

Food Science Chef

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Scientists investigate how to urge insecticide efficiency

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Methyl iodide is a [active ingredient](#) used in an insecticide famous commercially as Midas. Midas is a brew of methyl iodide and chloropicrin, a [rat poison](#), and is used essentially on a fields that will grow strawberries, tomatoes and bell peppers. In a new investigate published this month in a *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, MU researchers complicated because a manufacturer blended a chemicals to establish if a opposite chemical multiple competence be possible.

“We found that a dual chemicals, methyl iodide and chloropicrin, are churned to delayed a recover of methyl iodide and boost a effectiveness,” pronounced Rainer Glaser, highbrow of chemistry in a MU College of Arts Science. “However, we trust that a opposite chemical brew could serve delayed a recover of methyl iodide and concede farmers to use reduction of a pesticide, that would make a area safer for workers and a public.”

Methyl iodide is a fumigant, definition that it fills an atmosphere space with gas, suffocating and poisoning a pests within a airspace. Farm workers dressed in protecting suits request Midas in glass form to fields 10 to 14 days before to planting and cover destiny stand rows with cosmetic sheeting. During that time period, a insecticide is expelled in gas form, suffocating pests in a tip covering of a soil. However, most of a fumigant is invalid as it is mislaid into a atmosphere on focus and during a recover duration due to movement of a area. All of a insecticide is left before a area is planted.

“Farmers use 200 to 300 pounds of Midas per hactare and scarcely 80 percent of a insecticide is not effective in murdering pests,” pronounced Kaitlan Prugger, a co-author and undergraduate researcher. “Gas mislaid to a atmosphere could poise risks to plantation workers and circuitously communities. Even a tiny alleviation in efficacy achieved by a change in a chemical mix could severely revoke a volume of insecticide used per acre.”

The use of methyl iodide is a effect of a Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete a Ozone Layer. Prior to a protocol, farmers used methyl platitude to fumigate strawberry and tomato fields. However, methyl platitude was

found to exhaust a ozone and a use was phased out totally in 2005.

Provided by University of Missouri-Columbia ([news](#) : [web](#))

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