

# Rijk Zwaan Pepper News

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## Crop manual Baselga RZ Yellow blocky pepper



Newsletter 1 April 2008



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### Transition period in the seasons demands a lot from the growers!

Spring seems late to come in some ways this year. But we can see days of 200 joules followed by a 2000 joule day (in Ontario)! So we know that things are changing. Growers are starting to use the screens in glass houses on the sunny days that follow dark periods. Sometimes the sunny days can be a real challenge with too high temperatures. Very small vent openings are being used (because of the cold outside temperatures) and with a slight change in the vents, the temperature can quickly climb too high. So the sun is giving a lot of energy. Spending some time reviewing the P band settings in your computer is useful now (keep it high enough). A steady climate is not easy but is necessary. Too high afternoon boost temperatures can push the plant too generative (depending on the fruit load), and conversely, too large a vent opening can risk cold air on the heads and flowers. When the sun is coming with a lot of power in the morning you can risk losing too much humidity. And you need it for the afternoon. It's possible that you might not be able to recover the humidity later in the day if you let it drop too much in the morning.

Keep on eye on the head of the plant and make adjustments to your preN according to what you see. For example if the heads are thin, start earlier with your preN; when the heads are too fat, give a bigger boost in the afternoon. If the nights are cold outside and you are using a preN, only use it for a short period and be sure that the plant and fruits are on temperature early enough in the morning. Cold plants and fruits warm up slowly.

We have had some growers go to a flatter D/N temperature regime to get some growth, and this is ok so long as it's done with an active climate in mind. We say that Baselga has enough (easy) growth, but of course there can be times when you need to steer for growth. Be careful when you do this that you don't steer for growth too long. Maybe 3 to 5 days are necessary, but be ready to pull it out and go back to a more generative climate again. Take advantage of your chance to steer generative while it's still possible. Always keep in mind, that speed is important for Baselga.

At this time we think it's ok to leave some fruits on the side shoots (if needed to get your fruit count). But with the higher 24 hour temperatures we want to run, we don't expect the plants to have too many side shoot fruits. Later on when we lose control of the 24 hour temperatures (getting too high); we want to leave only stem fruits. Along with our early season high 24 hour temperature, pruning out all the side shoot fruits will ensure that we keep the fruit count under 40/m<sup>2</sup> in the summer time. And then we will keep the plant in balance and get the maximum fruit size.

The results of the first flush harvest of Baselga are looking very good. The fruits are in the XL+ size and have come off early with a fast ripening speed. The fruits are heavy with a good yellow colour and great firmness. At the earliest plantings we see the harvest continue nicely into the second flush of fruits.

*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 our local advisor for greenhouse crops John DeVries by phone (519 324 6669) or e-mail ([j.devries@rijkszwaan.com](mailto:j.devries@rijkszwaan.com)). Please also visit [www.rijkszwaanusa.com](http://www.rijkszwaanusa.com)

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