

## **Due to energy challenges, the cavity screen appears to be getting a second life**

It's back: the cavity screen. Earlier research in 2018 by Peter van Weel had already demonstrated its benefits. Now that there is more than ever a need for energy-saving measures, the cavity screen seems to be entering a second phase of use. Gerdo Wennekers of Doek en Draad confirms this as well. Recently, the installer placed a cavity screen consisting of two Luxous screens at Carni Flora in Aalsmeer, the plant nursery of Justin van Kessel.



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Justin is the type of grower who bases his strategy on research, facts, and figures. He thoroughly investigated the cavity screen concept, in which a space with still air is created between two closely mounted screen cloths, resulting in an insulating effect.

### **“Logically, the concept is sound”**

“It's not a new technology, of course. Cavity walls have been known for years and are a proven method of insulation. Purely logically, the concept is sound. The research by Peter van Weel confirms the insulating effect,” says Justin.

Taking the step to be one of the first to adopt a cavity screen installation was therefore not a big risk for him. “I trust the research that has been done and the advice from Peter.”

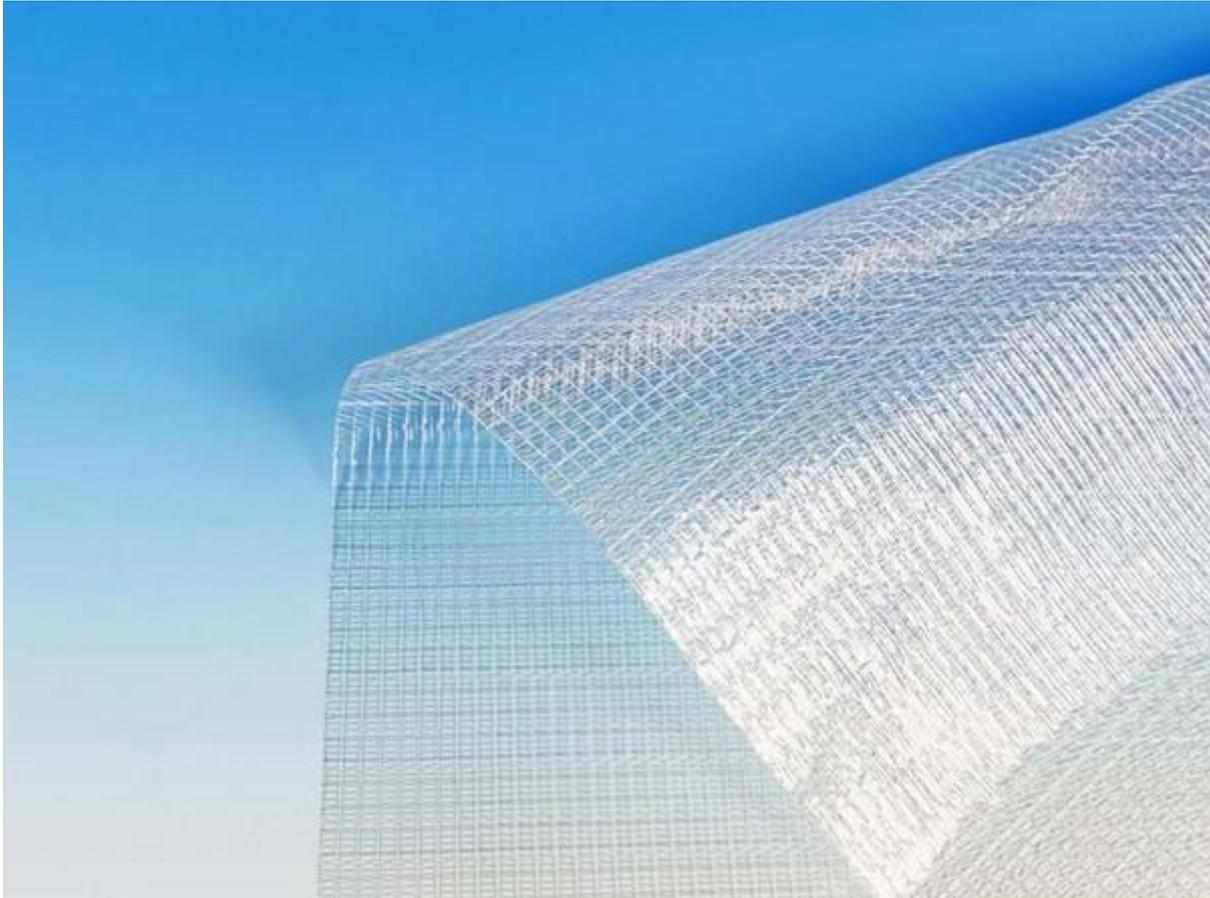
The only uncertain aspect is how the humidity balance in the greenhouse will behave. “But I have good sensors for that. So I can monitor it well. If there turns out to be too much moisture, we will decide what makes the most sense—ventilating or dehumidifying.”



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Justin chose two Luxous screens (LUXOUS 1147 FR) for the cavity screen to allow as much light as possible into the greenhouse. “Luxous is a relatively compact package compared to other screens. And it lets a lot of light through. Those were my main requirements.”

Below the cavity screen installation, a shading screen is also installed.



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### **Growing demand for cavity screens**

Doek en Draad carried out the installation. Gerdo is pleased that demand for cavity screens is increasing. “Last week I already sold two more installations for next year.”

He explains that for some growers, it is a smart—or even the only—option. “Not everyone can fit two energy screens. With a cavity screen, you only need one installation, and you can still save energy. There are also growers, like Justin, who want a different type of screen on the second installation. That is also possible.”

The installation of the cavity screen at Carni Flora took slightly longer than usual due to the complexity of the greenhouse. “It is a wide-span greenhouse with fixed tables underneath, which gave us limited working space.”

Justin hardly experienced any inconvenience from this. Gerdo explains why: “The shading screen was originally on top, but now it is underneath. We reversed it. That means the energy screen was initially at the bottom. Justin could continue using that screen at night while we installed the cavity screen above it. Once that was finished, we installed the shading screen underneath.”

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