

THE COMMERCIAL

GREENHOUSE

January 2012

GROWER



Progress in pots & trays

Cyclamen Trials

Machinery Update

Lighting Developments

Dehumidifier offers 50% heat saving

A Ventilated Latent Heat Converter (VLHC) developed by the Israeli company Agam and seen at HortiFair by John Edmonds offers potential in cold-climate glasshouses.

The VLHC takes humid air from inside the glasshouse, optionally along with fresh air from outside. This is then blown through a matrix of desiccant filled elements – the elements are somewhat akin to a radiator – where the water vapour condenses, releasing its latent heat to the desiccant. This heat is then released into the greenhouse as warmed, dried air. The unit takes the desiccant liquid and



removing the moisture from it, vents that to the open air. Agam the firm exhibiting the unit claimed this results in saving of heating costs of at least 50% which can reach just over 75%.

Car park greenhouse

Vancouver-based Valcent Products have entered into an agreement with EasyPark, the corporate managing company for the city's car parks, to build a 6,000 sq ft greenhouse on the roof of a car park in central Vancouver.

The green house will be constructed in January with the first crops due in April. It will be clad with fluoropolymer sheets rather than glass to enhance light transmission and reduce the risk of wind damage.

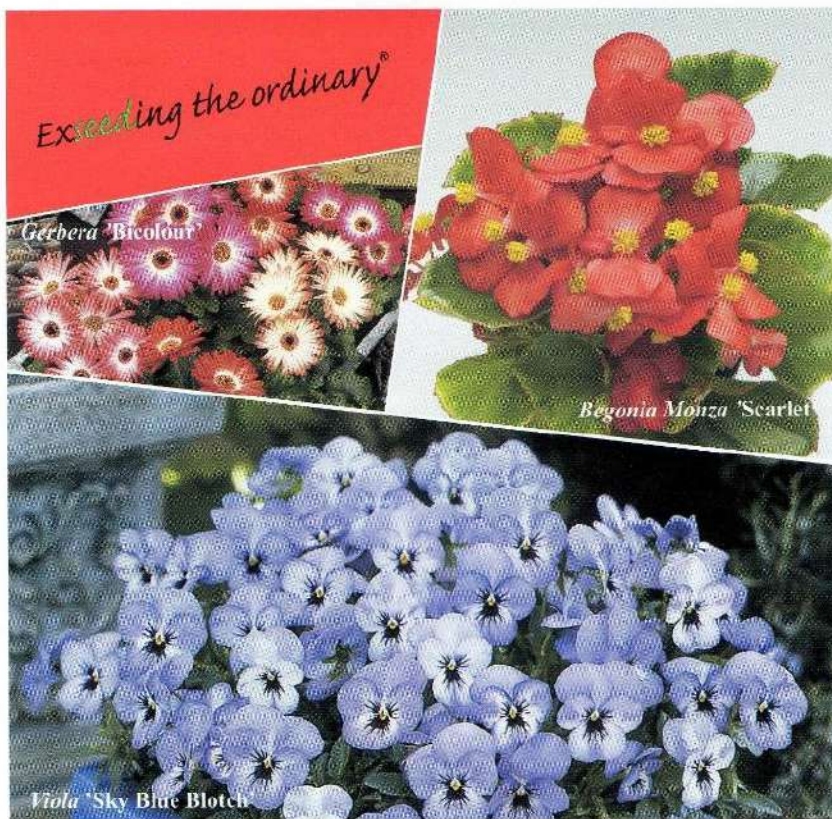
Heat will normally be provided by sunshine but during the colder months hydroelectric power will be used.

Inside the greenhouse will be 4 m high stacks of

growing trays on motorised conveyors that will move plants up, down and around for irrigation and to capture the sunlight. The final movement will be into position for easy harvesting.

The chief operating officer of Valcent, Christopher Ng, said: "The trays will produce about the same amount of produce as 6.4 hectares of open fields.

Currently our lettuce comes from California, Mexico and even Chile so the food miles savings are just phenomenal". The Launceston, Cornwall UK based VertiCrop system will grow at least 20 varieties of lettuces, herbs and green vegetables.



IPM ESSEN

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