Mechanical harvesting of grain sorghum grown in more northern and humid regions of the Great Plains may be delayed by adverse weather in late summer and early fall. To the sorghum grower, delayed harvest can cause heavy economic loss from pests and weather and for the sorghum seed producer, who is concerned with producing high quality seed, it can cause lowered germination capabilities of the sorghum seed.

Chemicals applied as preharvest sprays have been used with some success in terminating plant growth and reducing grain moisture to permit earlier harvesting (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). However, in many cases grain moisture reduction is slow and use of the more effective chemical desiccants is limited because of the restrictions on feeding treated crops to animals.

Effect of Preharvest Desiccation on Grain Sorghum

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This study was designed to compare mechanical methods of desiccation in reducing the moisture content of grain sorghum in the field, and the effects of these methods on seed weight and germination.

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