



Maintype	Substrate
Crop	Cucumber
Croptype	
Variety	Venice RZ

Cultural manual Venice RZ (24-108 RZ)

Characteristics

Venice RZ is a variety for an early heated crop. It grows fast and is quickly into production. It combines a high stem fruit load and early production with a labour-friendly crop impression during the second crop phase. Production continues at a high level from the first picking onwards. The fruits have a good shape, are well-filled and attractively ribbed. The quality cannot be faulted. The ideal sowing period is from 5th November - 1st December.

Plant raising

Venice develops easily. The plant raising period is 1 - 2 days shorter than that of Mystica RZ. The plant has broad leaves which enable it to develop fast. Beware of the plant becoming too drawn during the last plant raising phase. Having the plants delivered to the nursery in good time can prevent many problems.

Start of the crop and stem fruit load

Venice should be encouraged to the wire with a steady temperature regime. This variety naturally tends to draw. Starting with 20°C night and 21°C day will generally be adequate. Give the necessary amounts of nutrients for a strong plant structure, i.e. an EC of 3 - 3.5 mS in the substrate.

This variety naturally flowers slightly later than Mystica sown on the same date but by the first picking this has turned into a lead, with Venice usually being one day earlier.

For the earliest sowing dates of 5th - 15th November a stem fruit load of 3 - 5 fruits per plant may be retained. This depends, of course, on the cultural method used and the glasshouse type. If sowing from 15th - 25th November, the stem fruit load may be 5 - 7 fruits while a December sowing can take 7 - 10+ stem fruits. The harvested weight is, of course, an important consideration in deciding on the number of stem fruits.

We should mention that growing Venice the "Limburg" way, i.e. at low temperatures, means that the balance can be controlled perfectly; the crop will certainly grow steadily and remain open. Grown "hot" it will also produce an excellent crop. This shows that Venice will perform very well in all early-heated-crop conditions.

Venice produces nice, long, well-filled stem fruits. It is, therefore, possible to "play around" with

the harvested weight. Heavy stem fruits may be cut early on. The fruit weight can be higher than that of any other variety up to week 15. We recommend that sufficient potassium be given to attain the best possible colour.

Lateral development and second crop phase

The main laterals will emerge fairly strong and develop quickly. It remains necessary not to continue working on growth too much. Experience has shown that temperatures of 19°C night and 21°C day are sufficient for maintaining speed and growth. The first flowers on the laterals are fast and Venice is able to find and maintain a good balance. The main laterals can usually be topped at about 5 leaves over the wire.

It is remarkable that from mid March the plant adopts a different growing habit. After the main lateral, many axils with three or more embryonic fruits are initiated. This places the fertilised flowers nearer the heads. This means that growth of the crop will start diminishing and that the entire plant starts looking much more fruitful. This unique feature will not easily result in a dense crop! Once some of the stem leaves have been removed any other crop maintenance work will be absolutely minimal. It is quite remarkable that this variety will keep looking for a balance between growth and production.

During the 2001/2002 trial year we saw that Venice remains nice and open and continues to produce excellent quality up to the end of a crop continued until end June/beginning July.

Fruit characteristics and production

The stem fruits are nicely filled and have a sleek shape with an attractive rib. Stem production is at the same level or slightly higher than Mystica's and the fruits are slightly heavier on average. Depending on the circumstances this can be by as much as 50g. The lateral fruits are a nice length and comparable to those of Mystica. At the end of a normal first crop, production in numbers is virtually the same for both varieties.

Storage trials have shown that the shelf life of the stem fruits of Venice is the same as that of Mystica. The lateral fruits can even be kept a day longer than those of Mystica.

POINTS TO NOTE:

- Do not steer too much towards (vertical) growth during the first phase.
- Stem fruit load may be high, but watch the fruit weight.
- Normally, topping of the main laterals is done at about 5 leaves over the wire.
- The usual nutrients schedules are very suitable. Keep giving sufficient potassium.

We wish you success with your Venice crop.

Cultural advisors Rijk Zwaan, October 2003.

Cultural advice given by the seller is not binding. Descriptions and recommendations in this manual are as accurately as possible based on experiences in trials and practice. We do not, however, under any circumstances accept any liability for deviating results of the product grown in accordance with such information. The buyer needs to satisfy himself that this manual is suitable for his local conditions and the crop he intends to grow.

[Back to last page](#)

