioned, the crop will then have to be steered sternly towards growth. This is not a variety which will suddenly burst into growth, so it is quite labour-friendly.

Steering generatively does not appear to be necessary with Mystica, so that the recommended temperatures are 19.5 - 20°C night and 21°C day.

There is never an abundance of fruits on the plants. The fruits that are there, however, develop very quickly so it is advisable to keep an eye on the harvesting frequency. The fruits will soon attain their harvestable weight, which is partly due to their length.

Second phase of the crop

As the fruit colour is fairly dark, the EC in the water does not need to be terribly high: 2.0 - 2.5 during the initial crop phase is adequate. Once April is over, the crop may start to grow more strongly. In that case, it will need to be steered more generatively by prolonging the day temperature, setting an afternoon temperature increase and a pre-midnight decrease. In the morning, the climate should be clearly activating. A temperature set point example is: pre-

midnight 17°C from sunset to midnight, followed by 20°C; at sunrise 21°C and in the afternoon, depending on the light, 24 - 27°C. Not allowing a 'close' climate and aiming for a moisture deficit of less than 2.5 - 3 are positive actions.
An EC of around 2.0 - 2.3 during the production phase makes the crop grow vegetatively more easily. Increase the EC if more growth occurs.

Dosing CO2 should be done with care. Because the crop is on the sparse side, a high CO2 level will cause it to wear out more easily. This also applies to the day temperature: especially in March and April it should not rise too much and temperatures of more than 27 - 28°C are not recommended.

POINTS TO NOTE:

- Crop tends to be strongly generative, although no large numbers of fruits.
- High production early on, then needs to be encouraged to grow.
- Labour-friendly crop; open structure.
- Level out any extremes.
- Steer slightly more generatively from beginning May onwards.

We wish you success with your Mystica crop!

Cultural advisors Rijk Zwaan, October 2003.

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