

Table 3: Nitrogen credits from sods

Nitrogen recommendations for corn are adjusted if corn followed sod plowdown within the past three years. Sod credits are deducted from the total N requirement (yield potential in bu/acre times 1.2) to determine N requirements (see “N recommendations for field crops in New York” (2001) by Q.M. Ketterings, S.D. Klausner, and K.J. Czymmek. CSS E01-4). Nitrogen credits from sods depend on the percentage legume in the sod at the time of plowdown and the number of years since plowdown. Nitrogen credits assume that ~55% of the total amount of N in the sod will be available for plant uptake in the same year the sod is plowed down (first year corn). In the second year following plowdown, an estimated 12% of the original amount of N will be available for crop growth. A 5% release is expected during the third year with no further N credits from sods that were plowed down more than 3 years ago. Thus, for a third year corn crop following an alfalfa-grass sod with 30% alfalfa, N credits from the sod are estimated to be 13 lbs N/acre.

Legume in the sod %	Total amount of Nitrogen Lbs/acre	Available N			
		Lbs/acre			
		1 st year corn	2 nd year corn	3 rd year corn	4 th year corn
0	150	83	18	8	0
1-25	200	110	24	10	0
26-50	250	138	30	13	0
>50	300	165	36	15	0