

# Field Fumigations in Santa Cruz County

Information from the Santa Cruz Agricultural Commissioner's Office







- **Fumigation of a field prior to planting is an effective way of controlling several major soil pests that impact crop production. By controlling these pests, production yields are greatly improved.**

- **Since 1960, field fumigation has been an important component of conventional strawberry production in California. By utilizing field fumigants, production yields have been shown to increase up to 94%.**





**•A grower must apply with our office to have a field fumigated prior to planting their crop. The primary crops where pre-plant fumigation is done are strawberries, caneberries (raspberries and blackberries), and Brussels sprouts.**

**• Many fields are fumigated only once every two years because of the integrated pest management practice of crop rotation; some may be fumigated annually.**






# How and why are fumigations done?

- Field fumigants are used to control diseases, pathogens and weeds in the soil.
- Fumigants are injected (*not sprayed*) into the ground and covered with soil or applied through the irrigation system with special equipment.
- Most all fumigations require a specialized plastic tarp be used to cover the area treated to keep emissions in the field.







**• Field fumigations are done by registered agricultural pest control businesses that are specifically licensed by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to perform fumigations.**

**• In order to have a field fumigated, the operator of the property must obtain a Restricted Material Possession and Use Permit from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and a complete site specific fumigation work plan must be reviewed and approved.**



**With broadcast (injection) field fumigation, a tractor that is specially equipped injects the fumigant into the soil while simultaneously covering the treated area with a specific tarp designed for field fumigations.**





**Totally Impermeable Film (TIF) is the specialized tarp that is used. These tarps significantly reduce fumigant emissions from the field of application.**







**Drip fumigation (chemigation) is another method that can be used to apply fumigant to a field. With chemigation, the fumigant is applied to the prepared and tarped planting beds in the field through the drip irrigation system.**





**All approachable corners of the fumigated field are posted with warning signs throughout the application.**





Fumigated fields have a designated area that surrounds the field called a buffer zone. Buffer zones are posted with an additional sign that alerts people not to enter the area. Buffer zones remain posted for 48 hours after completion of the application.

**DO NOT ENTER /  
NO ENTRE**



**3-DICHLOROPROPENE /  
CHLOROPICRIN FUMIGANT  
BUFFER ZONE**

**Name of Product:**

<input type="checkbox"/> TELONE C-35	<input type="checkbox"/> PIC-CLOR 60
<input type="checkbox"/> INLINE	<input type="checkbox"/> PIC-CLOR 60 EC

CERTIFIED APPLICATOR IN CHARGE OF THE FUMIGATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ JOB NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



**Fumigants begin to breakdown rapidly underneath the tarp once applied to the soil and under exposure to the sun.**





**Tarps are cut and removed after a minimum of nine days following the completion of the fumigation.**





**Once the application site is cleared,  
the field is planted for the next  
growing season.**

