



In addition to Daylight Agro LED's, Jack Alblas is also experimenting with blue light.

glasshouses need to be built that are taller than necessary to ensure a minimum distance between the top of the crop and the lights.

"Agro LEDs produce no heat on the side giving out light and a minimal amount on the upper side," he stressed. "All today's sodium lights need to be fitted above the irrigation system, which again means that a higher than average structure is required. Our units are waterproof which means that they can be fitted lower."

Although HortiFair visitors will be able to get all the details from Flowmagic, the price for the new technology remains a mystery. All we can confirm at this stage is that it will come at a premium, but the company said that considering the benefits, Agro LEDs will be cheaper in the long run.

Whilst the company is looking to recruit a number of growers at the show willing to try out a few lamps and different systems, a number of Dutch growers are already working with a number of its Agro LEDs.

One of these includes bell pepper grower Jack Alblas. Operating on 3.6 hectares of glass and with Syngenta's Sopra, I was fortunate to be the first to take a look at the work.

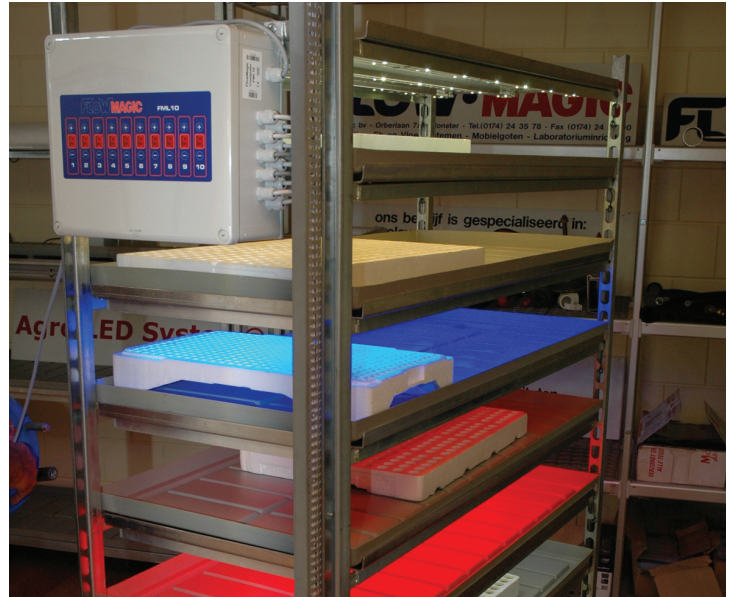
It concerns a modular

system of 10m-8m the Daylight Agro LEDs, and 2m with Blue ones.

Although the plants went into the glasshouse on December 13, it was not until the end of January that the lamp units were installed. Although positioned directly above the crop, by the end of April the light units were lowered within the crop, which was where they could be found during my visit.

The lamps are switched on every day for 19 hours, even when the sun is shining.

Jack Alblas said: "Although there is always plenty of natural light at the top of the canopy, light levels lower



Flowmagic has already supplied a number of these Agro LED trolleys to seed breeders, plant raisers, and even transport companies.

down are not so good. The lamps help to boost light levels, which leads to better plant growth and increased production levels."

Last year, he produced an average of 37kg/sq m and he said that so far this season the new lamps have already led to an extra 2kg/sq m when compared to the rest of the glasshouse.

"I confidently expect a 10% increase in production

(3.7kg/sq m) from the Daylight Agro LEDs," he said.

Although it is too early to talk about the blue lamps, as these were only recently installed, he is already convinced of the benefits of the Daylight lamps and believes that it is the future.

"I am amazed that this 10% extra production comes from just a small amount of energy of just three watts per plant, and in a glasshouse that I

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