



# VIF PLASTIC for STRAWBERRIES

## A Step-by-Step Guide for Strawberry Growers Participating in the NRCS EQIP 595 Practice: VIF or metallic film mulch

VIF plastic – Very Impermeable Film – is a relatively new type of plastic mulch film that reduces soil-to-atmosphere gas flow of fumigants. Because it holds the fumigant in the soil longer, you may be able to reduce the amount of fumigant needed. It also increases the efficacy of some fumigants. Some growers have also found that because it holds moisture in the soil longer, it decreases the amount or frequency of irrigation needed.

To be eligible for this practice, you need to have used a soil fumigant with regular plastic mulch (not with VIF) during the previous crop production season. You can choose to use the VIF with methyl bromide or with alternative fumigants (e.g. Telone C-35, MIDAS). If you are using alternative fumigants to methyl bromide, you may also be eligible for the “Reduced-risk Alternative to Methyl Bromide” incentive, and you will need to follow the guidelines and recordkeeping for that practice.

A maximum of 15 acres per operation per year is allowed for the VIF practice. You can receive payment for this practice on the same acreage for up to three years. You can also use this practice for tomatoes, peppers, or other crops requiring fumigation.

### **STEP 1. Acquire VIF plastic or contract for custom application.**

Most fumigation suppliers now carry VIF plastic and custom applicators will now apply it. Choose a VIF material that (ROB ADD SPECS OR DEFINITION HERE\*\*\* ). Current VIF materials may be laid down the same way you put out standard plastic mulch and do not require any special care.

### **Step 2. Calculate appropriate time for plastic-laying and fumigation.**

Follow label requirements to calculate plant-back interval. Many alternative fumigants have longer plant-back periods. Use the table below to help you figure out when to fumigate. Remember that soil moisture and weather can affect both when you will be able to get into the field and these plant-back times. **Rob to fill in table.**

Fumigant	Plant-back Interval	Notes
Methyl bromide 50/50		
Chloropicrin		
Metam Sodium <sup>2</sup> (MS)		
Chloropicrin + MS		
Telone C-35		
PicClor 60		
MIDAS		
Paladin <sup>4</sup>		
ANY OTHER??		

### STEP 3. Lay VIF plastic and fumigate.

For this practice, you must use methyl bromide or alternative fumigant application rates that are at least 25% lower than the maximum labeled rate for the crop to be grown. You may need to modify your equipment to apply at a lower rate. [For information on equipment modifications that may be needed, see .....](#)

**Be sure to follow all label instructions with regard to application, worker protection, bystander safety, cleanup, and re-entry. Note that labeled rates may change from those listed below.**

Fumigant	Label Rate*	Recommended VIF rate	Notes
Methyl bromide 50/50			
Chloropicrin			
Metam Sodium <sup>2</sup> (MS)			
Chloropicrin + MS			
Telone C-35			
PicClor 60			
MIDAS			Label assumes VIF use.
Paladin <sup>4</sup>			
ANY OTHER??			

Document the date you fumigate, the area treated, and the application rate of the fumigant(s) you use on the forms provided. If you are also participating in the Alternative Fumigants Incentive, also record the appropriate information on that recordkeeping form.

### STEP 4. Consider testing beds for residual fumigant and safe planting.

One easy method is a lettuce seed assay. For more information, [see .....](#)