

"GELLED" METHYL BROMIDE TRIAL

Del Mugford, Missouri

I would be glad to tell of my experiences with Gelled Methyl Bromide, although the small test is rather inconclusive.

As you recall, the treatment was performed on one unit of nine beds in Block 10, which is utilized as a pine production block. Treatment was performed the first week of May with continual rains following, which postponed the actual seeding of the area until June 6th. We then seeded two beds each of Scotch, Jack and Shortleaf Pine.

Weed control would have to be considered excellent, but germination was very poor and spotty. Whether this was caused by poor treatment of the area, the unusually wet weather following treatment or pre-emergence damping off, is difficult to determine. Upon a closer check of the seedbeds today, I find the seed did germinate, but was immediately attacked by pre-emergence damping off or killed by retained chemical.

The results of this test indicate the gelled Methyl Bromide is a flop in our heavy soil, compared to the results we have been getting with the tarps and gas.

I believe we should allow this thing to die on the vine until further tests are available under more favorable conditions. This may prove to be another good nursery tool with some polishing as to time of application, soil condition prior to treatment, etc. Our entire project was probably a poor test of the product.