

## IS VALOR BLADEX?

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Valent recently received registration for hooded and layby use of Valor in cotton. Some have described Valor as being “THE” Bladex replacement, or as having the just-right residual length. Valor is reasonably priced, controls many cotton weeds (and is good on pigweed) and does have a nice residual length, but it isn’t Bladex.

Most importantly, Valor is more restrictive with respect to crop safety. It is probably the hottest directed herbicide currently available. Cotton must be 18" tall and have 4" of bark before you apply Valor through a traditional post directed sprayer where spray could contact the crop. Also, crop oil concentrate should not be used, as this increases the risk of crop injury. Bladex’s was allowed on cotton as short as 6"; however, it was also a relatively hot herbicide. With a completely hooded application, Valor can be used with crop oil on smaller cotton. Don’t be scared to use Valor right, but do be scared to use it sloppily!

Often times we cloud the line between post-directed and layby, especially in cases where growers try to make an early post-directed application to 6 to 9-inch cotton, as opposed to laying cotton by and not passing through the field again for the sake of weed control. Because of the crop size restrictions, Valor is a true layby herbicide. It fits in that final pass through the field (or can be applied earlier with hoods). One more caution- in this case “layby” means precision application. A single over-the-middle layby nozzle risks foliar damage. As with all directed chemistry, the key is to have good weed coverage, but expect severe burn on any foliage that is contacted by the spray.

What about Valor versus Goal, Direx, Caparol or any of the other herbicides? All of those products are good. Companies highlight when their herbicide is cheaper, highlight when their herbicide has flexibility and will remind you of what’s wrong with their competition. I also like to stress that it is just as important WHEN you spray as WHAT you spray. All of the herbicides look rough if morningglories are coming out the top when you spray. Put them in a situation with a good height differential, and they’ll all work.

Try them all! Valor, Goal and Caparol are good choices for pigweed, Direx is hard to beat for price and residual. DuPont and Syngenta are also touting new mix products called Layby-Pro and Suprend. These are both mixtures trying to improve the already good performance of Direx and Caparol respectively. Don’t forget that these herbicides usually benefit from MSMA or glyphoste for grass control as well as an overall boost.

Valor will definitely have a layby or hooded fit and will be used extensively; however, I suspect we will continue to regularly use our full arsenal of other good PD/Layby herbicides too.