

**EVALUATION OF SHARPEN (SAFLUFENACIL) AS A COTTON HARVEST AID
IN THE SOUTHERN ROLLING PLAINS**

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Abstract

A timely and proper harvest is an essential step in growing a profitable and high quality cotton crop. Numerous harvest aid products and recommendations are available and a cotton producer must choose one that fits the specific crop, weather conditions, and harvest infrastructure. One recommendation includes the use of a PPO inhibiting herbicide, to desiccate and defoliate the plant; usually applied with an ethephon boll opening material. In 2010, a new PPO herbicide was released by BASF, as trade name Sharpen; with the active ingredient Saflufenacil. Sharpen was evaluated at two rates with other commonly used PPO products, Aim, ET, and Blizzard; during the 2010 harvest season in the Southern Rolling Plains of Texas at four dryland and two irrigated locations. Sharpen produced results similar to other PPO products, and was also comparable to a standard treatment of Def and Prep. There were only small differences between the two Sharpen rates with the lower 1.5 fl. oz. per acre rate producing similar results with less product and cost than the 2.0 fl. oz. per acre rate. Over all locations and treatments, Sharpen demonstrated lower than average defoliation, the highest desiccation, average green leaf, and showed lower foliar regrowth than all treatments with the exception of ET. Aim had the lowest defoliation average. The overall performance of Sharpen appeared better in treatments with higher temperatures and in one unreplicated location where the higher rate of Sharpen was superior to the lower rate and other PPO products when they were applied without Prep.