New RZ Red Varieties

Newsletter January 3, 2012

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Happy New Year everyone!

Here we are in the first days of 2012 and there are a lot of greenhouses already planted for the new season.

We'd like to give a few quick points for our new red varieties in this newsletter.

Redwing RZ and 35-161 RZ (name to be announced soon!) are our two red varieties and they are both vigorous growing types. So for now it's good to mention some things in point form. Then as the season progresses, we will do more updates.

- These new red varieties need generative steering to ensure good early season setting of fruits.
- The early fruit set is important to keep balance in the plant.
- We want early fruits, but not an oversized first flush of fruits. We need to keep speed in the plant with a high 24 hour temperature. This is the best way to help get the first fruits harvested fast and to ensure good speed again into and through the second flush.
- With these reds, we need to focus on achieving fruit set. The fruit shape of the new reds is not affected as much by low temperatures.
- In comparison, Baselga RZ (yellow) is vigorous like these new reds, but it's important to note that Baselga is also naturally more generative. With Baselga we need to make good quality flowers to ensure a good fruit shape in the early sets, but it is relatively easy in setting.
- An active climate is good for the new reds. Already some areas have had warm low light winter weather conditions. This type of weather demands that we "make" an active climate.
- Keep the drip EC high.
- Keep a larger difference between the day and night water content in the slab, do not overwater.
- Make a large difference between the day and night temperature – do this with a high afternoon boost when there is sun, when there are a lot of days with no sun, use a pipe boost in the afternoon.
- When there is sun, a good day night temperature differential happens naturally, with no sun, its more necessary to consider afternoon pipe boosts.
- Make sure the head of the plant is dark in the late afternoon.
- These varieties will in general handle higher pipe temperatures and higher boost temperatures than other varieties. Keep monitoring the growth and colour of the plant.
- These red varieties can use a pre night temperature drop for fruit setting where as Baselga does not need it.
- The nights are long now, so it affects the overall 24hr temp more – therefore a cold night temperature will bring down the 24 hour average now more than later in the year – so careful that your night temperature is not too low.
- Growing these new reds slow with low 24 hour temperatures might lead to vegetative growth and difficulty in setting, so speed is also good for plant balance.
- The flower buds in the new reds can be naturally smaller in comparison with Baselga's buds.

Please be in touch with any questions or comments about your Rijk Zwaan pepper variety. We wish you all the best in this new growing season!

The variety descriptions, sowing, planting and harvesting dates and growing advices in our catalogues, leaflets and letters or communicated in any other way, have been composed in good faith and as precisely as possible, based on the experiences in trials and practice. However, final results of a crop depend on various factors such as local conditions. Rijk Zwaan cannot, under any circumstances, be held responsible for the results of the crop of any customer.

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More information

For more information you can contact John DeVries by phone (ph. 519 324 6669) or e-mail (j.devries@rijkzwaan.com). Please also visit www.rijkzwaanusa.com

You can also contact your local RZ distributor, Terralink Horticulture Inc. (ph. 604 864 9044) in Western Canada or RZH Canada Ltd. (ph. 519 324 0632) in Eastern Canada.