Growth and yield attributes of summer pearlmillet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) as influenced by irrigation, mulches and antitranspirant

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**SUMMARY**

An experiment was conducted during the summer season of the year 2007 and 2008 to study the “Effect of irrigation, mulches and antitranspirant on growths and yield of summer pearlmillet (*Pennisetum glaucum* L.) under south Saurastra conditions”. Among different irrigation scheduling treatments, treatment $I_3$ (1.0 IW : CPE ratio), being at par with treatment $I_1$ (0.8 IW : CPE ratio), recorded significantly higher values for yield attributes viz., plant height, number of effective tillers plant$^{-1}$ leaf area index, length and girth of earhead, grain weight plant$^{-1}$, test weight and grain yield. While, significantly the lowest values of these attributes were observed under treatment $I_3$ (0.6 IW : CPE ratio). Treatment $M_2$ (groundnut shell mulch) recorded significantly higher values for growth and yield attributes and grain yield over treatment $M_0$ (control). However, treatment $M_2$ was remained at par with treatment $M_1$ (wheat cut straw mulch). Application of 6% kaolin spray ($A T_1$) recorded significantly the highest values for growth and yield attributes and grain yield as compared to control treatment ($A T_0$) except number of effective and non effective tillers plant$^{-1}$ and harvest index.

**Key words**: Irrigations, Mulches, Antitranspirant, Pearlmillet