

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN METHYL IODIDE RESEARCH

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Methyl iodide is an attractive alternative to methyl bromide because of its ready destruction by light near the surface of the earth. Because of this convenient property, methyl iodide has been estimated to have an Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) of much less than 0.2.

Methyl iodide acts as a general biocide by exactly the same chemical mechanism as methyl bromide

In our work over the past few years, methyl iodide has been shown to be better than methyl bromide in controlling soil born pathogens and weeds.

Application of methyl iodide in the field can be carried out with existing commercial equipment.

Three groups who evaluate chemicals for their potential carcinogenicity, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) have re-evaluated the status of methyl iodide and no longer consider it to be a human carcinogen.

1. Methyl iodide as a Soil Fumigant. US Patent 5,518,692 , Nigel M. Grech, Howard D. Ohr, and James J. Sims for the Regents of the University of California, May 21, 1996.
2. H. D. Ohr, J. J. Sims, N. M. Gretch, J. O. Becker, and M. E. McGiffen, Methyl iodide, an Ozone-Safe Alternative to Methyl Bromide as a Soil Fumigant. *Plant Disease*, **80**, 731-735 (1996).