

Custom Fumigation with Vapam HL

Do you need to fumigate?

Fumigation is a big expense at the beginning of the life of a perennial crop, so regardless of which one you choose, send a soil sample to a lab and if necessary speak with a qualified agronomist. The reasons for fumigation are sometimes misunderstood. Often, people believe that if they fumigate, their planting will be safe from soil-borne pests for the life of the stand. This isn't true. The only reason to fumigate is to reduce one or more target soil-borne pests to a low enough level to give your new plants the best chance of a fast and vigorous start. Once established, only your management methods can prevent re-infestation of pests. With good field hygiene producers can maintain low pest levels for years.



Vapam HL

The nature of the fumigation target pest depends on the crop. In raspberries in the Fraser Valley the main target is the root lesion nematode (*Pratylenchus penetrans*). Root knot nematode, stem & bulb nematode and others are treated prior to planting flower bulbs. Fumigation has also been performed pre-plant for control of soil-borne root disease pathogens such as rhizoctonia, pythium, fusarium, verticillium and phytophthora.



Terralink offers a custom fumigation program using exclusively Vapam HL. Unique in British Columbia, we use a combination deep shank applicator and rotovator and roll system, all in one unit. With one pass over the field, our powerful tractor can pull the rotovator and shank injectors at full depth, providing coverage down to 16 inches depending on the soil type and the pre-fumigation soil preparation. A powerful hydraulic roller packs the soil surface to provide a good seal to prevent egress by gases.

How it Works

Vapam HL is pumped through nozzles just behind duck-foot cultivator blades, on shanks that can be adjusted as deep as 16 inches below surface level. Immediately behind the shanks Vapam HL is also sprayed onto the soil surface where it is mixed into the top soil layers with a rotovator. Directly behind that a hydraulically powered roller packs the soil surface to prevent escape of gases. The result is a smooth finish with blanket coverage in all areas of the treatment zone.



Vapam is applied through nozzles underneath duck feet at the bottom of 16" shanks.

Heavy duty rotovator with spray boom above for complete coverage and uniform incorporation.

Power roller packs and seals the soil surface.

Preparation is Key

How well Vapam HL works depends very much on you. TerraLink can do a good job injecting the chemical and sealing the surface, but it is your work before and after application that has the greatest effect on the percent controlled. You are going to spend a lot of money on treatment, so follow these steps for successful fumigation:

1. Cultivate to seedbed quality tilth, at least as deep as the fumigator application depth.
2. You should have as little un-decomposed crop residue as possible by the time the fumigator arrives in your field on treatment day. If you cannot remove it, you must cultivate repeatedly long enough ahead of time to cause any trash to break down and rot.
3. Remove large rocks, stumps, canes and roots.
4. Irrigate the field and keep it moist for at least two weeks prior to the treatment. This keeps the target organisms from becoming dormant in the treatment zone, or from moving below it if the soil has been very dry.
5. Irrigate lightly following fumigation treatment to help seal the surface.
6. When you cultivate the field following treatment, do not work the soil deeper than the application depth.

