

PE 013 **Refrigerant based dehumidification**

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Red ROOFS NUTSERY Ltd Specialist Baby Plum Tomato Grower





How do they work?









Simple energy costs



Cost of electricity	Cost of heat (CoP of 4.0)	Equivalent cost of gas (85% efficient boiler)
9 p/kWh	2.3 p/kWh	1.9p/kWh (56p/Therm)
6p/kWh	1.5p/kWh	1.3p/kWh (37p/Therm)

But there's more....



A bit more physics



• What happens when the vents are open?

- Lose the energy in the water vapour (latent heat)
- Lose the energy in 20°C air that is replaced with say 10°C air (specific heat)
- This adds 1 to the CoP
 - New CoP is 5.0

Cost of electricity	Cost of heat (CoP of 5.0)	Equivalent cost of gas (85% efficient beiler)
9 p/kWh	1.8 p/kWh	1.5p/kWh (45p/Therm)
6p/kWh	1.2p/kWh	1.0p/kWb (30p/Therm)





- 4 dehumidifiers in 6,000 m²
- Each unit
 - Consumes 10 kW electricity
 - Removes 45 litres/hr of water



Energy savings

• Heat use comparison





Energy savings

• Financials

- Electricity 6.0p/kWh (bit kind)
- Gas 67.5p/Therm (fair)
- 1 Ha





To end of May 2013

- Conventional block used 255 kWh/m² of heat
- Dehumidifier block used 202 kWh/m² of heat
- Saved 53 kWh/m² of heat / 62 kWh/m² of gas
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- Used 13 kWh/m² of electricity
- Season-long CoP of 4.8









Optimise the production with the Drygair concept

- Plant model more generative as traditional plant model.
 - Remove more leaves.
 - Arrange a more generative climate as in the traditional compartment.





Optimise the Drygair concept with the correct plant model

- The Drygair concept have a positive effect on the reduction of the botrytis.
 - The humidity can be in a higher range: 80–85 %.
 - The more generative plant model can handle the higher humidity without a lost of yield.





A bit of optimism



Assume the yield reduction can be resolved

- Capital cost: £130–£150k per Ha
- An energy saving of £30,000 per Ha seems possible
- Simple return in 5 years

• And

What if we can use fewer breathable screens as a result?....