

Rijk Zwaan Seeds & Services



“Futuno RZ, a promising variety, combining strength and quality”
“Cucumber 24-170 RZ is a good low-light variety”
“Better quality and more kilos on rootstock Emperor RZ”



Introduction

Hello greenhouse growers,

Another sowing season is upon us. An empty greenhouse is a nice sight for a week or two, but it is always better when the new crop gets in. A greenhouse should be "green"!

There are many new things to speak about this season from Rijk Zwaan.

Winter cucumber:

We've been proud of our "new" Addison RZ variety. Growers have been seeing benefits in the late spring, summer and autumn with this variety. But knowing that it's not a low light variety, we needed to come with something similar for the winter time. We're pleased now to introduce 24-170 RZ - the Addison for winter. For a vegetable breeding company, there are always new resistances to strive for in varieties. It's always rewarding to achieve this, as with the addition of powdery mildew resistance to the new winter type 24-170 RZ.

There is always a lot of diversity with cucumbers, it seems you need varieties for every region and for every planting period. And always new things to consider; lighted cucumbers, high wire cucumbers, closed greenhouse climate systems. This certainly adds to the variability needed in the varieties. We can't expect one variety for each season to meet the needs of every region and growing system.

Cluster tomato:

A new segment for us in North America is the cluster tomato. We have varieties which can be broken into two categories: The Levanzo types and the Futuno types. Levanzo is vigorous and Futuno is more balanced. Given the region and tools of each grower, we can choose from these two types to find the variety best suited. You can expect that you will find our varieties to have vigour for the summer combined with a high quality fruit of a large size.

Tomato Rootstock:

We are happy to be in the rootstock market. This is an area where we also offer choice.

In general our rootstocks offer a more generative steering than others. The benefits of this can be seen in different ways, but especially in superior fruit setting and easier steering of the scion variety. Now we also have one, Bruce RZ, which offers more vigour than the industry standard variety does. So indeed there are choices. It's important to talk about combining the scion variety with the appropriate rootstock variety.

Beef tomato:

You will also see us with some beef varieties in trial. These new trial varieties offer a follow up to Heritage RZ. Beef tomatoes continue to be a staple in the North American market, but growing a tomato with such great size and quality demands a good variety. We're happy to work with you on giving you a great starting point - a new improved variety. These will be small variety trials for this year, so stay tuned for the results.

Sweet blocky peppers:

New and commercial varieties from Rijk Zwaan in yellow, red and orange continue to offer quality pepper production. Well known names like Orangery RZ and Baselga RZ are now joined with names like Crosby RZ. We continue to lead in varieties with TM3 virus resistance and this year we will move forward with this resistance in red as well. Ask for more info.

We thank you for your support over the years and we promise to strive to offer you the best varieties and service in the years to come. Your business has many different challenges; one of these challenges is finding a vegetable variety that will give you the best of many different categories of quality. We would like to help.

As a final note, keep an eye on our web site, www.rijkszwaanusa.com. We are striving to keep it up to date and informative. Check it out.

All the best preparing for 2010! ☺



Wim Grootsholten



John DeVries





Jos Moerman of Mt Lehman Greenhouses, near Abbotsford, British Columbia:

“Our yellow pepper crop is doing great”



Together with his cousin, Bram Moerman, Jos Moerman runs two pepper nurseries in the area of Vancouver. They grow 11.5 ha red, yellow and orange peppers which they pack in bags. The yellow peppers are grown near Abbotsford on 3.5 ha; the variety used is Baselga RZ. This variety is being grown there for the second season to their total satisfaction. Newcomer 35-226 RZ (G10) yellow proved to be even stronger and more energy-friendly in the winter season.



Mt Lehman Greenhouses
GREENHOUSE IN ABBOTSFORD,
BRITISH COLUMBIA

■ Baselga RZ and 35-226 RZ

Area:	3.5 acres, including 100 m ² G10
Sowing date:	4 November 2008
Planting date:	15 December 2008
Growing medium:	coco fibre
Stem density:	7.2 stems/m ²
Average fruit weight:	215 grams
Yield up to end week 31:	17.5 kg/m ²

“The yellow pepper crop is doing best of all,” says Jos Moerman. “Even with the hot summer we are having at the moment, we are able to supply very high quality. We have had summer days of 35°C; the last few weeks it’s been 30°C,” he relates beginning August. “Baselga remains beautiful. Ideal. We are very happy with this variety, both in terms of its production and its quality.” Just the first two settings could have been better in his opinion. “Exactly in the first week after planting we had extremely cold weather. Because of the low outside temperatures we could not achieve the temperature we wanted. That carried the risk of slightly flatter peppers from Baselga. The newcomer 35-226 RZ had no such problems. It gave lovely, long peppers straightaway and can apparently be grown a touch cooler than Baselga.”

35-226 RZ yellow more energy-friendly

Apart from the fact that 35-226 RZ is a little more energy-friendly, it also ripens fractionally faster than Baselga, is Jos Moerman’s opinion. “35-226 RZ sets again slightly later, so that production is on a par. In the 100m² trial we could not see very much difference with main variety Baselga as far as that is concerned. A major point is that 35-226 RZ also retains its quality during a hot summer.”

Working on growth

Jos Moerman grows Baselga with hardly a temperature decrease in the pre-midnight period. “We have learnt that we have to grow Baselga warm and that you really have to work on growth – that’s how you get good quality and very good peppers. If you get the vertical growth right, the peppers grow nicely spaced out on the stems and the shape remains good. That’s why we maintain a high 24-hour temperature. A pre-midnight decrease has no place in that. In order to realise a growth-inducing climate in the glasshouse, we also keep the vents closed for longer to save moisture. What is relevant for our watering strategy is that we often put on a night watering round until mid-July.”

The fruit weight up to the end of week 31 was 215 g. A little on the high side, thinks Jos Moerman. “We pack the peppers in bags. Fruits of 200 g are big enough for that purpose. Fortunately, we have been picking that weight for the past two months. The peppers were slightly bigger only in the period from week 18 to week 22.” Baselga is for him a variety he certainly wants to use again. “We will have a bigger trial of 35-226 RZ alongside it.” ☉

Vitalii Jidkov, grower at DiCiocco Farms
in Leamington, Ontario, Canada:

“Crosby RZ keeps the size, even at high temperatures”



In its third season, grower Vitalii Jidkov is still very happy with Crosby RZ (35-221 RZ): “This yellow bell pepper variety really stands out from July till September, when average temperatures can go up to 26 to 27 degrees. It keeps the fruit size, better than other varieties. It is 15 to 20 grams heavier than Striker, its competitor. My overall impression is very good.”

Jidkov was born in Russia, where he did scientific research on grapes. He graduated in 1996 and then moved to the US for five years. He started growing bell peppers in Canada in January 2003. Today he is growing eight different varieties in three different colours. Three years ago he started testing Crosby RZ, to find out which yellow bell pepper is the best variety for his growing circumstances. “I started with 30 plants. In the second season I had 1600 plants and this season I have 16,200 plants, 1.2 acres in total. My overall impression of Crosby RZ is very good. Fruit size and shelf life are excellent. I tested it in the cooler, and quality was still good after two weeks. Internal fruit rot is totally absent. I really can’t find any issues. Last season I almost grew it on auto pilot.”

Size matters

Jidkov grows his vegetables (cucumbers, tomatoes and bell peppers) mainly for the US Market, where size matters. “Last week the average fruit size of Crosby RZ was 225 grams, which is better than other varieties. The average fruit weight for the whole season is 270 grams. I had the biggest fruits in weeks 17 to 20, when they exceeded 300 grams a piece. And the production is pretty good too: about 2 kg/m² more than Striker. It dropped a few flowers in the winter, when we had three dark days in a row, but no worse than other varieties. The rest of the season we have had no problems at all. So I plan to increase the area of Crosby RZ next year.” ☺



Vitalii Jidkov

GROWER AT DICIOCCO FARMS IN
LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

■ Yellow Bell Pepper Crosby RZ

Area:	1.2 acres (11 acres bell peppers, 56 acres total)
Sowing date:	26 November 2008
Planting date:	8 January 2009
Grow medium:	Rockwool Fibre Grow
Planting distance:	3.3 plants/m ² (2 stems per plant)
Average fruit weight:	270 grams
Yield first flush:	22 fruits per m ²
Yield second flush:	28 fruits per m ²
Yield May till 5th August:	32-36 fruits per m ²



Addison RZ is for the summer, but what can we plant in the winter?

24-170 RZ

Introducing 24-170 RZ:

This is a true winter type variety, you can sow it as early as you want. And for a low light variety it has a good resistance to powdery mildew (PMIR).

This variety was first sown in Canada in the autumn of 2007.

Since then we have seen great results in France and Canada.

The first fruit harvest is fast and with a high percentage of medium fruits. This is a strong asset for a low light variety.

One of the biggest strengths 24-170 RZ has over the current main variety is that the fruit length does not flush, it stays medium instead of becoming too long. There is always a nice mix of flowers, developing fruits and medium sized harvesting fruits.

We are happy to be able to follow up on the summer success of Addison RZ with a great performing winter variety. ☉



Christian Lund
LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

Christian Lund, Grower at Howard Huy Farms in Leamington, Ontario, Canada:

“Curtis RZ It just keeps growing and setting”

“Curtis RZ is the only variety I know that can carry six fruits and six flowers per plant at the same time,” says Christian Lund, cucumber grower with a high wire system under lights. “This is one fruit more than other varieties can do. So production figures are very high, around 75 fruits per m2 in springtime. We haven’t found anything better yet.”

Lund started to grow Curtis RZ in the fall of 2007, when he also started with the high wire system under lights. Today it is his main cucumber variety. He grows three crops a year. From October through April the plants get 14,000 lux of light over 18 hours a day.

Lund is especially satisfied with the high production. “The explanation for this is quite simple: it produces shorter and therefore more internodes than other varieties. In the summer and winter our yield is a bit less than in springtime, which is normal given the climate conditions.”

Lund’s yield throughout the year consists of 75% of medium cucumbers (33 cm), plus 20% small, and 5% large fruits.

A good all-round variety “Curtis RZ maintains a good balance between vegetative and generative growth”, Lund continues. “It just keeps growing and setting. But in the summer we try to keep it more vegetative.” Lund waters the plants, which grow on coco fibre, with 2.0 to 2.5 EC during the day time. The EC in the coco is kept around 3.0, not higher. Lund starts watering the plants at 150 joules – 100 ml’s per shot – until late afternoon at 250 or 300 joules. Temperatures are allowed to drop at night to 17.5 or 18 degrees, in the afternoon they may rise to 25 or 27 degrees, and sometimes it can reach 30 + degrees.

We’re constantly trying new varieties”, says Lund. “But Curtis RZ has proved to be the best variety for high wire cultivation.” ☉

■ Cucumber Curtis RZ

Area:	4 ha long English (7 ha total)
Sowing dates:	22 September, 12 February and 23 June
Planting dates:	11 October, 10 February and 10 June
Growing medium:	coco fibre
Planting distance:	2,2 plants/m ² in winter and spring, 2,7 in summer
Average Fruit weight:	33 cm (75%)
Yield:	75 fruits/m ² (spring)

Rick Mastronardi, owner of IPR Farms, Leamington, Ontario

“Cucumber 24-170 RZ is a good low-light variety”

Rick Mastronardi has a good relationship with the Rijk Zwaan advisors and the Rijk Zwaan varieties. So when Gus Mastronardi and John Huy talked to him about innovative variety 24-170 RZ, the grower was curious and planted a small trial. Rick Mastronardi: “We are very impressed. This variety is able to produce a lot of medium grade cucumbers during periods with low light levels.”

Mastronardi planted the trial of 24-170 RZ on rockwool on 15 January. The sowing date was 23 December 2008. Rick: “We planted a few hundred plants of this variety. Just for observation. So what do we think of it? This cucumber certainly has traits we like. For example the plant habit. Because of its open structure, more light and air can get into

the crop, in among the plants and fruit. The climate between the leaves is healthier. The fruits have a nice dark colour and the crop produces more medium sized cucumbers. Even the stem cucumbers were medium, which is great. During the winter time most varieties we know produce a smaller grade.”

“The texture of the leaves seems harder and it is a very generative crop. That is what we like. It makes the plant easier to steer. And, last but not least, 24-170 RZ seems to be more mildew resistant than our main variety. Yes, the production, good quality and better grade make this variety very interesting. We are hoping, therefore, to try 24-170 RZ on a commercial scale next season,” Rick Mastronardi concludes. ☉

Dale and Curtis Williams, owner/ grower at East Side Acres, Leamington, Ontario:

“Cucumber 24-170 RZ scores well”

“This year we’re doing a small trial with the new cucumber 24-170 RZ. We are focusing on the resistance against mildew and the production. 24-170 scores well on both counts,” tells Dale Williams. “We’ll want to survey this variety in a bigger trial.”

Dale Williams and his family operate an 8-acre greenhouse company with 48,000 cucumber plants in Leamington, Ontario. He’s observing 24-170 RZ in a small trial with 1,000 plants. “In this trial we’re focusing on mildew resistance. But we are also interested in the production, fruit appearance and quality.”

Better mildew resistance

“It’s important to us that 24-170 RZ showed better results on mildew resistance, better than the main variety. This will help us with our goal to spray less and to use less chemicals. We are also pleased with the quality of 24-170 RZ, it needs further study but looks promising for this time of year.

The production has been very similar to our main variety”, says Williams in week 32. “In the next trial, which may be an acre, we will focus on more characteristics like root development, fruit size, temperature regime and labour.” ☉



Rick Mastronardi
LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

■ Cucumber 24-170 RZ

Sowing date:	23 December 2008
Planting date:	15 January 2009



Dale and Curtis Williams
LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

■ 24-170 RZ

Area:	1,000 plants
Sowing date:	3 November 2008
Planting date:	28 November 2008
Growing medium:	rockwool
Planting distance:	1,5 plants/ m ²
Average fruit weight:	220 - 230 grams
Yield up to 15 July:	10 kg/m ²



■ **Emperador RZ (61-065 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 also be used in soil crops. Vigour rating 4.

■ **Stallone RZ (61-067 RZ):**

HR: ToMV/ 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 use in soil crops. Vigour rating 3,5.

■ **Bruce RZ (61-068 RZ):**

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

More vigorous than Emperador RZ. Possible use where vigour is most important. Not for use in soil crops. Vigour rating 5.

■ **61-074 RZ:**

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

Rootstock for eggplant. More generative comparing to Emperador RZ. No trials yet in Canada. Trials in 2009 in Europe. Vigour rating 3,5.



Phil Tiemstra
ALBERTA, CANADA

■ **Emperador RZ**

Area:	2,500 m ²
Sowing date:	20 November 2008
Planting date:	14 January 2009
Grafting method:	1 plant per block with a true leaf pinch
Growing medium:	coconut fibre
Planting distance:	2.3 plants/m ² later 25% extra
Average Fruit weight:	excellent
Yield to week 31:	37 kg/m ²

Phil Tiemstra, grower at Gull Valley Greenhouses, Alberta, Canada:

“Very good production with Emperador RZ”

“I am very happy with the tomato rootstock Emperador RZ”, tells Phil Tiemstra. “This is the second year we’re running a trial with beefsteak tomatoes and the first year with cocktail tomatoes. The results are very good. We’ve got what we want.”

Phil Tiemstra grows beefsteak tomatoes and a diversity of other tomatoes, also beans, lettuce and peppers. He grows pesticide-free at his 11,700 m² greenhouse site.

With the tomato rootstock Emperador he is conducting a large trial of 2,500 m² with the beefsteak tomato Growdena. Compared to the other rootstock, Emperador is looking very good.

Steady production

Tiemstra: “We have a nice, steady production. Every week we have just what we want. The quality is good too: very few poor shaped tomatoes. Important is that the plants are always nicely balanced, between generative and vegetative. We took a leaf out of the head to help with this. The plants are growing in balance and we have no problems with Botrytis.”

He has modern greenhouses with double plastic 4.9 meters under the gutter. The roof opens at

the gutter. In the winter he installs an extra layer poly screen, in the area were he lives - close to the Rocky Mountains between Calgary and Edmonton - it can be very cold.

Easy to maintain

Phil Tiemstra grows with coconut fibre in bags. The EC in the bag is 4 to 4.5. The drip is 95 ml - 190 ml per block. “We feed 2.8 EC in the summer up to 3.2 EC in the early season. In general we use no night watering because the coco has a pretty good reserve. Depending on the weather, we start with dripping 4 hours after sunrise and stop 4 hours before sunset.

To get a larger sized fruit he uses a pre-night temperature drop. The average 24-hour temperature is usually about 20°C. “The plants were generative enough to have nice fruits. They were very well balanced. It is nice to have good coverage of the leaves. The coverage of the fruits was good, and the leaves were big enough and not too crowded. This makes the crop very easy to maintain.”

“The production until now has been excellent for us: We harvested 37 kg per m² in week 31. This means that we will continue our production of Emperador to a larger area, absolutely.” ☺

Jeff Stigter, grower in Medicine Hat, Alberta:

“I like Emperor RZ for the speed”

Jeff Stigter and his father Harry run three greenhouses with a total area of 28,000 m² in Alberta. He grows cluster tomatoes and also some cucumbers. For the second year in a row now he has been running a trial with rootstock Emperor RZ for his main variety Tricia. The results up until the middle of August have been very positive.

“What we like the most about Emperor is the speed”, tells Jeff Stigter in week 32. “We have already picked almost one cluster more compared to the main variety on the other rootstock. The size of the tomato is larger as

well. Until week 31 we picked 33.5 - 34 kg per m², while we harvested on average 33 kg per m² from the main rootstock. I think Emperor will have a production of 60-62 kg per m² at the end. That is significantly better.”

Quicker ripening

“The generativity and the speed of Emperor also contribute to the fruit ripening. They’re taking off quicker than usual. Next year I will plant a combination with Emperor in a slow ripening area of our greenhouse”, says the grower. “I think we’ll plant Emperor on half our growing area of cluster tomatoes.” ☉

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

“Better quality and more kilos on rootstock Emperor RZ”

Summer temperatures can be so high that Jack Pomp, head grower at Mastronardi Produce in Leamington, sometimes has to interplant his tomatoes. To help prevent this from occurring, he planted almost every tomato variety on rootstock Emperor RZ. Although the weather hasn’t been extremely hot this year, Pomp says most varieties perform better. “I expect to yield 2 to 3 kilos per m² more than last year.”

Mastronardi Produce is one of the biggest producers and sales companies of tomatoes and bell peppers in Canada. Head grower Jack Pomp is constantly testing new varieties and rootstocks from different seed companies. Since 1981 he has been growing tomatoes and bell peppers. “At the moment we have about 50 different varieties, mostly cherry, plum, beef and a few other special-

ities. We also use different rootstocks. Emperor RZ is one of them.”

Good investment

Looking at the results of Emperor RZ so far, Jack Pomp says: “The roots are developing very nicely. The tomato varieties on Emperor RZ are very generative and are setting well.

Jack Pomp is convinced that most tomato varieties on Emperor RZ perform better. “In terms of weight, they are ahead. In terms of quality, our tomatoes on Emperor RZ are better too. And they are easier to grow. So far we haven’t had any fruit abortions. We usually have a lot of splitting in cherry tomatoes, but this year our cherry tomatoes on Emperor RZ show no splitting at all, with a bigger size. So it’s a good investment.” ☉



Jeff Stigter

MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

■ Emperor RZ

Area:	1,000 m ²
Sowing date:	20 November 2008
Planting date:	29 January 2009
Grafting method	2 plants grafted on 1 rootstock
Growing medium:	coco fibre
Planting distance:	2.4 plants/m ² to final 3,3 stems/m ²
Yield to week 31:	33.5 - 34 kg/m ² , 0,5 - 1 kg more than main rootstock



Jack Pomp

LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

■ Rootstock Emperor RZ

Area:	25 ha tomatoes in total
Sowing dates:	15 December 2008
Planting dates:	15 – 20 January 2009
Growing medium:	Coirtastic coco fibre slabs
Planting distance:	2,7 – 3,6/m ² (depending on tomato size and variety)



■ Futuno RZ (72-479 RZ)

Variety description

- Large fruit size cluster tomato
- Resistances: ToMV/Ff:1-5/Fol:0,1/For/Va/Wi
- Highly productive
- Generative growth
- Open, orderly crop
- High round fruit type
- Strong, even clusters
- Firm fruits
- Average plant length
- Labour-friendly
- Grows with the string

Rootstock

The best way of growing Futuno RZ is in combination with a powerful generative rootstock such as Emperador RZ.

Cultivation

Because of the generative way of growing no extreme day-night differences are necessary. Aim at a day-night difference of about 3 degrees. Do work with a small and short prenight lowering. Extremely low prenights are not recommended.

Extreme afternoon temperature peaks are not necessary. Put the plant on colour every afternoon by means of temperature. In early spring, make sure that the plant has reached the correct colour around 15 hours. You will prevent having to prolong temperature this way. Prolonging temperature costs extra energy and weakens the clusters.

An example of spring and summer temperature regulation is: prenight lowering to 17 °C, night 18 °C, afternoon 21 °C, with an increase of + 2 or 3 °C from about 11.00 hours in spring.

The optimal stem diameter is 10.5 mm. Apply more temperature for larger stems and less temperatures for thinner stems.

Futuno RZ has a very good fruit quality.

Stem distance

Because of its open way of growing, Futuno RZ is very much suited for stem distances of about 33 cm in modern greenhouses. Wider stem distances are possible, of course, but watch the fruit weight, which could become too high. Because of the openness and length of the variety, it is not really necessary to remove an extra leaf from of the head. Removing leaves from the head can be considered when the outside conditions are extremely vegetative. ☉



Arnold Verweij

KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO

■ Futuno RZ

Sowing date:	10 December
Planting date:	27 January
Rootstock:	Maxifort
Growing medium:	rockwool
Planting distance:	45 cm
Spacing:	week 8 extra stem, 34 cm

Arnold Verweij, grower at Double Diamond Acres, Kingsville, Ontario:

“Futuno RZ, a promising variety, combining strength and quality”

Futuno RZ takes up two rows at the greenhouse where Arnold Verweij grows cluster tomatoes. Following advice from his Rijk Zwaan advisor, he planted this trial. “The main variety here is Komeett. The Futuno trial is looking good. Especially the strong crop and gorgeous fruits stand out.”

Double Diamond Acres covers 20 ha. Along with bell peppers and cucumbers, the company also grows 10 ha of tomatoes. 4.5 ha are truss tomatoes, the rest are beef tomatoes.

“Considering what I’ve seen now, I hope to plant a section Futuno next year,” says Arnold Verweij satisfied. “This variety is absolutely promising. If we really grow for Futuno I think it’ll pay off in kilos.”

Strong variety

“One of the strong points of this large cluster tomato is the strong crop. Until now the summer has been cool, but even if it warms

up, this variety can handle it. From what I can see, Futuno is stronger than the main variety. I should probably steer it more generatively, for instance with a bigger day/night difference and a higher EC value. That would probably start the production sooner. We didn’t harvest the first fruits until 6th of April. Despite its strength the crop stays open and it’s easy to work.”

Uniform fruits

“Another positive point is the quality. The fruits are attractive and uniform. While the main variety sometimes lags behind in warm weather, Futuno finishes its tomatoes beautifully. I don’t weigh the fruit from the trial separately, but at first glance the size of Futuno is comparable to Komeett. The trusses look good, with a fish bone and are nicely uniform just like the fruits.” Lastly, the grower is impressed with how much Futuno resists botrytis more than the main variety. All in all, a successful trial that inspires more in the future. ☉

Mario van Logten of Intergrow Portageville Inc.

“Good quality with vegetative Levanzo RZ”

Mario Van Logten grows Levanzo RZ at two locations, on 4 hectares in Pennsylvania and on a quarter of his 5.7-hectare greenhouse in New York. The grower describes Levanzo as a strong grower that needs to be controlled. The result pays off: nicely formed fruits with a beautiful colour and shine.

Mario van Logten saw Levanzo in Belgium in the past and was immediately interested in this strong growing variety. “I thought then that it would be a shorter plant, but that’s proven not to be the case in our experience. The harvesting speed is a bit slower than his other cluster variety; Tricia, this means there is usually about one more cluster on the plant. This makes the twisting and lowering of the plant heavier work. The plants stay nicely uniform, as well as the fruits, and has strong heads. Sometimes it looks like the setting will be weak, but in the end it’s always good. The tomatoes are a bit larger than we’re used to with Tricia and with a great red colour and shine. We rarely get odd shaped fruits with this variety.” Dropping fruits did occur at times early on, but in comparison to some other varieties, he feels that it was acceptable.

High temperatures

To manage the growth, the grower applies generative techniques early in the season. Van Logten: “For instance, removing leaves from the head of the plant and more than usual off the bottom. I also make a large day/

night-difference in temperature by using a large afternoon boost. We keep the nights slightly warmer but the afternoon temperature can rise to 27°, 28° or 29°C. Levanzo needs to keep speed, so using this boost works better than an extreme low prenight.” Levanzo uses about 0.75 liters more water on sunny days. He starts watering an hour and 45 minutes after sunrise and stops about two hours before sunset. The water at this early point in the season is dripped with an EC of 3.3. In terms of production, Tricia is now ahead of Levanzo. “That difference was especially notable during the first ten weeks. But when I see the plant now, and see what it’s producing, I believe Levanzo will make up the difference in the autumn.” He needs to be careful with Botrytis in his greenhouse, and wondered how this strong growing variety would resist this disease. Comparing to Tricia, it has a bit more, but it’s in an acceptable range of sensitivity.

Satisfied customers

“We continuously prune the clusters to five fruits. Early season fruits maxed out at 180 grams. We’re now at 140 grams, 150 grams being ideal for our customers. Getting lay flat clusters in the box is easier later in the season comparing to early on, for both the reasons of fruit size and cluster development. Quality is absolutely the strongest point with this variety. The fruits present well in the box and have a long shelf life. We hear this from our customers. We’ll certainly grow Levanzo RZ again next year.” ☺



Mario van Logten
PORTAGEVILLE, NEW YORK

■ Levanzo RZ

Planting date:	28 November
Rootstock:	Emperador RZ
Spacing:	starting at 1.4/m ² now 3,15 stems/m ²
Grow medium:	rockwool Grodan
Av. fruit weight:	150 grams
Production to week 31:	36,6 kg/ m ²





John Whittaker
Sales Manager, Greenhouse
Terralink Horticulture Inc.



Bradley Breedveld BScAg
Technical Sales, Greenhouse
Terralink Horticulture Inc.

TerraLink Horticulture Inc.
464 Riverside Rd.
V2S 7M1 Abbotsford BC
Canada
Phone: (001) 604 864 9044
Fax: (001) 604 864 8418
Email: john@tlhort.com
brad@tlhort.com
Website: www.tlhort.com



John Huy
President
RZH Canada Ltd

RZH Canada Ltd
1008 Mersea Rd. 7, RR#5
Leamington, ONT.N8H 3V8
Canada
Phone: (001) 519 324 0632
Fax: (001) 519 324 0774
Email: rzca@mnsi.net



Gus Mastronardi
Sales manager
RZH Canada Ltd

Rijk Zwaan Export B.V.
P.O. Box 40
2678 ZG De Lier
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0) 174 532 300
Fax: +31 (0) 174 518 243
Mobile: J. DeVries
001 519 324 6669
Email: export@rijkszwaan.nl
j.devries@rijkszwaan.com
Website: www.rijkszwaanusa.com



Wim Grootsholten
Area manager
Rijk Zwaan



Linda Brand
Office Sales Support
Rijk Zwaan



John DeVries
Advisor Greenhouse crops
Rijk Zwaan

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 #319. 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 7 and 8, 2009, 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.