

Current status and distribution of pest problems in California: Pro's and Con's of Soil Disinfestation Practices on the Central Coast of California.

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The transition away from methyl bromide, which has been used with great success as a pre-plant fumigant for more than half a century in California strawberries and caneberries, is not an easy one. Fumigant alternatives such as chloropicrin and metam formulations have filled part of the gap, and others such as plant disease resistance, addition of certain soil amendments, artificial growing media and horticultural adjustments are all being extensively researched. While the talk will be an attempt to summarize a number of these, it will also be discussed that since none of these appear to be able to achieve the same levels of plant performance on their own as that enjoyed with methyl bromide, success will very likely require an integrated approach combining a number of methods.