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Soybean N Credit

A 60 bushel per acre soybean crop will remove just shy of 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre plus another 65 pounds in Stover. That's a lot of nitrogen the process of nitrogen fixation in a well-nodulated soybean plant takes care of for us. It also begs the question: how can we not have to apply N to the soybean crop and still receive an N credit for the subsequent corn crop?

As awesome as the nitrogen fixation process is, it's not entirely the reason we get a nitrogen credit for the next crop. The credit actually comes from the nitrogen component of soybean residue and roots. These plant components have a low carbon to nitrogen (C:N) ratio, meaning residues decompose readily and rapidly to become available for the next crop. The higher C:N ratio of corn residue means decomposition of those crops is slow and no 'credit' is given to the following crop.

Soil test labs will differ slightly in their calculation of an N credit. For more information on what to expect from a previous crop like soybeans (or alfalfa, etc...) in a rotation, request a copy of KSU's Soil Test Interpretations and Recommendations publication from any District Office or check it out online at <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf2586.pdf>.

Orchardgrass in Lawns

If it's a grass, but it's light green color and faster growing than the turfgrass around it, you may have orchardgrass. Its (unfortunately) a common problem in many cool season turf stands (tall fescue in particular...) and makes a vivid showing this time of year.

Where did it come from? In all likelihood, it was a part of what's known as 'other crop seed' on grass seed label. It's not considered a weed seed, per se, but it can be a problem.

The most challenging aspect of orchardgrass management is a lack of products for control, with no herbicides labeled to kill the it without also killing the turf. Products containing glyphosate are an option for spot spraying orchardgrass clumps (they don't spread as readily as some grasses will...), just keep the sprayed area small to avoid injury to desirable turf species. Reseeding will be difficult, so if you are only dealing with a few spots, consider cutting out a clump from elsewhere in the lawn and replacing the orchardgrass clump after it dies following a glyphosate application. If you have large numbers of orchardgrass plants, its likely more practical to kill the entire lawn and start over this fall.

To identify, visit: http://kswildflower.org/grass_details.php?grassID=15.