Cover Crop Calculator User Guide

Select either "Green Manure" or "Crop Residue"	Input Value

Calculate total area that you sampled your plant tissue from. For example, if you sampled tissue from four areas in your field that are 2 by 2 foot sections, then your total area sampled would be 16 square feet.

Go to "Tissue Sampling Instructions" for more information on how to take representative biomass plant samples from the field.

Area Sampled (square feet)	Input Value

Calculate total area that you sampled your plant tissue from. For example, if you sampled tissue from four areas in your field that are 2 by 2 foot sections, then your total area sampled would be 16 square feet.

Go to "Tissue Sampling Instructions" for more information on how to take representative biomass plant samples from the field.

Weight of Field Sample, as-is (pounds, lbs)	Input Value

This is the total weight of all of the plant tissue biomass collected from the sampled areas.

Go to "Tissue Sampling Instructions" for more information on how to weigh the plant tissue.

Go to "Tissue Sampling Instructions" for more information on how to prepare and submit plant tissue samples for analysis.

Percent Nitrogen (N) in Plant Tissue (from lab results)	Input Value

Collect enough of a representative tissue subsample from the weighed plant tissue to fill a quart-sized plastic bag. Submit sample to a plant analysis lab for total nitrogen (N) and dry matter analysis.

Percent total N for plant tissue typically ranges from 0.5 to 5.5 percent. If your value falls outside of this range, call your lab for clarification.

We discourage using table values or rough estimates in place of lab results, as tissue N concentration can vary widely within a single plant species.

Go to "Tissue Sampling Instructions" for more information on how to prepare and submit plant tissue samples for analysis.

Percent Dry Matter (from lab results)	Input Value

If your lab reports percent moisture instead of percent dry matter, simply subtract the percent moisture value from 100 to calculate percent dry matter.

Total Nitrogen in Plant Tissue (lb N/acre)	Output Value

This calculated output value is here as a reference.

Plant Available Nitrogen if Plant Tissue is Incorporated into the Soil (lb N/acre)	Output Value

Nitrogen (N) that is predicted to be converted by microbes to plant available forms of N over the course of a summer growing season on irrigated cropland in southern Idaho, if the plant tissue is tilled into the soil in the spring.