



## Crop development

At the moment we are going through the hardest time of the year for growing. Light levels are at their lowest right now and the crops really suffer when there is a long period of overcast weather. Some areas have seen light levels of 250 – 300 Joules/cm<sup>2</sup>/day for a long period. A plant needs 100 Joule per day for itself and 100 Joules for every truss present; therefore on those days of insufficient light there is not enough energy produced by the plant to maintain correct function. This results in smaller fruit.

Truss pruning to four fruit at this stage will reduce the pressure placed on the plant and help maintain fruit size.

Levanzo RZ does not form strong laterals at each leaf. However, unlike a lot of other varieties the tiny laterals do later form into laterals lower in the crop. This means that workers should pay attention to removing all laterals; not just the ones that they think will form large laterals later.

## Temperatures

In periods with low light levels and overcast weather ensure that the temperatures do not get too high during the day, as this can result in high respiration rates during the day resulting in little energy being left for plant growth. Higher temperatures can however be maintained on sunny days.

It is important to maintain a minimum pipe during the day as the sun has little power to get deep into the crop and as fruit colouring is driven by temperature, a minimum pipe will help enable the fruit to ripen.

## Irrigation

Water use is very low at this time of the year, make sure that not too much water is given and try to get a dry down of 10% during the night. In case that the dry down is less than 10%, bring the stop time backwards.

The next Levanzo RZ growing update will be send in about three weeks time.

Best Regards,

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