

Lemmy

Growing guidelines



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Lemmy



Experiences until now

This season 2020, 20 hectares of Lemmy was grown, twice the area of 2019. The cultivation of the variety in dedicated greenhouses in 2019 already showed its potential. However the usual way of eggplant growing, high temperature and high humidity, is not the best way to grow Lemmy. This was proved where Lemmy was as a trial between other varieties, where we saw periods with changing fruit loads and very strong growth when the plant was empty. Now we see with the adjusted way of growing in 2020 that you can achieve very high yield and keep an excellent fruit quality.

Lemmy has a few unique qualities, and when grown in a different way it really comes into its own.

Those qualities are:

- A very fast fruit growth
- Almost no seed formation in the fruit
- It is clear which fruits are ready for harvest (labour friendly)
- Despite a high fruit weight, there is a high % of fruits between 300 and 400 grams
- Strong generative plant, when it is grown the right way

The Crop

Maxifort is the best rootstock for a 4 stem system. Also for topped plants Lemmy is very suitable, it keeps all of its stems until the end of the season. Lemmy splits very early, so when you sow before 15-11 the advice is to remove the king fruit. That is better for the development of roots and plant (stems). An advantage is that you can right away start harvesting fruits of 300 grams in normal weather conditions at the end of February and the beginning of March. Then you get a strong generative plant that knows what it has to do.

Plant load

With Lemmy the aim is to have a plant load of 20 fruits /m², that means 4 fruits /stem in a 5 stems /m² system. Then we get a generative plant type with very fast growing fruits.

Climate

The climate must be adjusted to keep the power in the buds and flowers of the plant, so that there is always fruit set possible. With too high temperature or too high humidity the flowers are getting weak and will fall off. This is the most important parameter to steer on. It must be easy for the plant to evaporate and it doesn't need high humidity or temperature. The plant becomes strong and it can handle periods with high temperature more easily, without flower drop or losing plant load. Temperature in the afternoon should not be higher than 25 degrees. This more like a climate that is used in tomato. You can also dose a high amount of CO₂.

Fertigation/nutrition

Also the fertiliser scheme is adjusted. The most important change is that we try to achieve a nitrate level of between 10 and 15 mmol with a EC of 2,7 to keep the plant generative.

Labour

The best harvest frequency is 2 times /week. The visibility of the fruits is good and it is clear what fruits should be harvested even by inexperienced workers. With this way of working the average fruit weight is around 365 grams.





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