

## **ALTERNATIVES TO SOIL APPLICATIONS OF METHYL BROMIDE: CASE HISTORIES**

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Methyl Bromide is a critical pesticide used in the production of many fruit and vegetable crops. It is a broad spectrum pesticide serving as an insecticide, nematocide, herbicide and fungicide. A phase out of methyl bromide use by the year 2001 will have devastating consequences for U.S. fruit and vegetable growers and packers. No alternatives exist that will effectively substitute for methyl bromide. Alternative chemical and non-chemical production and marketing practices can lower the impact of the loss of methyl bromide, but it is estimated that even with these alternatives, Florida will lose over \$620 million in shipping point value, worth over \$1 billion in total sales, and more than 13,000 jobs. Improved knowledge and new technology are needed to keep U.S. growers competitive with international competitors in the U.S. market.