



Dear Baselga RZ Customers,

We are well into the year with high radiation levels, but still a lot of days have cool temperatures. And even on days with higher temperatures outside, the evening can cool down fast.

Here are some timely points of discussion for the Baselga greenhouse climate:

We talk a lot about the colour of the plant at the end of the day. Especially early in the year we talk about making sure the colour is a bit dark in the head late in the day. This is still important now. To help get that darker colour, you can use the boost in afternoon to “use up” the excess water in the head of the plant (growing points/ flowers). Please note we are saying “excess”, we never want to drive the plant into a water deficit! This ensures that we keep the plant generative, even while promoting green vegetative growth. So the result will be that we build a strong plant for the long season ahead (and hot summer?), while keeping the fruit load high. A balanced plant.

For generative steering – give a higher temperature in the afternoon with the sun and possibly even extend after the sun loses its energy with a pipe temperature. Do not open the vents to get a fast temperature drop into your pre night, let the temperature drop slowly, naturally. This will give time for the root pressure to dissipate and avoid pushing too much water into the growing points and flowers.

Keep in mind with the amount of radiation possible on clear days this time of the year, in combination with a low outside humidity, your humidity in the greenhouse in the middle of the day can be very low. This creates a very active root system which pumps a lot of water. So as you near the end of the day, it will take some time to reduce this root pressure. The root pressure should drop at the same time as the plant activity slows.

As you remember in our last writing, we want to pump as much water into the plant as possible, but we still need to have a dry down at night. So use the pre midnight period to get your dry down, then you always have the post midnight period to top up with a night shot or two. And if you need some vegetative steering, you can give a shot of water in the pre night period (while the plant is still active). More water uptake is better for Baselga, but still we need to give it at the correct time.

We are not into the hot 24 hour temperatures yet, at least not for more than 1 or 2 days in row. So it's usually not necessary to use a low pre night temperature to lower your 24 hour temperature – yet. It should always be a discussion this time of the year if Baselga needs a pre night temperature drop. Maybe more often than not, it does not need one. It's possible that when you plan a generative pre night drop, the actual result for the plant could be a vegetative action. If you do use one, 19C is enough of a drop after the afternoon boost.

Remember - we are saying to not vent into the pre night when the temperature is cold outside (relative to the greenhouse temperature). But when the temperature outside is high (19/ 20+C) in the early evening, it's ok to open the vents in the pre night. With higher outside temperatures coming, a cold/ fast drop pre night will help to lower the 24hr temperature and maintain the fruit size. So the time will come for that strategy.

Always aim to have a good fresh colour in the heads the next morning! An inspection of the heads in the evening and first thing in the morning will tell the tale of your climate and irrigation strategy!

Your advisor: John Devries: 519 324 6669 or j.devries@rijkszwaan.com

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