

MIDAS® SOIL FUMIGANT UPDATE – 2009

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Midas (Iodomethane) soil fumigant has been successfully launched by Arysta LifeScience North America in the United States and is being developed as a Methyl Bromide alternative globally for pre-plant uses. Growers across the globe are facing decreased availability of Methyl Bromide, and in many cases, alternatives are not adequate to address local situations. Such needs are driving new innovations, such as Midas fumigant and unique application technologies.

Midas is being developed in all high value crop markets around the globe ranging from Chile to Japan. Launches are planned over the next 3 years in markets like Turkey, Japan, Morocco and Mexico. A key example of a market which has experienced an early phase out of MB in 2006 and has limited other chemical fumigant options (chloropicrin and 1,3 D are not registered or have been phased out) is Turkey. High usage of solarization and post-plant usage of nematicides have not resulted in nematode control as experienced with the use of MB and has led to concerns on residues on produce destined for export to the EU and lower yields. Midas has shown excellent efficacy against nematodes on greenhouse crops like tomatoes.

In the United States, Midas has been extensively tested in research and commercial trials and has been registered for use in forty-seven States – (*excluded*: California, Washington and New York). Registration efforts in these States are progressing.

Midas was successfully launched into major markets in the Eastern USA in 2008, including tomato, pepper and strawberry. Approximately 12,500 acres have been treated commercially with Midas as of September 2009. A major emphasis with these commercial launches has been Qualified Applicator Training and product stewardship.

Use of new technologies requires adaptation to specific conditions. In a surprising result, Midas caused erratic injury to peppers under certain unique conditions in Florida. The cause of this phytotoxicity and mitigation measures are being investigated. This represents approximately less than 1.5 % of the acres treated in the Eastern USA.

In California, a major market that requires use of soil fumigation for successful commercial agricultural production, extensive trials were successfully completed in 2009 under a Research Authorization Program. At twenty-one sites, use of Midas under a variety of application practices proved to be an effective alternative to Methyl Bromide. These Research Authorizations were renewed for the 2009-2010 season, and Arysta LifeScience will continue to evaluate and develop Midas on California crops.

Development work continues globally to evaluate MIDAS in changing agricultural practices, and to optimize dose rates using technologies such as highly retentive films and unique application technologies, such as *Symmetry™*.

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