



## **Result Demonstration/Applied Research Report**

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**2007 Tom Green County  
Cotton Harvest Aid Demonstration  
Cooperators: John and Doug Wilde**

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### **Summary**

Eighteen treatments were applied over the top of cotton on October 1 to prepare for harvest. The plot was established on John and Doug Wilde's farm located on the Southeast side of San Angelo, TX. The chemicals were applied to FiberMax 1880 B2F cotton that had 75 percent of its bolls open. Leaf shed was less than one percent when the plot was established. These plots were evaluated on October 8 (seven days after treatments were applied) and October 15, 2007 (14 days after the treatments were applied and seven days after follow-up treatments were applied). Most of the treatments resulted in an increase in open bolls, leaf defoliation, and leaf desiccation. In this test favorable environmental conditions resulted in faster performance of the harvest aids applied. These included warm day and night temperatures, minimal rainfall with no impact on soil temperature and bright sunny days for most of the test period.

### **Objective**

In the Southern Rolling Plains, cotton is usually planted starting in mid-May. Because of this planting date, many producers do not use harvest aids to terminate the cotton. When growing conditions are favorable, most of the cotton in this area is ready for harvest thirty days before the first killing freeze. The delay in harvest reduces the income of farmers due to the loss of lint yield and fiber quality. Even though the cost of several of the harvest aid treatments is expensive, there is usually a product that is economically justified that can be used effectively for crop termination. The intent of this field test is to: 1) determine the effectiveness of harvest aids at defoliating, desiccating, and opening bolls on cotton; 2) provide producers the opportunity of observing how effectively the harvest aid materials work; and 3) determine the economic feasibility of using the harvest aid material.

## Materials and Methods

Cooperating County Producers: John and Doug Wilde  
Location: Southeast edge of San Angelo, TX

### Crop Production Information:

Variety Planted: FiberMax 1880 B2F  
Planting Date: May 14, 2007  
Planting Rate: 45,000 seeds/acre  
Planting Pattern: Solid on 40 inch rows  
Irrigation: Furrow irrigation  
Number of Irrigations: One application during the season of 4 to 6 inches of water

### Harvest Aid Application Information for October 1, 2007:

Wind Speed: 3.0 to 6.0 miles per hour  
Wind Direction: Southeast  
Air Temperature: 85 to 88<sup>0</sup> Fahrenheit  
Relative Humidity: 48 to 59%  
Carrier: 16.0 gallons of water per acre  
Pressure: 35 pounds per square inch  
Nozzle Size: 11002 extended range flat fan over the top of each row and one 8002 Extended Range nozzle on each side of the row  
Boom Height: 42 inches  
Cotton Height: 28 to 34 inches  
Ground Speed: 4.0 miles per hour  
Application Device: Self propelled rig with 13.33 foot boom  
Plot Size: 13.33 feet X 50 feet  
Test Design: Randomized block design replicated four times

### Harvest Aid Application Information for October 8, 2007:

Wind Speed: 2.0 to 3.0 miles per hour  
Wind Direction: North  
Air Temperature: 75 to 82<sup>0</sup> Fahrenheit  
Relative Humidity: 50 to 62%  
Carrier: 16.0 gallons of water per acre  
Pressure: 35 pounds per square inch  
Nozzle Size: 11002 extended range flat fan over the top of each row and one 8002 Extended Range nozzle on each side of the row  
Boom Height: 42 inches  
Cotton Height: 28 to 34 inches  
Ground Speed: 4.0 miles per hour  
Test Design: Randomized block design replicated four times

Plant Information

At the time of application, the upper most cotton bolls were cross-sectioned, the seed coats were dark, and the cotyledons well developed. Cotton height averaged 30 inches and the percent open bolls averaged 75 percent. Overall the plants were healthy and unstressed and leaf defoliation was less than one percent.

**Weather Information**

Rainfall Information (Date and Amount)

October 3	0.20 inch
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Total October Rainfall	0.20 inch

Maximum and Minimum Air Temperatures for October 1 - October 14, 2007

Date	Max Air	Min Air	Date	Max Air	Min Air
1	89	65	8	89	59
2	89	70	9	83	62
3	93	66	10	85	56
4	91	67	11	86	59
5	91	59	12	88	59
6	90	61	13	89	65
7	88	61	14	86	63

**Results and Discussion**

The cotton at the time of application was 75 percent open and most of the remaining bolls were mature. The application of the harvest aids did impact boll opening, percent leaf defoliation and percent leaf desiccation. Several factors contributed to the success of the harvest aids applied. These include: 1) the cotton was mature; 2) chemical coverage was excellent due to gallonage, pressure used, and wind. Leaf shed was less than one percent when the plot was established. These plots were evaluated on October 8 (seven days after treatments were applied) and October 15, 2007 (14 days after the treatments were applied and seven days after follow-up treatments were applied). In this test several factors resulted in fast performance of the harvest aids applied. These include favorable daytime and nighttime temperatures, sunny and cloud free days. The data collected on October 8 is reported in Table 1 and the data collected October 15 is reported in Table 2.

The first seven days (October 1 to October 8, 2007)

Maximum air temperatures ranged from 88 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit for the seven days after harvest aids were applied. The nighttime air temperatures ranged from 59 to 67 degrees Fahrenheit. With these temperatures the harvest aids worked better than expected. The increase in boll opening ranged from two to seven percent more than the check and this was statistically significant in six of the

treatments. Leaf desiccation ranged from two to 37 percent higher than the check plot which was statistically different in six of the treatments. Leaf defoliation was higher than the check in all treatments on October 8, 2007 (seven days after the treatments were applied). The data collected on October 8 is reported in Table 1.

The formation of the abscission layer between the petiole and the main stem formed quickly and the follow-up applications were applied seven days later. The harvest aids applied on October 8 are listed at the bottom of Table 2.

#### Seven days after the second application of harvest aids (October 8 to October 15, 2007)

Maximum air temperatures ranged from 83 to 89 degrees Fahrenheit for the seven days following the second application of harvest aids. The nighttime air temperatures ranged from 56 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. With these temperatures all of the harvest aids worked well. The increase in boll opening increased from zero to five percent from the rating made October 8. There was a significant difference in all treatments when compared to the check. Leaf desiccation ranged from three to 50 percent higher than the check plot which was statistically different in all treatments. Leaf defoliation was higher than the check in all treatments on October 15, 2007 (14 days after the test was started and seven days after the second application of harvest aids were applied). The data collected on October 15 is reported in Table 2.

The combination of numbers shown in the defoliation and desiccation columns in the Table allows you the opportunity of determining the green leaves remaining by subtracting that total from 100. No remaining green leaves are preferred on cotton to be harvested. The green leaves when harvested and placed into a module or trailer, are a source of unwanted moisture which can result in a high temperature inside the module or trailer. None of the treatments had a combined number of 100; the closest was Finish 6 Pro at 21 ounces plus Ginstar at 6 ounces followed by Gramoxone Inteon at 24 ounces plus Induce at 10.25 ounces. With a lint yield in the 500 to 600 pound range you would prefer to keep leaf desiccation at 20 percent or less, which should result in a leaf grade of 1 to 3.

In this test, regrowth was evident but not developed enough to interfere with harvest 14 days after the plot was established. Some of the materials applied are known to be better at desiccating or removing juvenile growth. These include Aim, Blizzard, ET, and Ginstar. Please note that a crop oil concentrate was used in tank mixes that contained Aim, Blizzard, and ET. For maximum performance with these products, crop oil concentrate (C.O.C.) is an important part of the tank mix.

#### Economic Analysis

This test can be used to document the results obtained from the use of harvest aids. If the same treatments are consistently at the top of the list for several years, then producers may want to incorporate those treatments into their cotton production program. It is important to remember that a higher lint yield is not the only way of increasing profit from the use of a harvest aid. Other factors include: timely harvest, improved fiber quality, improved harvesting efficiency, and higher percent lint turnout at the gin.

Table 1. Tom Green County Cotton Harvest Aid Test (Wilde Farm, 2007)  
October 8, 2007 (7 days after treatments were applied)

Harvest Aid Chemicals Applied (4 rows of each)	Rate Applied Per Acre	Cost of Harvest Aid Per Acre	% Open Bolls	% Defoliation	% Desiccation
Blizzard + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	0.5 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	80.0 a	60.00 abc	3.75 bc
Blizzard + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	0.5 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	81.25 a	56.25 abcd	8.00 bc
ET + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	1.50 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.40 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	80.0 a	55.00 abcd	2.50 bc
ET + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	1.50 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.75 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	78.75 ab	57.50 abcd	7.50 bc
Aim + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	1.0 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$4.22 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	78.75 ab	51.25 bcde	7.50 bc
Aim + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	1.0 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$4.22 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	80.0 a	52.50 abcd	8.75 bc
Check	-	-	75.0 b	2.75 f	0.00 c
Blizzard + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	0.5 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	78.75 ab	51.25 bcde	3.25 bc
Blizzard + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	0.5 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	81.25 a	63.75 ab	4.75 bc
ET + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	1.50 oz. + 32 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.40 + \$6.24 + \$1.43	81.25 a	58.75 abc	4.50 bc
ET + Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.)	1.50 oz. + 12 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$3.75 + \$2.53 + \$1.68	78.75 ab	58.50 abc	14.25 b
Ginstar	6.0 oz.	\$9.60	80.0 a	65.00 ab	7.50 bc
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.)	24.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$5.06 + \$1.68	77.5 ab	36.25 e	37.50 a
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.)	32.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$6.75 + \$1.68	81.25 a	41.25 de	37.50 a
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.)	16.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$3.38 + \$1.68	78.75 ab	43.75 cde	27.50 a
Def + Prep + Induce (N.I.S.)	16.0 oz. + 16.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$5.38 + \$3.12 + \$1.68	77.5 ab	57.50 abcd	6.75 bc
Finish 6 Pro + Induce (N.I.S.)	32.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$15.49 + \$1.68	81.75 a	65.00 ab	8.25 bc
Finish 6 Pro + Ginstar	21.0 oz. + 6.0 oz.	\$10.16 + \$9.60	82.5 a	68.75 a	15.00 b
Gramoxone Inteon + Aim + Herbimax (C.O.C.)	24.0 oz. + 0.75 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$5.06 + \$3.17 + \$1.43	82.5 a	53.75 abcd	30.00 a

NOTE: In Table 1 the individual or combination of letter a, b, c, d, e, or f shown beside the number are to indicate statistical significance. There is no statistical difference between numbers that have the same letter (even when there appears to be a large difference in results between the materials applied).

Table 2. Tom Green County Cotton Harvest Aid Test (Wilde Farm, 2007)  
October 15, 2007 (14 days after treatments were applied; 7 days after follow-up treatments were applied)

Harvest Aid Chemicals Applied (4 rows of each)	Rate Applied Per Acre	Cost of Harvest Aid Per Acre	% Open Bolls	% Defoliation	% Desiccation
Blizzard + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>1/</u>	0.5 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	81.25 cd	79.25 a	4.75 de
Blizzard + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>1/</u>	0.5 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	82.50 bcd	79.50 a	5.75 de
ET + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>2/</u>	1.50 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.40 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	82.50 bcd	82.75 a	3.00 de
ET + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>2/</u>	1.50 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.75 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	83.75 abcd	81.25 a	4.50 de
Aim + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>3/</u>	1.0 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$4.22 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	81.25 cd	73.50 a	6.50 de
Aim + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>3/</u>	1.0 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$4.22 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	85.00 abc	79.50 a	5.00 de
Check	-	-	75.00 e	10.00 e	0.00 e
Blizzard + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>6/</u>	0.5 oz. + 24 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$4.68 + \$1.43	83.00 bcd	81.00 a	3.50 de
Blizzard + FirstPick + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>6/</u>	0.5 oz. + 48 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.61 + \$9.36 + \$1.43	84.50 abcd	81.50 a	3.25 de
ET + Prep + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>4/</u>	1.50 oz. + 32 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$3.40 + \$6.24 + \$1.43	83.25 abcd	80.50 a	4.50 de
ET + Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>5/</u>	1.50 oz. + 12 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$3.75 + \$2.53 + \$1.68	81.25 cd	74.50 a	12.50 cd
Ginstar <u>4/</u>	6.0 oz.	\$9.60	83.75 abcd	82.50 a	6.25 de
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>7/</u>	24.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$5.06 + \$1.68	81.25 cd	45.00 cd	42.50 a
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>7/</u>	32.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$6.75 + \$1.68	81.25 cd	38.75 d	50.00 a
Gramoxone Inteon + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>7/</u>	16.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$3.38 + \$1.68	80.00 d	53.75 bc	25.00 b
Def + Prep + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>4/</u>	16.0 oz. + 16.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$5.38 + \$3.12 + \$1.68	80.00 d	80.00 a	6.25 de
Finish 6 Pro + Induce (N.I.S.) <u>4/</u>	32.0 oz. + 10.25 oz.	\$15.49 + \$1.68	86.75 ab	80.00 a	8.75 cde
Finish 6 Pro + Ginstar <u>4/</u>	21.0 oz. + 6.0 oz.	\$10.16 + \$9.60	87.50 a	77.50 a	16.25 c
Gramoxone Inteon + Aim + Herbimax (C.O.C.) <u>4/</u>	24.0 oz. + 0.75 oz. + 20.5 oz.	\$5.06 + \$3.17 + \$1.43	82.50 bcd	57.50 b	26.25 b

**Follow up treatments applied on October 8 – Listed in Table 2**

- 1/ Blizzard @ 0.5 oz. (\$3.61) + Herbimax (C.O.C.) @ 1.0% v/v (\$1.43) = \$5.04
- 2/ ET @ 1.50 oz. (\$3.40) + Herbimax (C.O.C.) @ 1.0% v/v (\$1.43) = \$4.83
- 3/ Aim @ 0.75 oz. (\$3.16) + Herbimax (C.O.C.) @ 1.0% v/v (\$1.43) = \$4.59
- 4/ Gramoxone Inteon @ 24 oz. (\$5.06) + Induce (N.I.S.) @ 0.5% v/v (\$1.68) = \$6.74
- 5/ Gramoxone Inteon @ 20 oz. (\$4.22) + Induce (N.I.S.) @ 0.5% v/v (\$1.68) = \$5.90
- 6/ Firestorm @ 16 oz. (\$4.38) + Induce (N.I.S.) @ 0.5% v/v (\$1.68) = \$6.06
- 7/ No follow up harvest aid was applied

NOTE: In Table 2 the individual or combination of letter a, b, c, d, or e shown beside the number are to indicate statistical significance. There is no statistical difference between numbers that have the same letter (even when there appears to be a large difference in results between the materials applied). Also, to account for 100 percent of the leaves you would add the percent defoliation plus the percent dessication and subtract from 100. The difference represents the number of original green leaves still remaining on the plant.

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- Bayer CropScience who provided the Def, Finish 6 Pro, Ginstar, and Prep
- Chemtura who provided the Blizzard and Firestorm
- DuPont who provided the FirstPick
- FMC Corporation who provided the Aim
- Helena Chemical Company who provided the Induce
- Nichino America who provided the ET
- Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. who provided the Gramoxone Inteon
- Tri-State Chemical DBA United Agra Products (UAP) who provided the C.O.C. (Herbimax)

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