



PHILIPS

Horticulture
LED Solutions

Case study
Rudy Raes

Destelbergen, Belgium



Philips GreenPower LED toplighting

**Higher quality and
lower costs** thanks to LED

Higher yield with lower energy costs



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The uniformity and quality of our crops has increased.
LED gets us stronger rooting.

Rudy Raes , Owner Rudy Raes Bloemzaden NV



Background

Rudy Raes Bloemzaden in Destelbergen is a leading company in the production and sale of young plants (power plugs) from seeds and cuttings, and in the improvement of primroses. This family business was founded by Omer Raes in 1927. In the meantime, Rudy Raes is at the helm and the fourth generation is ready to take charge.

Quality is given high priority at the family business, says Raes. The customers – primarily professional gardeners and mail-order companies – want perfection. Nothing more and nothing less. The right lighting also plays an essential role in this.

The challenge

Raes strives for a beautiful, full crop of high, uniform quality. That could no longer be achieved with the old lighting (HPS with a light level of 50 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$). “Our lamps were nearing

the end their life.” He therefore contacted PCS Ornamental Plant Research in Destelbergen. They discussed what kind of lighting would satisfy the company’s needs, which were not limited to the quality of the crop. Such factors as fire safety, service life, air humidity and the energy consumption are also important to Raes.

The solution

Research conducted with PCS Ornamental Plant Research showed that better quality could be obtained with LED. In addition, Raes can light more intensively with LEDs because these lamps remain cool. Together with the plant specialist, Rudy Raes then looked for the best lighting recipe and the best light solution. “Philips Lighting has a lot of knowledge about light, for example, about its relationship to plant growth and crop management. To us, Philips Lighting is not just a sparring partner, but also a source

of information,” says Rudy. “This means that I have also gained a lot of knowledge through our collaboration. And we received excellent support.”

In January 2016 they decided to install GreenPower LED toplighting (65 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$). This top lighting was installed on a surface area of 4,000 m^2 . The lamps give off uniform light distribution and the modules (High Output module DR/W LB) can be switched on and off separately. Raes also took these characteristics into account in its ultimate decision.



Advantages

“The uniformity and the quality of our crops have greatly improved. This is how LEDs provide better rooting,” according to Raes. Due to the higher light level and the better uniformity of the light, the crop is stronger, fuller and more compact. The cultivation of vegetables under LED is going well, and even herbs grow well under the new lighting system. An additional advantage is that any possible fungal diseases can be detected more easily. Production is at least as important as the quality of the crop. They have increased too thanks to the LEDs. The energy costs have also dropped. “We are very satisfied,” says Raes. “We are getting even better results than we expected!”

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Philips Lighting is not only a sparring partner, **but also a source of information.**

Rudy Raes, Owner Rudy Raes Bloemzaden NV



Facts

Grower

Rudy Raes Bloemzaden NV

Sector

Floriculture

Crop

Young, one-year-old and multi-year plants from seeds and cuttings

Location

Destelbergen, Belgium

Solution

Philips GreenPower LED toplighting

Philips LED Horti Partner

Maïs Automatisering

Results

High, uniform quality of the crops, lower energy consumption and higher production volumes.



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