

Rijk Zwaan Seeds & Services



“Rijk Zwaan in red peppers – 35-154 RZ!”

“Picowell RZ is very productive year-round”

“Cucumber Verdon RZ combines resistance and strength”



24-170 RZ cucumber
now has a name

Ango RZ



“Ango RZ is a good alternative to the standard winter variety. The production is at a high level, in fact it picks as much as the non tolerant varieties he used to grow. The length of the fruit has a high percentage in the medium grade and the fruits overall have a good quality.”



Marco Hoogenboom
HOOGENBOOM FARMS IN
OTTERVILLE, ONTARIO

■ Ango RZ

Planting date:	22 December, 2009
First harvest:	21 January
Final harvest:	30 April
Total fruits harvested:	58/m ²
HR:	Cca/ Ccu
IR:	Powdery mildew

Ango RZ (24-170 RZ)

PMIR (intermediate resistance to powdery mildew)

“This new low light long cucumber variety bridges the gap between the early winter plantings (for example a November planting of Fraser RZ) and our spring/ summer types (Verdon RZ, Curtis RZ). It offers powdery mildew intermediate resistance and a high production of medium sized fruits. The plant is generative in nature, but still requires some generative steering to keep the balance of growth and fruit setting. One comment we often hear about Ango is that it remains more in balance through the crop cycle, it’s not flushing as much. This lends to the high percentage of medium fruits harvested and helps to keep disease at bay. ”

Fraser RZ (24-157 RZ)

PMS (susceptible to powdery mildew)

This new long cucumber variety is suitable for all low light planting periods. The plant is long and open with slightly smaller leaves than the standard variety. Good quality fruits of medium size add up to a high production for this low light segment.

Hans van Gellecum, head grower at Great Lakes Greenhouses in Leamington, Ontario, Canada:

“Cucumber Verdon RZ combines resistance and strength”



Hans van Gellecum and Gus Mastronardi

On Tuesday 3 August cucumber variety Verdon RZ is just 5 days away from its first harvest in this cultivation period. Grower Hans van Gellecum and assistant grower Matt Wiper plant Verdon from Christmas till the end of September. “A powerful variety with nice medium sized stem cucumbers. And very important: Verdon helps us keep the nursery virus free.”

Not just any variety enters Great Lakes greenhouses in Leamington. It has to fit the intensive methods of cultivation. Hans van Gellecum: “Our nursery consists of 5 compartments, 4 ha a piece. Every compartment provides space for 4,5 cultivation periods a year. This means that every 2,5 – 3 weeks new plants arrive at the nursery. Yes, the risk of diseases is high. That is why we choose high resistance varieties like Verdon (high resistance to powdery mildew and strong against virus).”

Medium size

“Verdon is a generative cucumber. However, the plant is capable of producing enough crop to last through the summer. It produces well. Maybe less than a non-resistant variety, but we take that for granted. With Verdon in the mix, we get 160-170 cucumbers per year. I am very pleased with the size and shape. The last 1-2 days before harvesting they fill up quite nicely. Verdon gives a better colour and longer shaped stem cucumber than for example Addison RZ. We achieve our target of 85 % mediums.”

Matt Wiper

High temperature

“The outside temperature had already reached 26° Celsius when we started today. During these warm periods we tend to give the crop also 2-3 watering rounds in the evening. About 100 cc per turn. Extra water means lower EC-values. Normally, the drip has an EC of 2,5 (-0,5), but now the EC measures 2 (-0,5). Pre-midnight temperatures? Not with Verdon. It does not need it. Actually, you should be careful with cold nights. Verdon needs its temperatures, otherwise the fruit load will get too high.” ☉



Hans van Gellecum

HEAD GROWER AT GREAT LAKES GREENHOUSES IN LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA:

Verdon RZ

Area:	20 ha in total, 4 ha per compartment
Sowing date:	3 July 2010
Planting date:	21 July 2010
Planting distance:	1,45 plants per m ²
Growing medium:	Grodan Vital
Yield till week 31:	105 pieces





Ken Ng, grower at Glenwood Valley Farms in Langley, British Columbia, Canada:

“Picowell RZ is very productive year-round”

“We were the first greenhouse to grow Picowell RZ commercially in Canada back in 2007,” says Ken Ng grower at Glenwood Valley Farms in Langley, British Columbia. They now grow 2 ha of this mini cucumber in their greenhouses with energy-efficient supplemental lighting. “Picowell loves light. With 15000 lux of supplemental lights, we get beautiful mini cucumbers of a good dark green colour and quite consistent length.”



Ken Ng

GROWER AT GLENWOOD VALLEY FARMS IN
LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

■ Picowell RZ

Area:	2 ha
Planting periods:	1 December, 2009, March, June, and August/September 2010
Planting distance:	2,4 – 3 plants per m ²
Grow medium:	Coco fiber slab
Fruit length:	4.5 – 6.0 inches
Fruit weight:	75 – 90 g
Yield till end of week 31:	64 kg/m ²

Picowell is a generative crop with a high yield, which has been adapted for year-round cultivation. “That is why we picked this variety. The plant has smaller leaves and it produces at least two cucumbers on each node. Picowell is easily kept in balance and needs practically no steering. The plant is powdery mildew tolerant and is resistant to the cucumber mosaic virus. So we use a very minimal amount of pesticides. We get local bugs in when necessary.”

Planting periods

The plants grow on coconut fibre slabs at Glenwood Valley Farms. “We grow four crops a year on high wire with planting in December, March, June, and August/September. We staggered our plantings between two houses and interplant the second, third and fourth crop to spread production evenly. The plant spacing varies from 2.4 plants per m² in winter to 3 plants per m² in summer. Picowell does not require a lot of water. We give between 3 to 3.5 ml of water per joule of light and based on the amount of light we run. The feed EC varies to maintain a slab EC of 2.6 to

2.8. We have a day/night temperature setting differential of 3-4°C, with a night temperature of 17-18°C for 3 to 4 hours and a day temperature of 20.5 to 21°C. However, we do allow temperatures to go up to the high 20s in the summer to maintain climate.”

Perfect for Canadian climate

“We sell our products to all the main grocery chains in Canada and the USA. The markets demand a fruit size of 4.5 – 6.0 inches and between 75 and 90 g. In the beginning of each crop the fruit tends to be a bit shorter but within our market minimum requirement. The fruit reaches the required length a bit quicker in the summer and can grow longer. For this reason, we pick twice a day to keep the size down. They grow so fast in the summer! We would be thrilled if Rijk Zwaan could develop a variety that remains slightly shorter in summer with the same resistance and other qualities of Picowell. Overall, Picowell is perfect for the Canadian climate and we have not had any growing problems as to date. We are very satisfied.”

Jack Pomp, head grower at Mastronardi Produce in Leamington, Ontario, Canada:

“Nicely shaped new beef tomato”



Jack Pomp

Mastronardi Produce in Leamington is one of the biggest producers and sales companies of tomatoes and other greenhouse produce in Canada. They always look ahead and grower Jack Pomp is constantly testing new varieties. This year two new beef tomatoes caught his attention. “Variety 72-615 RZ performed extremely well in our trials”, says the grower.

The fruit shape and size are the main advantages of Rijk Zwaan’s newcomer for Jack Pomp. “The tomatoes are nice and round. With a size of 300-320 gram, they fit the market demands perfectly. And compared to other varieties on trial the newcomer has a higher yield. It is about 1.5 kilos ahead of its opponents. “Yes, this new Rijk Zwaan variety certainly has potential”, concludes the grower.

Vegetative tendencies

The beef tomatoes at Mastronardi Produce are not grafted and no extra stems are retained during the cultivation period. The trial consists of two hundred plants, which were planted on the 15th of January. Jack Pomp: “The variety started with a vegetative plant and these vegetative tendencies increased during the summer. Normally we would react by using large day/night differentials. But a heat wave during June and July made this impossible. For eight days the temperature remained 28-29° Celsius, night

and day! Nevertheless, the new beef tomato held out really well. We just had to pluck some leaves and the plant kept on setting and producing.”

Nightly watering rounds

“Watering rounds at our nursery are about 100 cc per cycle. Normally we start 2 hours after the sun comes up. During the heat we decided to give nightly watering rounds too. The drip has an EC of 2,7 and we are aiming at a slab EC of 4,5. Hopefully the climate stabilises, as I am curious how Rijk Zwaan’s new beef variety will perform during the last months. The cultivation period will end on December 15.”



Jack Pomp

HEAD GROWER AT MASTRONARDI PRODUCE IN LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

■ New beef tomato 72-615 RZ

Area:	25 hectares tomatoes, 50 to
	60 varieties (cherry, plum, beef, specialties)
Planting date:	15 January, 2010
Planting distance:	2,4 plants per m ² for beef tomato
Grow medium:	Coirtastic coco peat
Yield till week 31:	37 kg/m ² for beef tomato





Stefan van Adrichem

‘Quality of Endeavour RZ asset in large segment’



Nursery Van Adrichem DE LIER, THE NETHERLANDS

■ Endeavour RZ

Size of trial:	2 crop gutters
Sowing date:	10 November 2009
Grafting method:	grafted/topped
Rootstock:	Maxifort
Planting date:	5 January 2010
Stem distance:	50 cm (final distance: 37.5 cm)
Average fruit weight:	155 – 160 g
Yield up to end week 30:	45.6 kg/m ²

The ultimate variety for Nursery Van Adrichem is a variety you can rely on all year long. Especially as regards quality, the search is on for an improvement on the current standard varieties. That is why the nursery is trialling Endeavour RZ.

In 2008 and 2009, Van Adrichem was still growing Levanzo RZ. “The quality of that variety was superb,” says Stefan van Adrichem. “But due to problems with viruses we went back to one of the standard varieties. At the same time, though, we kept looking for improvements, hence the trial with Endeavour.” And at the end of July the quality of this variety does, indeed, appear to meet expectations. “In Prominent’s storage trials it emerged as good as ever after 10 days. We do not see any split fruits, either, and the gloss is excellent as well, although not quite as good as Levanzo’s.”

Extra production

The tomatoes did show some blossom end rot, though, in July. “That is when you notice that you cannot steer the plants as well as you would like, as Endeavour has a slightly higher water requirement. As with Levanzo, the variety needs to be steered a little more generatively by means of a lower pre-midnight. Endeavour also put on a little more length than our present main variety,

but workwise there is not much difference.”

Finally, production shows a plus, partly because of the marginally higher fruit weight but in particular thanks to slightly more truss initiation. “We are growing 2 crop gutters, so recording their results is easy. At the moment Endeavour is ahead by 1.7 kg/m².”

Endeavour RZ cluster tomato brings good quality along-side the highest production.

Endeavour RZ is a tomato variety with a generative nature and strong vigour. Comparing to other RZ varieties the fruits are more deep round. The fruits fill to a good round shape through the season. The plant stays open with slightly upright leaves and a strong growing tip. Endeavour does not need a lot of special climate regimes to remain in balance and reach its high production. When cool nights are not possible and humidity deficits are small, the flowers still set well. The early production is good and the overall production is very high.

The standard rootstock, Bruce RZ and Emperor RZ are all good rootstock choices.

Resistances HR: ToMV/ Ff:1-5/ Fol:0,1/ For/Va/ Vd

Harry Augustijn bids a fond farewell to his demo greenhouse

Harry Augustijn (left) with his son-in-law Sander Snijders ▶



For seven years Harry Augustijn has managed the demo greenhouse in Steenbergen. A time in which the number of segments increased from 2 or 3 to 12 or 13 and in which the percentage of foreign visitors grew to more than 60 percent. It was a great period, but now it is time for other things. “I hope my successor enjoys it as much as I have.”

Along with Rijk Zwaan, Harry came up with the idea of a ‘tomato demo’ eight years ago. After a brainstorm session Rijk Zwaan considered him, as tomato grower pur sang, the most suitable man to set things up. “I didn’t have a successor and with the scale-up that had set in there wasn’t much future for my production company. Besides, I thought it was a great challenge. Rijk Zwaan wanted to catch up in the specialties area, among other things, and I would be able to contribute much to that.”

A free hand

A challenge it was indeed, with more and more varieties in more and more segments, all of which had to be controlled with the same climate. “The varieties were determined by Rijk Zwaan, of course, but I have always had a free hand in controlling them. It meant that I had to get to know 25 to 30 new varieties every year. Three years ago, work registration was added to that. Fortunately, I have had two right hands all that time, my daughter and my son-in-law, who have contributed very much. I wouldn’t have been able to do it without them!” The cooper-

ation with Rijk Zwaan has always gone very well, Harry emphasizes. “I used to ‘forget’ to harvest a few trusses, to convince the cultivation advisors that a variety was strong against cracking. That is what a demo is for. If something fails, it should be here. And not in practice.”

What a ‘demo man’s’ most important quality should be is not something on which Harry has to ponder long. “Being flexible. During fairs, it could be quite busy and sometimes we had to improvise. I remember we had a group of 35 Portuguese visitors at the door, while I thought there would be 7 and the greenhouse was already completely full. But we managed that too. There’s a solution for everything!” That flexible attitude comes with being able to put yourself in someone else’s shoes, Harry continues. “A while ago, I had a group from Lebanon visiting. The tomato cultivation there is of an entirely different level. You have to be careful with mentioning productions of 60 kilos or more. That’ll just frustrate them. There’s always a story to it, and I have always been able to tell it, because over the last forty years I have been in

very different situations. People appreciate that and it’s a great feeling when you receive an e-mail after a visit that says they thought the visit had been very interesting!”

Celebrity

When it became known in March 2009 that the municipality of Steenbergen in West-Brabant wanted to see Harry’s greenhouse gone, because of the nature reserve, he immediately laid all his cards on the table. “This was the right moment to stop, I let Rijk Zwaan know straight away.” Although there are plenty of other great activities he can pursue now, such as spending more time with his grandson, Harry is certainly going to miss the demo, as the tomato world will certainly remember Harry. On the Fruit Logistica he once felt like somewhat of a celebrity, given the amount of times he was approached. He was often asked what his own favourite variety was. But he never answered that question. “I would imply that I thought less of the rest, and it is important to stay objective. Besides, there is no perfect variety.



“Another experienced tomato grower takes the wheel”

Harry Augustijn's successor is Leo van Meurs, who will be taking over at the start of the 2011 season. Cultivation advisor Ben Zwinkels explains why Leo is the ideal new demo man for Rijk Zwaan. “Just like eight years ago with Harry, Leo is a very experienced tomato grower, for whom the running of the tomato demo is a great new challenge. In addition, he has always grown Rijk Zwaan varieties, so he knows very well how to handle them. The last few years he grew Elanto RZ, with which he will finish his career as a ‘regular’ grower. We are convinced that this is going to be an excellent cooperation.”

The facilities will certainly not be a problem. On the location of his existing company in Kwintsheul, Leo is building a modern new greenhouse, with a cultivation area of 1 hectare. Ben: “Because the concrete path will be in the middle, we will have 100 corridors. We'll be able to grow more varieties, but we could also choose to

grow more of one variety. We'll also have capability for more control.” Because it is a new building, we will be optimally equipped with other facilities as well.” At the entrance a hygiene station will be placed and there will be a separate reception room, apart from the processing room.”

Although the new location will have improved details, the general idea of the demo will not change, Ben assures. “The most important thing is that we are having another tomato grower pur sang at the wheel. That the demo is moving to Westland has more to do with the fact that Leo is established there than with it being a better location. For some growers the drive will be somewhat longer, but on the other hand it means that the demo will be closer to Rijk Zwaan's main office. This is mostly an advantage for foreign visitors, whom we expect at the new demo in large numbers.”



Leo van Meurs ▲

Results PPO taste test 2010

Below some official taste results from PPO (Applied Plant Research).

For further information on PPO, see www.ppo.wur.nl/UK.

Variety	Type	April			June			August		
		% juice	Brix	Taste	% juice	Brix	Taste	% juice	Brix	Taste
Dometica RZ	Loose	37	4,8	55	37	4,9	55	40	4,8	50
72-385 RZ	Loose	38	4,4	51	34	4,9	52	32	4,7	48
Arvento RZ	Loose	33	4,1	44	38	4,1	49	40	4,2	49
72-380 RZ	Loose	32	4,1	50	29	4,3	50	34	4,5	49
72-381 RZ	Loose	32	4,1	44	30	4,3	45	34	4,4	46
72-383 RZ	Loose	31	4,1	49	30	4,2	50	32	4,5	49
72-384 RZ	Loose	28	4,1	46	32	4,6	53	34	4,6	49
72-492 RZ	Truss Medium	17	4,0	34	22	4,1	39	28	4,0	38
Mauritius RZ	Truss Medium				24	3,4	34	22	4,5	39
Cappricia RZ	Truss Medium	27	4,4	45	26	4,8	49	37	5,2	55
Levanzo RZ	Truss Large	18	4,1	41	20	4,2	45	23	4,8	46
Futuno RZ	Truss Large	29	3,8	37	29	4	43	31	3,7	40
Endeavour RZ	Truss Large	19	4,1	40	21	4,1	45	19	4,2	40
72-488 RZ	Truss Large	26	3,7	33	27	3,7	38	26	3,9	38
72-489 RZ	Truss Large	29	4,1	37	30	3,6	36	31	4,0	39
Pinoso RZ	Cocktail	44	5,2	54	42	5,7	57	45	5,9	59
72-144 RZ	Cocktail	54	5,6	60	55	5,9	63	48	5,6	58
Amoroso RZ	Cocktail	48	7,0	67	50	6,5	65	43	6,6	58
Delicioso RZ	Cocktail	66	5,8	67	66	6,2	71	64	5,7	61
Brioso RZ	Cocktail	35	4,5	50	49	5,8	61	37	5,8	55
72-146 RZ	Cocktail	63	5,9	66	66	5,8	64	60	6,0	64
72-150 RZ	Grape loose	51	6,8	37				50	10,7	85
72-151 RZ	Specialty	40	8,8	74				51	8,3	85
72-154 RZ	Specialty	41	6,6	57				47	8,1	70
72-149 RZ	Specialty	26	4,4	43				26	4,1	42
Sassari RZ	Cherry loose	59	7,3	71				54	8,1	80
72-142 RZ	Cherry loose	62	7,3	75				57	7,0	70
72-148 RZ	Cherry loose	61	8,0	80				53	7,3	68

Code, type of fruit, % of concentrated juice from fruit wall, °Brix and taste, calculated with the assistance of PPO (Applied Plant Research of Wageningen University) taste model of April, June and August 2010.



New tomatoes varieties



72-614 RZ – large beef tomato

Long open plant with strong consistent setting. Medium high vigour and suitable for grafting with a strong rootstock such as Bruce or Emperador RZ. Smooth round, deep fruit, 230 grams average.

72-615 RZ – large beef tomato

Average length plant with a shorter leaf. High vigour and suitable for grafting with a strong rootstock such as Bruce RZ or Emperador RZ. Smooth round, deep fruit, 240 grams average.



72-144 RZ – cocktail tomato

HR: ToMV/ Ff:1-5/ Fol:0,1/ For/ Va/ Vd/ Ma/ Mi/ Mj

IR: On (ex Ol)

Cocktail tomato for cluster harvesting.

This cocktail has a fruit size a little smaller than Pinoso RZ but still much larger than the Delicioso/ Amoroso types. Taste, vine presentation and overall quality are very strong.

The plant type is stronger than Pinoso and will need some appropriate steering. Production till week 32, 2010 was about 26kg.



72-150 RZ – grape tomato for loose harvest

HR: ToMV/ Fol:0,1/ Ma/ Mi/ Mj

This new variety is fast becoming known for its good taste and proper size and shape for the grape segment.

Brix level is above 9.5 and the weight is about 10 grams/ fruit. Production to week 32 is about 16kg.



72-151 RZ – santa type tomato for loose harvest

HR: ToMV/ Fol:0,1/ Sbl

A new variety with a special shape and a great taste that will set it apart from the others. Generative open plant. Brix level averages 9.4. Fruit size is 15 grams and production to week 32 is about 23kg.

72-154 RZ – mini San Marzano tomato for loose harvest

HR: ToMV/ Ma/ Mi/ Mj

Unique shape and good taste. Brix average 7.7 and fruits weigh 18 grams. Production was just over 19kg in week 32.

Rijk Zwaan rootstocks, choose accordingly:

Geographical location,
grower style, scion choice,
all factors should be considered.

Emperador RZ:

HR: ToMV/Fol: 0,1/ For/ Pl/ Va/ Vd/ Ma/ Mi/ Mj

Resembles Maxifort but gives more generative development of the scion. Same vigour as Maxifort.
Can be used in soil crops.

Stallone RZ:

HR: ToMV/ Ff:0,2,4/ Fol;0,1/ For/ Pl/ Va/ Vd

More generative acting on the scion than Emperador RZ. Use in small fruited specialties or with a vegetative scion. Not for soil crops.

Bruce RZ:

HR: ToMV/ Ff:0,2,4/ Fol;0,1/ For/ Pl/ Va/ Vd

More vigorous than Emperador RZ. Use where vigour is most important. Not for soil crops.





Adrian Roelands, grower at
Enniskillen Pepper Co.,
Petrolia, Ontario, Canada:

“Very impressed
with 35-154 RZ”

“Excellent quality, a good size, and a high production, similar to Baselga RZ. It seems to like hot summer weather too. No soft fruits or cracking at all. I tested the shelf life of the fruits on July 13 and they still looked good after a month in the cooler. Yes, I am very impressed with 35-154 RZ,” says bell pepper grower Adrian Roelands in Petrolia, Ontario.



Adrian Roelands

GROWER AT ENNISKILLEN PEPPER
CO., PETROLIA, ONTARIO, CANADA

■ 35-154 RZ

Area: 5.5 ha (all bell peppers, of which

1.000 plants are trial)

Sowing date: 5 November 2009

Planting date: 10 December 2009

Grow medium: Coco Peat

Planting distance: 9 stems per m² in a moving

wire system

Average fruit weight: 230 grams

Yield first flush: 18 fruits per m² (average

weight 240 grams)

Yield till end of week 30: 20.2 kg/m²

He has a 1000 plants of 35-154 RZ, a new bell pepper variety. But Adrian Roelands, a grandson of Dutch immigrants who moved to Canada in the fifties, is really excited about its performance. Thanks to the hot weather this summer he can compare the results with his main varieties Baselga RZ and Fascinato. “The production of 35-154 RZ is higher than Fascinato, while quality and size are similar. I am not really growing for it yet, but I think a yield of 33 or 34 kilos per square metre should be possible for 35-154 RZ.”

Strong grower

“Lots of power,” Roelands characterizes

35-154 RZ. “It looks very vegetative, so a higher EC and a big pre-night could be useful. But it always seems to find a way to set. If we could get more plants – I would take 3 hectare next year – then I would probably try 3.0 to 3.5 EC in the water and a pre-night temperature of 16 degrees Celsius to see how the plant would react. Now I have used 3.0 EC in the water during the start and 2.2 EC during summer (2.8 EC out of bag), and a pre-night temperature of 17 to 18 degrees with an average of 22 to 22.5 degrees Celsius early this year. 35-154 RZ is so powerful and capable of handling hot weather, I expect it to perform even better in a larger area.”



Coloured sweet peppers, names you know and new introductions:

We continue with a strong line up in yellow and orange peppers. Names you know:

Baselga RZ yellow, Tm:0-3 virus resistance. Early production, strong growth and generative nature.

Crosby RZ yellow, Tm:0-3 virus resistance. Great fruits all season. Easy to grow.

Sympathy RZ orange, Tm:0-2 virus resistance. The biggest size fruits.

Orangery RZ orange, Tm:0-3 virus resistance. More generative.

And our new introductions:

35-154 RZ - Red

This new red brings Rijk Zwaan back into the red market – and with a bang! The production of 35-154 RZ is the highest we have seen of any variety. This

was our second test year for the variety in Ontario and it was a hot summer. So it was great to see that the fruit quality of this variety held up wonderfully. The fruits stay firm, have an extra large size and very little blossom end rot. The plant grows strong and sets easily. There is a good leaf coverage for the summer. HR: Tm:0-2/ ToMV:0.

35-306 RZ - Orange

35-306 RZ is a new blocky orange variety for the large fruit segment. It has a shorter plant and a better fruit shape comparing to Orangery RZ. The plant has less vegetative tendencies comparing to our other orange varieties. This allows for a more steady fruit load and therefore an opportunity for higher production and more steady fruit size. The fruit quality is also very good early and

right to the very end of the crop cycle. HR: Tm:0/ PMMoV:2,3

Vancouver RZ (35-227 RZ) - Yellow

This new yellow variety has a good shape and shelf life. The fruit size is suitable for flow packing or regular packing. The plant is more open and smaller leaf comparing to Baselga RZ. Nice easy balance through the season. Tm:0-3 virus resistance.

35-226 RZ - Yellow

35-226 RZ yellow is a Baselga looking type plant with easy growth and high production. Good fruit shape is easier to achieve in the early season comparing to Baselga RZ. Generative steering is recommended for best results. Tm:0-3 virus resistance.





Rijk Zwaan growing tips:

Hydroponic lettuce production.

About internal tip burn:

Lettuce crops can be the most temperamental of all hydroponic crops. The structure of the leaves is often required to be light, crispy, frilly and tasty. All combined with a good shelf life of course! This puts a lot of demands on the varieties and the growers to get the finished product desired. We would like to review one quality issue in hydroponic lettuce – internal tip burn.

The lettuce crop does not like fast changes in climate or nutrient solution (for example, changes in Potassium levels). These changes directly and too quickly can change the root pressure. A change in root pressure can damage cells in the plant, especially in the young developing leaves. Here are some tips to avoid this problem.

Be careful with cold temperatures at night (<6 - 10°C) in the greenhouse. It's easy with cold temperatures to have too high a humidity in the morning (>90 % RH) when the sun comes up. This can be solved by the grower using the pipes before the start of the day or venting a lot before the day. The plant must start evaporating as the sun comes up. Root pressure without evaporation can result in internal tip burn.

Also important is to try and avoid very low humidity (<30 - 50% RH) in the afternoon. Sometimes it is best in the mid afternoon to lower the vents on the wind side. This lowers the air exchange and less humidity is lost from the greenhouse. The plant will stay within the range of humidity deficit it can operate in. The goal is to keep the plant evaporating. This will also help the plant keep a balance between the roots and the leaves/ head. Under low humidity stress in the day, the plant will develop more roots and this will lead to excessive root pressure in the morning. These are all small influences that can help.

The use of a high pressure humidity system can be used when you have low humidity's. This can be used in the afternoon to limit the humidity drop and make it easier for the plant to evaporate. This also results in fewer roots being made and there will be less root pressure problems in the morning. Do not use this system too often, just use it to train the plant. Use this system in the first days after a rainy or cloudy period with a low evaporation. Or in the afternoon when the humidity drops too fast and lowering the vents does not give the required result.

If you are working with artificial lights it is important to phase the lights on and off when you start or finish lighting. A sudden stop or start can lead to problems like tipburn. The plant is not yet adapted to big changes. For example if you are working with >3500 Lux for a weight of more than 300 grams, then starting and stopping of the lights needs to be planned carefully. If phasing in and out is not possible, you can consider when you stop lighting, to put the lights back on after 15 minutes and stop completely after again 15 minutes. The same idea again when you start the lights.

Similar to the climate, it is important to keep the water temperature and nutrient mix as steady as possible. Changes can be made, but the plant cells need time to adapt. So for example a new nutrient mix with different ratios needs to be phased in over time.

The multi leaf varieties evaporate different. These varieties can have many more leaves and evaporating parts and a relative bigger core. So special attention is needed even between the types you are growing.

We wish you success with your production!





Distributor News:

As many of you know, Mr. John Huy of Leamington has been a distributor of Rijk Zwaan seeds in the Ontario market for many years. This has been a wonderful relationship with mutual benefits. But more importantly, we feel the greenhouse vegetable industry has benefited from John's efforts. Many new varieties with great improvements for growers have been introduced because of John's keen eye and interest. Also, many bits of advise have been passed on to other growers, advise gleaned from his many years growing vegetables and flowers indoors and out. In recent years, John created RZH Canada, a company exclusively importing and selling Rijk Zwaan seeds for the Ontario market.

John's business always involved his family, most notably his late wife Anne. His son Howard has also been close to the business through the years, running his own greenhouse farm nearby. In fact, for many years now the commercial greenhouse of Howard Huy Farms has been used to trial many new hybrids of peppers and cucumbers. This is a large part of the Rijk Zwaan success, testing the varieties in the local climate conditions.

So we come to you with great news to share! Howard Huy and his family have taken over the business interests of RZH Canada. This is a transition that has happened naturally and therefore has most likely looked seamless from the outside. Of course it's with regret that we see John Huy step back, but at the same time we are very proud to have the Huy tradition of quality and service continue. As Rijk Zwaan is a 100% family owned company we feel that we have a partner with similar values which is a great benefit to all our customers.

Gus Mastronardi remains on staff with RZH Canada and we hope that you will take a chance to drop by their office and say hello. The office has changed recently in physical ways also – so come take a look!

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Visit Rijk Zwaan at the Canadian Greenhouse Conference



This year's conference again promises to offer many attractions for the greenhouse vegetable industry. We invite you to visit our stand #366, hall 5. You will find many of Rijk Zwaan's latest vegetable products on display. So whether you are looking for some information on a new variety or just want to say hello, we look forward to meeting you in Toronto.

The Canadian Greenhouse Conference runs October 6 and 7, 2010, at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga, Ontario. For more information visit www.canadiangreenhouseconference.com

Rijk Zwaan's descriptions, illustrations, growing advices and any other information in whatever form for example on expiry, sowing, planting and harvesting dates are based as precisely as possible on experiences in trials and in practice. However, Rijk Zwaan does not accept in any case liability for damages resulting from the use of such descriptions, illustrations, growing advices and information. The buyer itself is responsible for proper storage of the seeds and will be deemed to determine whether the products and growing advices are suitable to be used for the intended cultivations and under the local conditions.



For more information please send your email to export@rijkszwaan.nl
Your response is very much appreciated.