



Royal
Houweling

Bright

eco-coating

Everything is done by feel. You have to move with the weather, and that also applies to the approach to chalking.



André van der Burg
Kwekerij André van der Burg

If it reaches 25 degrees in mid-May, that tells me enough, then the chalk goes on.



At Kwekerij André van der Burg in Berkel en Rodenrijs, everything revolves around craftsmanship and timing. André grows *Skimmia* in various pot sizes, a plant that is sensitive to sun and heat. His nursery has been a familiar presence in the region for many years. What once started as a small growing operation has grown into a modern nursery where craftsmanship and family hands come together.

"We grow only *Skimmia*," André explains. "It's a plant with character. In spring they flush beautifully, but they don't tolerate bright sunlight well. That's why protection against heat is crucial. A screen blocks the radiation, but with chalk you keep out the real heat."

The nursery combines experience, craftsmanship, and a strong sense of timing. With one permanent employee, three daughters who help out in the business, and a temporary worker, the operation remains small-scale and personal. "We do a lot ourselves, and I really like that. You see the results of your work immediately. And when the weather cooperates, it's pure enjoyment."



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Chalking it himself

André applies the coating himself. "I enjoy doing it, and it saves some money as well." Using his bicycle with two spray booms, he manually sprayed about 8,000 square meters, including the façades. In total, he used 15 buckets of Bright Eco-Coating, which he applied between May 15 and May 20 with 100 percent coverage. "If the wind is coming from behind, it goes on nice and evenly. But with the wrong wind, you end up with a white face," he laughs.

"Everything is done by feel," André says. "You look at the weather, you look at the plants, and then you decide. If I think it's going to rain in the evening, I don't chalk. After a few warm days, I do, because then it dries in well and stays on nicely."

Natural product, natural choice

This year, André chose Bright Eco-Coating for the first time. "I heard it's better for the environment. We have to move in that direction sooner or later," he says matter-of-factly. "Sometimes things go too far when it comes to sustainability, but the things we can do, we should just do them. Why wouldn't I try it? Of course, it does have to work properly. In October, you could still see it clearly on the glass. That's when it actually becomes more humid, and I would prefer it to have already worn off by then. Maybe I drove a bit too slowly, which made the coverage slightly too high. In any case, it stays on well."

Tip for other growers

"Give the product time to dry in properly. I feel it adheres better that way. It needs to bond well to the glass. Don't apply chalk if you know it's going to rain in the evening, because then it may not adhere sufficiently and you'll have to chalk again a few weeks later."

Sometimes fellow growers tell me that the leaves look "more yellow" than last year. For me, everything comes down to feel. If it rains more often, nutrients are washed out and you add more feed. In dry weather, that's not necessary.

When will he chalk again next year? "If it's 25 degrees in mid-May, that tells me enough. Then the chalk goes on."

