

U of M Supplemental Nitrogen Worksheet for Corn

This simple worksheet was developed in 1992 and has been modified and tested over the years as a means of helping people decide if supplemental, or extra, N is needed. This decision aid is for situations when all of the N was applied preplant, either in the fall or spring, and not for determining N rates in a split N program. Keep in mind that good judgment is still important when using this decision aid.

The worksheet should be used in June.

Question 1. When was the N applied?	<u>Points</u>
a) In the fall, with soil temps above 50F, 4" deep.....	5
b) In the fall, with soil temps below 50F, 4" deep.....	4
c) In the fall, with soil temps above 50F, 4" deep, with N-Serve.....	4
d) In the fall, with soil temps below 50F, 4" deep, with N-Serve.....	3
e) In early spring (end of March or in April).....	3
f) In May.....	2

Question 2. What was the predominant spring (May) soil condition?	
a) Normal or dryer than normal.....	1
b) Wetter than normal.....	3
c) There was/is standing water in the fields.....	4

Question 3. How does the crop look?	
a) Taller than 12-16" and chlorotic.....	5
b) Shorter than 12-16" and chlorotic.....	3
c) Shorter than 12-16" and normal green color.....	2
d) Taller than 12-16" and normal green color.....	1

Total points for the field _____

With a score of seven points or less, your current nitrogen program is doing fine. With a score of 10 or more, supplemental fertilizer is recommended at a rate between 40 and 70 lbs of N per acre, depending on the situation. A score of eight or nine falls into a gray area and it is recommended that you recalculate the worksheet in a week—the corn height/color will most likely change. The “re-evaluation” option is only viable as long as you have sidedressing options.