

DEVELOPMENTS IN BROMOSTOP® VIRTUALLY IMPERMEABLE FILM

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BROMOSTOP® is made by IPM (Industria Plastica Monregalese) of Italy who have carried out the following recent developments.

Glue for Broadcast Film

The use of VIF for broadcast fumigation has been inhibited because the nature of the product is such that it prevents solvents in the glue evaporating quickly. As a result broadcast VIF can only be laid slowly if normal glues are used. IPM have now developed a new glue which in combination with their film allows rapid evaporation of the solvents so that VIF broadcast film can be laid at the same speed as LDPE. This is in use in Europe and is being tested in the USA.

VIF Mulch

Much work has been carried out by scientists showing that the use of VIF mulch allows a reduction in the quantity of fumigant required, and often an improvement in the herbicidal effect of alternative fumigants.

However in the past these benefits were offset by the fact that VIF mulch tended to tear during laying so that the speed of tractors had to be drastically reduced. IPM have continued to improve the elasticity of their product and trials have been carried out recently by scientists in California and Florida on Bromostop® mulches. Satisfactory results were obtained at tractor speeds up to 6.5 mph.

National and International Standards for VIF

Bromostop® produced for the European market complies with the standard NFT 54-105 of the French Ministry of Agriculture. This standard is universally accepted in Europe. It specifies that in order that film be classified as VIF its permeability to Methyl Bromide should be not more than 0.20 g/m²/h on the basis of the tests it describes.