CYPERUS SPP. CONTROL WITH REDUCED METHYL BROMIDE RATES UNDER VIF IN PEPPER

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Two field trials were conducted to determine if reduced methyl bromide plus chlorpicrin (MBr + Pic) rates applied under two types of virtually impermeable films (VIF) could provide the same extent of *Cyperus* spp. control and pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.) crop yield as the commercially-used MBr + Pic rate with low-density mulch. Various treatments compared 98 and 196 kg MB + Pic/ha under VIF versus 392 kg/ha of the fumigant with conventional polyethylene mulch. Results showed that there were no differences in *Cyperus* control and pepper yield with both reduced MBr + Pic rates and the commercially-applied rate with low-density mulch. It appeared that the increased fumigant retention by the VIF allowed maintaining the same weed control as the high MBr + Pic rate.