

Methyl Bromide Alternatives Outreach
San Diego, CA

USDA Forest Service
Missoula Technology and Development Center
Fort Missoula, Bldg. #1
Missoula, MT 59804

SUBJECT: Pre-Plant Poster

TITLE: Steam: An Alternative to Methyl Bromide

SUMMARY:

Steam has been used to control pathogens in the soil for many years and is not new. During recent decades, pesticides have proven more economical and effective than steam. However, methyl bromide, one of the pesticides most commonly used to treat soils in nursery beds will be banned from use by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2001. MTDC built a machine to inject steam into nursery seedling beds to determine whether the machine could be modified to improve pathogen control and be economically competitive with Methyl Bromide. Numerous injection tools and treatment variations were tried to improve the treatment results. The poster display shows the MTDC machine and the test results for different treatment techniques.