

## Remember

You can reduce commercial fertilizer dependency by growing and using Green Legume Manures.

### Results

Intercropped Green legume manures produce 800-1600 kg/acre of material which decays to provide 20-36 kg of Nitrogen.

This amount is equal to 80-150 kg C.A.N or 1.5 -3 bags CAN.

Maize requires 24kg Nitrogen per acre (about two bags of CAN) and so the GLMs in this system supply enough Nitrogen for the maize crop.



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**Use green legume manures  
to reduce commercial  
fertilizer use**





## Introduction

Green legume manures (GLMs) are plants that contain nitrogen (N) in their leaves and stem (foliage). This nitrogen and other nutrients are released when the plants decay.

Examples of GLMs are mucuna (velvet bean) and crotalaria (sun hemp) among others.



Mucuna



Crotalaria

## Management of GLMs in maize

### Step 1

Plant maize seeds at 75 by 50 cm spacing or any other appropriate spacing.

### Step 2

Plant one row of the green manure legume (mucuna or crotalaria) in between the maize rows.

- Plant mucuna 2-3 cm every 30cm
- Drill crotalaria in furrows at 15kg/acre.

Plant the legume on the same day or 2 weeks after planting maize and do not apply nitrogenous fertilizers to the legumes.



Maize crotalaria intercrop

### Stage 3

When the maize matures, harvest the cobs and the stover and leave the legume in the field.

### Stage 4

Uproot or cut the green manure legume left after harvesting maize.



Uprooting crotalaria intercrop

Apply the residues either as surface mulch or chop and incorporate them into soil before planting the following season's maize.