**Table 2**. Initial root chemical characteristics and root N mass (mg) at the beginning (N0) and end (N16) of the study for Austrian winter pea (AWP), crimson clover (CC), and hairy vetch (HV) at Goldsboro and Kinston study sites.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cover Crop1 | | % C | % N | C/N | Lignin2 | Lignin/N | N0(mg) | N16(mg) |
| Goldsboro |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AWP | 41.9a | | 3.0a | 14.0a | 13.0 | 4.3 | 19.6a | 2.6a |
| CC | 40.6a | | 2.3b | 17.7b | 10.9 | 4.7 | 15.5b | 2.0a |
| HV | 38.9a | | 2.8a | 13.9a | 15.4 | 5.5 | 17.3a | 2.2a |
| Kinston |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AWP | 29.7a | | 2.2a | 13.8a | 13.7 | 6.4 | 12.8a | 4.3a |
| CC | 39.9b | | 1.4b | 28.1b | 11.2 | 7.9 | 10.5b | 3.2a |
| HV | 36.5b | | 2.5a | 14.6a | 15.0 | 6.0 | 15.1a | 4.3a |

1 Means within a column (separated by site) followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey’s HSD test; *P* < 0.05).

2 Only single composite samples from Austrian winter pea, crimson clover, and hairy vetch were analyzed for lignin and multiple comparisons were not possible.