VAPAM®: APPLICATION IS KEY TO SUCCESS
A Viable Alternative for Methyl Bromide

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Vapam, Metam Sodium is a very effective soil fumigant for the control of nematodes(endoparasitic and ectoparasitic), soil-borne diseases, soil-borne insects, germinating weed seeds and symphylids

Vapam differs from other soil fumigants that move with the air molecule in the soil such as Telone,®, Methyl Bromide, Chloropicrin and Vorlex®. Vapam is not as volatile and moves in the soil profile with soil moisture. The "target pest" can not be controlled unless Moisture is at its site in the soil profile.

However, as soon as Vapam contacts soil, it starts to convert into methyl isothiocyanate(MITC), a volatile, highly toxic fumigant. MITC is the primary toxic agent that controls " target pests". Unless it is covered immediately with soil, plastic mulch or moved into soil with water, MITC can be lost very rapidly through vaporization.

Vapam has been applied successfully using: solid set sprinklers, linear movable sprinklers, drip irrigation, soil drench, spray blades, shank injection and Ro-to-vate & roll. Choose the application method that best suits the target pest so that the method of application will place the highest concentration of MITC(Vapam)in that section of soil profile where the pest is located. Vapam should placed at or slightly below the target pest. Regardless of the method of application, certain conditions must be met to insure Vapam's effectiveness in controlling " target pests". These conditions include field preparation, soil moisture(50-80% field capacity), soil temperature(50-90º F), proper calibration of equipment, etc.

Vapam has been effective in controlling weeds, soil born insects, soil borne plant pathogens and nematodes in numerous crops. Vapam in combination with Telone and/or Chlorpicrin has been successfully applied commercially in potato, tomato and strawberry production. Vapam is a viable alternative to Methyl Bromide. Correct application is the key to success. This presentation will discuss several application methods using Vapam for "target pest" control as a viable alternative to methyl bromide.