Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD)

- With ASD we consistently get an 80-100% reduction of Verticillium dahliae microsclerotia in soil using 9 ton/ac of rice bran as a carbon source.
- Yields under ASD generally equivalent or better than fumigant controls.
- Initial data suggest it is an economically viable option.
- Currently testing its effectiveness against other key pathogens.
- Also now testing at a larger field scale.



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History of ASD

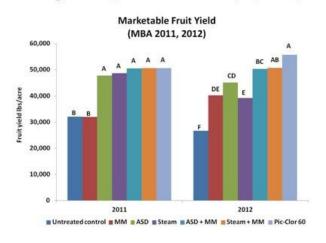
- ASD was developed as an alternative to soil fumigation in the Netherlands and Japan, and is currently used extensively in greenhouse production in Japan.
- It has been found to be effective at suppressing many soil borne diseases, as well as nematodes for a range of crops.
- When combined with solarization, where temperatures are high enough, it may also control weeds.

How to do ASD

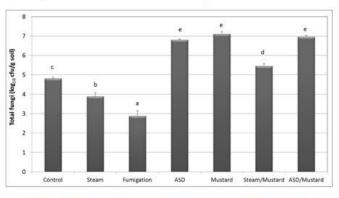
- 1. Spread carbon source such as rice bran
- 2. Incorporate in soil
- 3. Form beds and lay drip tape
- 4. Cover with plastic tarp
- 5. Irrigate and keep at field capacity
- 6. Leave for 3 weeks
- 7. Punch holes in plastic
- 8. Transplant strawberries a few days later



Non-fumigant Trial, Watsonville 2010/11, 2011/12



MBA, Post-treatment Total fungi: November 2011

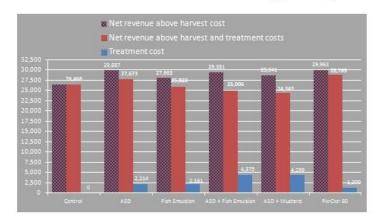


All ASD and mustard-based treatments stimulated total fungal densities, likely inducing an elevated competitive environment.

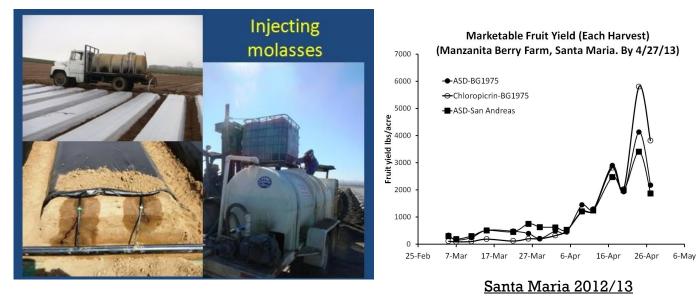
Watsonville 2011/12



Santa Maria 2012 Partial Costs and Net Returns (\$ per Acre)



Santa Maria 2011/12



MSM or MM: Mustard seed meal.