

Cultivation advise Magnus, short day variety in the late season

Magnus is a modern short day variety in the late season from Flevo Berry. The variety has large attractive, conical, bright red fruits with a pleasant taste. The picking performance of Magnus is better than other varieties in the same season. The plants of Magnus have an extensive and profound root system, resulting in an easy vegetative growth. Fertilizer in the soil is easily accessible for Magnus.



Magnus has a minimal need for Nitrogen and is very strong against root diseases and mildew. The fact that the variety needs minimum input and has strong tolerances fits with the consumer desire for low emissions and residue free fruit.

As with all varieties in the late season, flower initiation starts relatively late in autumn. To ensure a long period of flower initiation, a timely generative impulse is needed.

For a successful Magnus harvest, one should take care of the following cultivation- and fertilization measures;

The year before planting (year 0):

- a. Do not grow nitrogen fixing crops (like beans and peas).
- b. Do not plant in very fertile soil. Too much nitrogen will be released through mineralisation.
- c. Prevent use of animal based fertilizer

Year of planting (year 1):

- a. When several varieties are planted, make sure to plant the variety Magnus last.
- b. There is not yet an unambiguous planting date for frigo plants. Good results were achieved with Magnus plantations from the beginning of June to 10 July.
- c. Plant fresh plants and plugplants around 15th of August.
- d. 25.000 plants per hectare is sufficient in single row systems, with a plant distance of 100x40cm.
- e. Create a general level of fertilizer far before planting.
- f. When Nitrogen is used for a good start, only do it with short acting fertilizers like Calcium Nitrate.
- g. Do not use calcium cyanamide (CaCN₂) as soil disinfection before planting. This contains a lot of slowly-releasing nitrogen.
- h. Prevent use of Nitrogen, 2 weeks after planting.
- i. When Magnus starts growing, be very reluctant with irrigation/drip. Frequent irrigation stimulates vegetative growth and postpones flower initiation.
- j. Remove runners regularly.

The first year of harvest (year 2):

- a. From April to 14 days before harvest limited fertilization with Nitrogen can be done. Beginning of April one could for example use a one-time supply of a NPK fertilizer (max 40kg pro hectare).
- b. At the latest 14 days before harvest one could use a quick releasing Nitrogen fertilizer. Do not exceed more than 15 kg of nitrogen at a time. Aim for a max N-min value of 30.
- c. During and after harvest no more nitrogen, to prepare for a proper start of flower initiation for year 3.
- d. Cutting the leaves is possible after harvest
- e. Remove runners regularly
- f. Be reluctant with irrigation after harvest. Frequent irrigation stimulates vegetative growth and postpones flower initiation



Second harvest year (year 3):

- a. Fertilize according to own strategy.
- b. Remove plants after harvest

If there is a need to harvest a third year, please take of the same measures of year 2.