

GROWING PEPPER IN SCREEN HOUSES

**Y. Zvieli¹, B. Gamliel¹, R. Golan², Y. Zabari²
M. Teltel³, A. Shikarji⁴, R. Chen⁴
and Edna Mezarfi⁴**

Growing autumn pepper for export in screen houses to reduce radiation was tested in a commercial plot at Paran in the Arava. Screening nets giving 20 – 60% shade were used.

Timing of screening. Three dates were tested, using screens giving 20% shade: after the thinning of seedlings (early screening), at full fruit set, and when colour of fruit was breaking. The principal effect of early screening was to induce growth of tall and open plants, to delay harvest, and to prolong the harvesting period, as compared with later screenings. Screens giving 20% shade failed to protect the crop adequately from frost damage.

Frost protection. Eleven screens, applied late, were tested for frost protection. An aluminium coated screen giving 50% shade and a net giving 60% shade gave good protection from severe frost on the 16th-18th January 1993. Under the screens giving up to 30% shade the amount of yellow fruit was less than under the other screens. Harvest was delayed under screens giving high percentages of shade.

¹ Extension Service, Ministry of Agriculture.

² R & D, Arava.

³ Agricultural Research Organisation, Bet Dagan.

⁴ Paran cooperative settlement.