

Mildew control with CleanLight technology



In September 2010, Horticultural News dedicated a few pages to the introduction of an exciting new crop protection technology in East Africa. It is a technology, not based on chemicals, but based on the use of cleansing light.

Today, in February 2012, we give our readers an update on progress throughout East Africa: What worked well, and which aspects require further improvement. Here is the experience from around East Africa.

Philippe Veys from Olij Roses Ltd. were one of the first rose farms in East Africa to work with CleanLight. Philippe explains that they appreciate the results in terms of reducing their fungicide expenditures. He emphasizes that perhaps a bigger benefit is the positive effect they have observed on the crop. "The plants look and

are stronger when we reduce our fungicide applications" On the downside, Philippe explains that they have been frustrated with is the lower than expected life expectancy of the CleanLights. Several of their lights have rattled apart. They have now switched to carts, by Hardi Kenya, with larger wheels. So, the carts ride smoother through the greenhouse. This has reduced the wear and tear on their lamps. "We now expect that our lamps will last longer".

The people at Subati Flowers, were also willing to show their experience: "Initially, we treated a few times per week. We saw that we killed some mildew, but we did not reach everything". At the urging of the technicians at Hardi Kenya they switched to a strict protocol of treatment every day, even on the weekend. Now they have reduced their fungicide consumption by 65%. That saves

a lot of money. And their crop is looking stronger. In order to get the very best result, treatment needs to be repeated every day".

The inventor of the technology, Arne Aiking emphasizes an additional benefit that he has observed at some of the fifty plus farms who are now using the CleanLight technology around the world. He says: "In the olden days we have all learned that we should avoid the buildup of resistance to important fungicides by alternating between various fungicides Today, with an ever shorter list of approved fungicides, we see resistance to new fungicides manifesting itself ever faster. This is bad news for us as grower, but it is also bad news for the suppliers of these fungicides. We have seen that if a farm uses CleanLight, as an alternate in between application of traditional fungicides, that we can delay or avoid the onset of resistance to those fungicides. And that is very good for everyone in the chain". So, the advice of the inventor: "Use this technology on a regular basis in order to preserve the efficacy of your approved fungicides"

The distributor in Nairobi, Nicholas le Poer Trench from Hardi Kenya, also has a good tip for rose growers in East Africa. He explains that the power demand for the lights is not very high. But it has turned out to be critically important to supply the correct wattage. Some growers use an extension cord, and plug into the existing electrical supply. "But for those farms who prefer to work with a generator, we see that if we

supply a generator of 3 KiloWatt, we can usually run two CleanLight carts very efficiently on one generator. That saves money"

The final piece of advice comes from Floris Muilwijk of UFO Supplies. In fact, he has two contributions to make. He explains that the longevity of the lamps is enhanced by not turning them on and off during the work shift. The lamps need about 3 minutes to warm up and last much longer when not switched on and off all the time. And, for any rose grower in East Africa, his last words are encouraging also: Anyone who is interested can come take a look at the IFTEX Fair: "UFO Supplies will have a complete working unit in their stand number A.214. People can come look, touch and ask us all about it".

Philippe Veys – Olij Roses:

"We quite like how the crop looks if we reduce the use of chemical fungicides"

Ravi Patel – Subati Flowers:

"We have managed to reduce our dependence on fungicides by 66%"

Arne Aiking – Clean Light:

"Apply CleanLight every day in order to maintain the efficacy of the approved fungicides"

Nick Trench – Hardi Kenya:

"One generator of 3 KW, supplies two CleanLight carts in an efficient manner"

Floris Muilwijk – UFO SUPPLIES:

Extend the longevity of the CleanLight lamps by turning them on, and leaving them on for the entire work shift.



Cleanlight a proven solution to stop Mildew

“Initially, we treated a few times per week. We saw that we killed some mildew, but we did not reach everything. But after switching to a strict protocol of treatment every day we now reduced our fungicide consumption by 65%. That saves a lot of money and our crop is looking stronger.”

Ravi Patel
Subati Flowers

Situated at the Equator, Subati flowers is a 30 Ha Rose Farm situated in the heart of the Rift valley. They produce and export big head roses and are keen to implement new techniques. UFO SUPPLIES and her agent Hardi Kenya are proud to have customers like Subati and happy to see how this technology helps them in their daily production. It helps them in their mission to grow better flowers using less chemicals. It is better for their workers, their plants and their profitability to grow top quality flowers in a more sustainable and responsible way.

UFO SUPPLIES and Hardi Kenya are proud to have a successful cooperation with pioneers and inventors like Clean Light.



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LIGHT™



Hardi Kenya

