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Week 25

Week 25 has come and gone and growers are well on their way to a new high level of production in Baselga RZ. In both the east and west regions we have now also had a taste of the high 24 hour temperatures that summer can bring. So here are some reminders of what is possible to do to help get the most of your plants from the longest day to the end:

The temperatures are higher outside now, but it's still possible to get cooler weather. At this time of the year you might need to switch between two pre-night settings, depending on the weather. During high temperature periods you will be going for the maximum temperature drop in the pre-night; to reduce the overall 24 hour average and therefore maximize the fruit size. But in days following, if the weather cools, it could be necessary to switch back to a vent setting that uses a minimal (or no) vent opening in the pre-night. This is necessary to avoid the cool air coming in on the heads of the plants – a situation ripe for inner rot in the fruit (the infection comes during the flowering period). This is especially important if the plants are in a growth spurt, maybe also combined with a low fruit count and high root pressure. On the other hand, careful about high fruit loads because then you have to slow down too much and use low temperatures (if possible) to keep the strength in the plant. Then when the fruits finally come off, you will have a lot of lush re-growth with a low fruit count. If the plants are out of balance in this way, be even more careful with the climate settings. Don't forget about coming up to your day temperature fast enough. The sun is fast and hot, so you have to be extra fast getting your plant temperatures up to the day setting.

It becomes necessary to use the pre-night and post night to lower the 24 hour temperature when the weather turns hot. This will help in plant growth, setting and fruit size. Don't worry about squeezing the vents to keep your humidity if the outside humidity is high enough. The temperature drop is more important during hot periods than the humidity. Use a bigger vent opening to get the pre-night. But as mentioned above, don't forget about these vent settings if the weather happens to cool again. Be ready to change them.

Consider the amount of water you give. To get the maximum fruit size, you need to give enough water. Watch your overdrain late in the day and early in the morning. If you can give a night shot of water and still maintain a healthy drying down of the moisture

		<p>content, it will help in gaining a bit more fruit weight. Careful if you do give a night shot that your drain doesn't come too early in the day. The size of the night shot can be 60 to 70% of what you give during the day. One other benefit of using night shots can be that you avoid spikes in the root pressure. When you avoid large changes in the moisture content of the slab, you avoid periods of very high pressure. Avoid dosing high levels of CO2 when there is heat stress and also consider dropping the EC a bit.</p> <p>Fruit pruning (keep between 35 and 40/m2), proper pre-night use, watering strategy, CO2 dosing, maintaining enough leaf coverage and an active climate are some of the things we can do now to prepare for a possible long hot summer coming.</p>	
		<p>Your advisor: John Devries: 519 324 6669 or j.devries@rijkszwaan.com</p> <p>More news and info: view www.rijkszwaanusa.com Unsubscribe here to this newsletter Place here your reaction to the content Archive newsletters</p> <p>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.</p>	

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