Seeding Cover Crops for N Accumulation

- Well-established cover crops are effective in reducing residual soil nitrate after the harvest of corn, and nitrate released from manure.
- Ability of cover crop to absorb nitrate is affected by its growth and the degree of colonization of the soil by roots.

![Soil N Levels in Fall](image)

**Fig. 1** N loss in soil with no Cover Crop

![N accumulation and PSNT level](image)

**Fig. 2** N accumulation and PSNT level

- Nitrogen loss with no cover crops occurs rapidly in the fall with high rainfall.
- Well-established cover crops may accumulate 90 lb N/ac or more from N released after the harvest of corn, and from nitrate released from manure.

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