

## Supplemental tables and figures

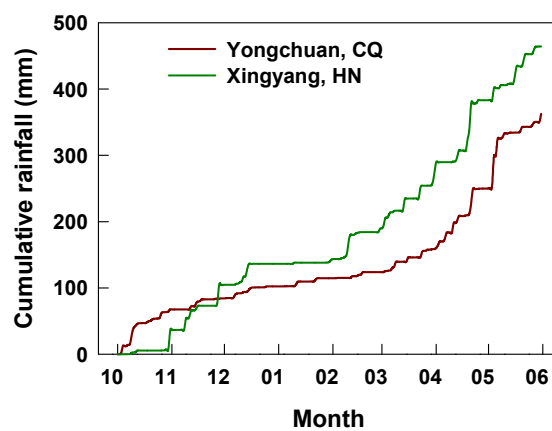


Figure S1. Cumulative rainfall from October 1 to May 30 at Yongchuan, Chongqing (CQ) and Xingyang, Henan (HN) province, China.

Table S1. Total N concentration of fibrous roots and mature leaves measured 15 days after  $^{15}\text{N}$  application (DAA15), on the days of the first harvest (DFH) and post-harvest (DPH) of young spring shoots at Yongchuan (March 16 and May 4) and Xingyang (April 8 and May 12).

Fertilization date	Root			Leaf		
	DAA15	DFH	DPH	DAA15	DFH	DPH
Yongchuan						
October 21	20.4	24.7	20.5	24.7	23.8	31.6
November 25	20.3	22.3	20.1	25.5	23.6	32.8
December 25	19.6	19.6	18.0	24.0	24.5	32.5
January 14	23.5	21.0	17.8	24.7	24.5	31.9
February 1	20.8	20.3	18.7	25.4	25.0	32.2
Oct.21+Jan.01	20.1	25.9	18.1	25.4	25.1	31.6
Mean	20.8 $\beta$	22.3 $\beta$	18.8 $\alpha$	25.0 $\alpha$	24.4 $\alpha$	32.1 $\beta$
Xingyang						
October 24	18.5	23.2b	16.9	29.4	28.6	24.0
November 25	21.6	20.3ab	15.3	28.3	27.9	23.8
December 25	18.7	18.3a	15.2	27.4	27.1	23.7
January 14	21.6	19.4a	15.5	27.8	28.2	23.7
February 20	24.0	17.9a	13.6	30.0	27.9	23.8
Oct.24+Jan.14	21.8	20.6ab	15.1	31.8	28.4	23.5
Mean	21.0 $\beta$	20.0 $\beta$	15.3 $\alpha$	29.1 $\beta$	28.0 $\beta$	23.8 $\alpha$

Different English letters following data of the same column at each location indicate significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) differences among fertilization dates, respectively. Different Greek letters following data indicate significant differences among means of DAA15, DFH, and DPH across fertilization dates.