

The environment counts

The idea that without nature no life is possible, is growing stronger by the day. Van den Berk Nurseries realises this very well. Pristine and natural surroundings are highly appreciated by them. Since a few years integrated control has been applied. Although occasional chemical application is necessary, the use of environmentally unfriendly means is restricted to a minimum. Most control is done by nature itself. Chemical means only serve as a correction when it cannot be done in any other way.

When using integrated control the crop is checked accurately whether it is contaminated. If this is the case, then it is checked if nature can heal itself or chemical means need to be applied. In many cases it is only a matter of helping nature a little bit. As an example, Van den Berk Nurseries has put

out lady bugs (*hippodamia convergens*) to beat aphids. On a test area of 20 hectares useful micorrhizal fungi have been spawn.

Under professional guidance the effect is checked. Parasitic nematodes are used to control the larvae of the weevil. Under big trees grass grows, so the use of herbicides is not necessary. Weed between the rows is controlled mechanically by using a cultivator.

Should chemical control be necessary, then a special spray protocol has been developed. This takes care that the chemical means only reach the places where they are supposed to work, namely in the tree and not in the shoulders or the water of the ditches.

For, a better environment starts at the Nursery of Van den Berk.

