



Back flow requirements have always been an obstacle for the rapid adoption of fertigation. The most recent federal cross connection guidelines published by USC makes a distinction between injecting “under pressure” and “aspirator” injection systems. Since the fertile Earth feeder is not capable of creating back pressure it is classified as an Aspirator injector, and is therefore allowed with either an RPZ, PVB, SVP or an atmospheric vacuum breaker backsiphonage prevention assembly.

Remember, these federal guidelines are not adopted by all water districts, you should check with local officials to determine local backflow requirements. But we have found that in most cases water districts incorporate federal guidelines into their local code.

The current Manuel of Cross-Connection Control Ninth Edition pages 57 & 58 States the following:

**7.2.3.16 Irrigation Systems –Premises having Separate systems – (i.e., Parks Playgrounds, Cemeteries, Golf Courses, Estates, Ranches, etc.)**

An approved backflow prevention assembly shall be installed on each service connection to premises on which there is an irrigations system.

Protection Recommended:

- (a) An air gap or a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly where there is an actual or potential health hazard caused by the installation of facilities for injecting under pressure fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides, soil conditioners and other noxious, toxic or objectionable substances through the irrigation system (i.e., chemigation).
- (b) An air gap or a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly where there is an actual or potential health hazard caused by fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides, soil conditioners and other noxious, toxic or objectionable substances with back pressure conditions. No chemigation present.
- (c) A pressure vacuum breaker (PVB or SVB) or an atmospheric vacuum breaker backsiphonage prevention assembly may be used for on site protection where there is an actual or potential health hazard caused by fertilizers, fungicides, pesticides, soil conditioners and other noxious, toxic or objectionable substances with no source of back pressure (i.e., backsiphonage potential only). See Fig. 7.13

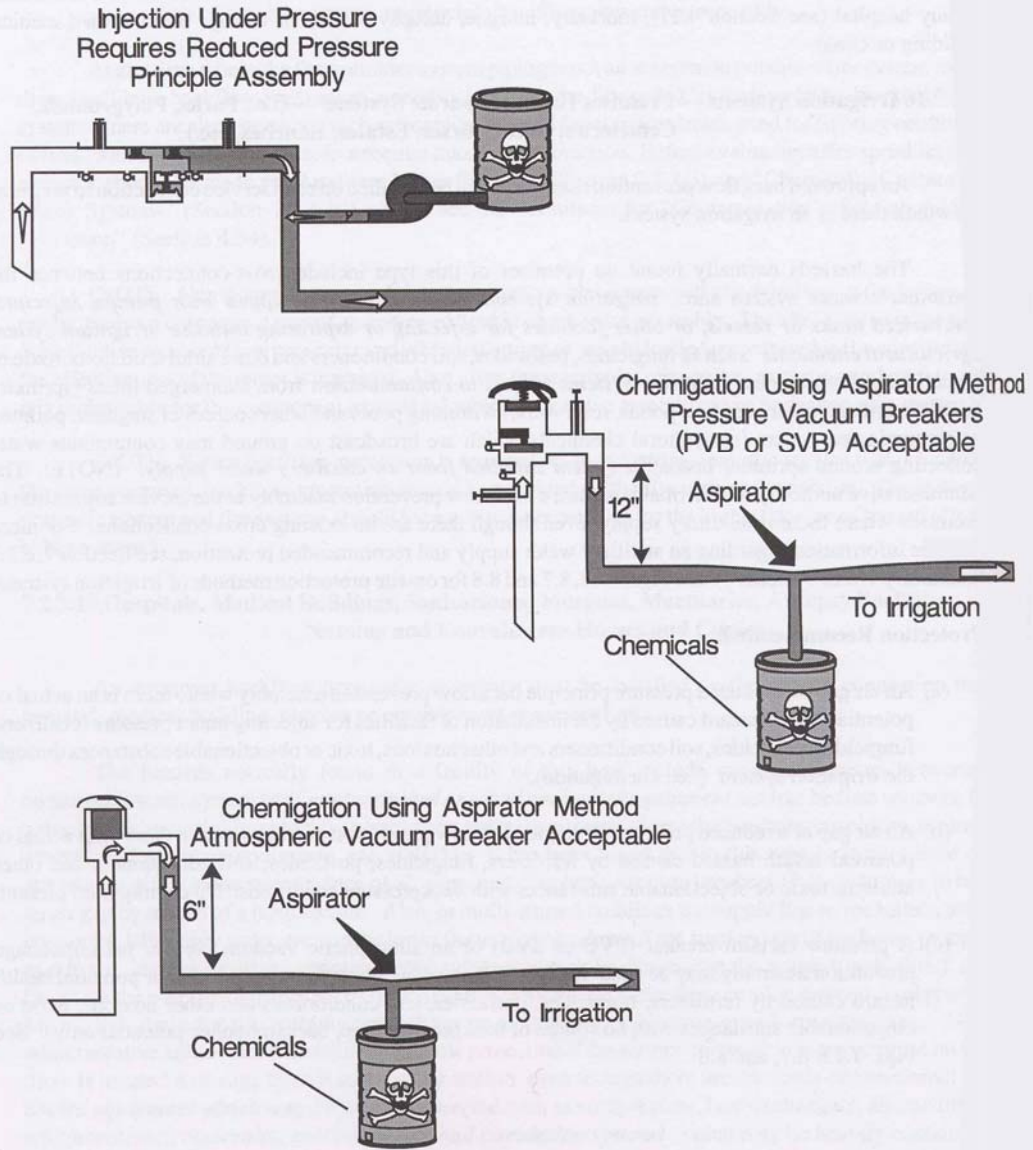


Fig. 7.13  
Typical Chemigation Methods