



BELL PEPPER YIELD AND DISEASE RESPONSE TO COMPOST AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO METHYL BROMIDE

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In 1999, 2000 and 2001 we grew pepper on black polyethylene mulch with drip irrigation the Horticultural Crop Research Station in Clinton, NC. The plots were treated with the same soil treatment each year, but peppers, tomato, and cucumbers were rotated within the plots so a crop was not on the same land 2 years in succession. The treatments were non amended control, methyl bromide 224 kg per hectare of 98/2 methyl bromide/chloropicrin, control microbotic compost (CMC) applied at two rates and a reactor treated swine waste (RTSW) applied at 6 and 12 tons/ha. The swine waste treatments were grown with 90 and 60% of the normal fertilizer rates. Methyl bromide plots produced the greatest yield and the swine waste with 60% fertilizer had the lowest yields. The high rate of CMC produced yields equal to methyl bromide. The percent marketable was lowest in the RTSW with 60% fertilizer.