Analysis:

The Supermarine Spitfire has an unique wing configuration of having the root and tip of the wings be different airfoils. At the time of its design this was a new approach, and this was done to reduce the induced drag and improving performance. This is because the airfoil at the tip managed to make the lift coefficient smaller. Spitfire's main requirements was to gain victory in dogfights, and therefore, higher maneuverability was expected. In contrast, the Air Tractor is active in high production agriculture required to maintain a stable flight in low altitudes with slow speed. Due to its main usage of disseminating chemicals to grow vast fields of crops, it is rather ideal to maintain the same airfoil from root to tip to have a constant lift and drag.

REFERENCES

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