IR-4 METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR STRAWBERRIES AND TOMATOES

Jack A. Norton*

IR-4 has initiated a methyl bromide alternatives program in strawberries and has also laid the groundwork for a program in tomatoes for initiation during the fall of 2000. These programs are funded primarily by the companies who have products on test and they are supported technically by company representatives involved directly in the conduct of the studies. Objectives in the programs are to evaluate current existing registered alternatives in a manner to optimize performance and to evaluate non-registered products to define optimum use patterns and rates of application.

Trial Locations and Treatment Schedules

California: Trials have been established in two locations in California, with one site located near Oxnard and the other near Salinas. These tests were established in early September, 1999. Tomato trial locations are in San Diego County. Both tests will be run on pole tomatoes and are tentatively scheduled for initiation in February, 2000.

Florida: Tests are underway in Florida at two sites near the major production area of Plant City/Dover. These trials were initiated in mid-September, 1999. Trial locations for the Florida tomato trials will be one site near Zellwood and the other further north at a site near Line Oak. These trials are scheduled to be initiated in February/March, 2000.

Treatments

Treatments in the strawberry trials and treatments scheduled for the tomato trials differ.

Strawberries: Treatments in the strawberry trials include DiTera Biological Nematacide, Enzone (sodium tetrathiocarbonate), Basamid (dazomet), Telone C-35 (1,3 dicloropropene + chloropicrin), metam sodium, methyl iodide + chloropicrin, and methyl bromide + chloropicrin. Plantpro 45 (an iodine based product) is planned for strawberry trials to begin in 2000.

Tomatoes: In addition to the above treatments for strawberries, fosthiazate will be included in IR-4 tomato trials and evaluated for control of nematodes. Another possible treatment for tomatoes is a combination treatment of abamectin plus mefenoxam applied through drip tubes installed in the beds to a depth of 3-4 inches below the soil surface. This combination has the potential for control of nematodes and the soilborne disease complex controlled by Ridomil fungicide. Formulation optimization must be done before this combination is included.

Presentation

This presentation will include any data collected from the 1999 strawberry trials which are newly established and ongoing at the time of the conference. It will also include an updating of plans for tomatoes. The presentation will also review other areas of methyl bromide alternative research planned for the future by IR-4.