

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.

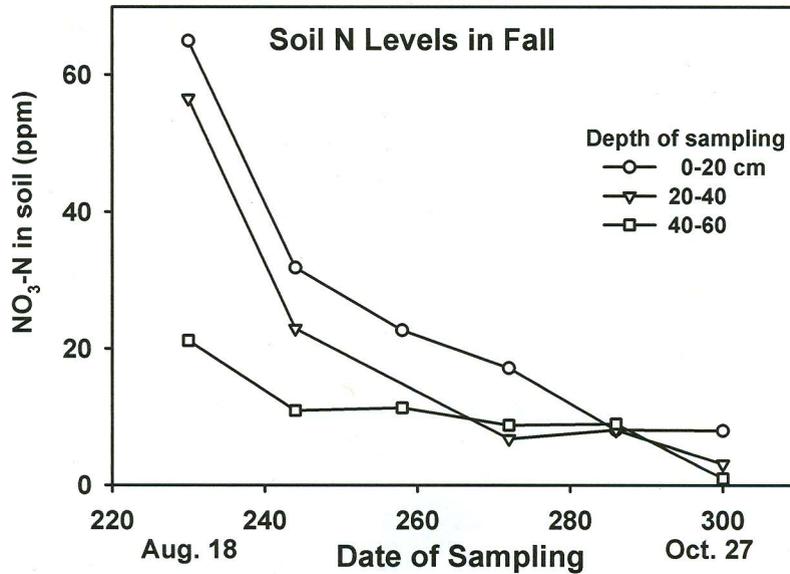


Fig. 1 N loss in soil with no Cover Crop

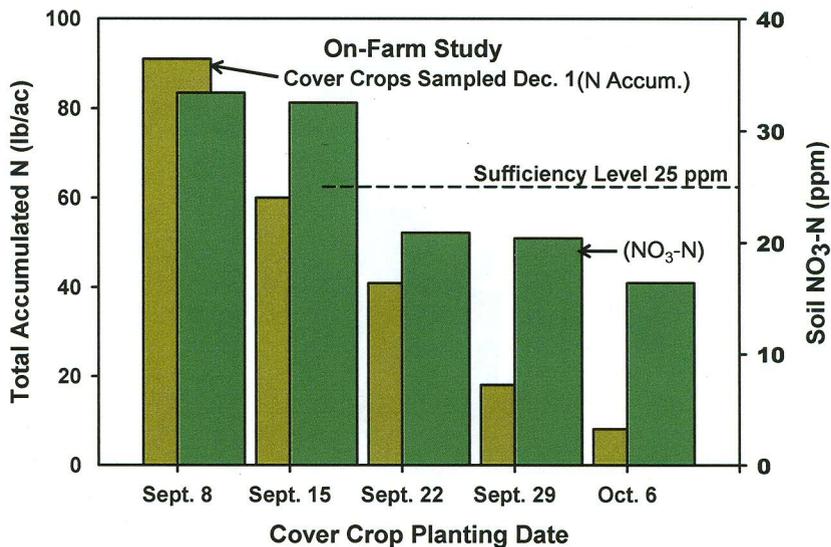


Fig. 2 N accumulation and PSNT level

- 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.