



Var. 'Fruatfri'

Different experiences in the greenhouse and field grown

Dear Reader

You were among the participants at the Raspberry-Symposium in Tongeren which took place in May 2008. The Symposium offered a welcome opportunity for making new contacts and it was a great pleasure to have numerous professionals from all over the world participating. The lectures of highly competent experts were well received and the tasting of the many different varieties in direct contrast at the end of the Symposium offered an outlook of what can be expected in the near future.

Greenhouse Cultivation of TulaMagic at Tongeren

As far as appearance, taste and firmness are concerned, **Tulameen** remains the best variety. It is favoured by retailers and consumers alike. However, Tulameen puts an above average high demand on its cultivation. Thus, a whole day was dedicated to the various problems of Tulameen at the Berry Cultivating Seminar which took place in Weinsberg Germany in 2008.

TulaMagic® trailed Tulameen as far as taste and firmness was concerned. These facts though are subject to the conditions at Tongeren and have to be regarded in connection with the testing station where all varieties are being cultivated in identical greenhouse conditions with standardized irrigation, fertilisation, substrate and temperatures.

This may be sufficient information to get a first overall impression. However, these results do not reflect the specific conditions of a variety under which optimal results can be achieved.

Some examples:

No consideration is given to the plants' capacity of absorbing nutrients based on their particular strength of root systems. Varieties with weak root systems prosper if provided with sufficient nutrients whereas varieties with strong or very strong root systems may be "overfed" because they absorb much more nutrients than is necessary for their growth and fruit quality. This may result in above average length of shoots with large intermodal gaps and subsequently soft fruit with reduced flavour.

Furthermore, the tests do not give any indication regarding the tolerance to Phytophthora, one of the main problems of Tulameen. We prefer not to use the term "resistance" in the case of TulaMagic. Based on long term experience on testing grounds, TulaMagic appears to be highly tolerant.

Fanny Pitsioudis intends to conduct Phytophthora testings with different varieties throughout the current year. We are very optimistic as far as TulaMagic is concerned.

At Peter Neuweiler's fruit farm no plant has shown symptoms of the disease despite the fact that the soil is of a heavy quality and therefore anything but optimal.

Willem van Eldik of LEGRO is going to conduct testings by using coconut substrate under conditions favourable to the different varieties.

Conclusion:

The good qualities of field grown cultures of TulaMagic such as health, yield, firmness and flavour were confirmed again in 2008. The results for cultures grown in greenhouses under conditions specific to the variety have not yet been published.

The long term observations according to Reto Neuweiler's report will be confirmed in practice by the producers.

Reto Neuweiler

Hans Wicki

Rafz, February 12, 2009