ENHANCHED YIELD IN STRAWBERRIES WITHOUT USE OF METHYL BROMIDE

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In trials at Salinas, a combination of soil fumigation with chloropicrin and root treatment with an experimental, bacterial based product, increased yield of strawberry over that of the nontreated control.

In trials at Fresno and Parlier, strains of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria were screened for ability to enhance growth of strawberry. Strains that performed well in these small-scale trials were selected for testing in advanced trials in Parlier and Salinas.

Current and on going trials include interactions of selected PGPR strains and methyl iodide and chloropicrin, and advanced PGPR trials in both Parlier and Salinas, and additional screening trials in Parlier.

Advantages

- Biologically based products may establish themselves improving soil microflora
- No methyl bromide required

Disadvantages:

- The experimental products will need to be made commercially available.
- Continued testing is needed to determine if results are consistent in different conditions