

Nitrate loss to water – how much & when

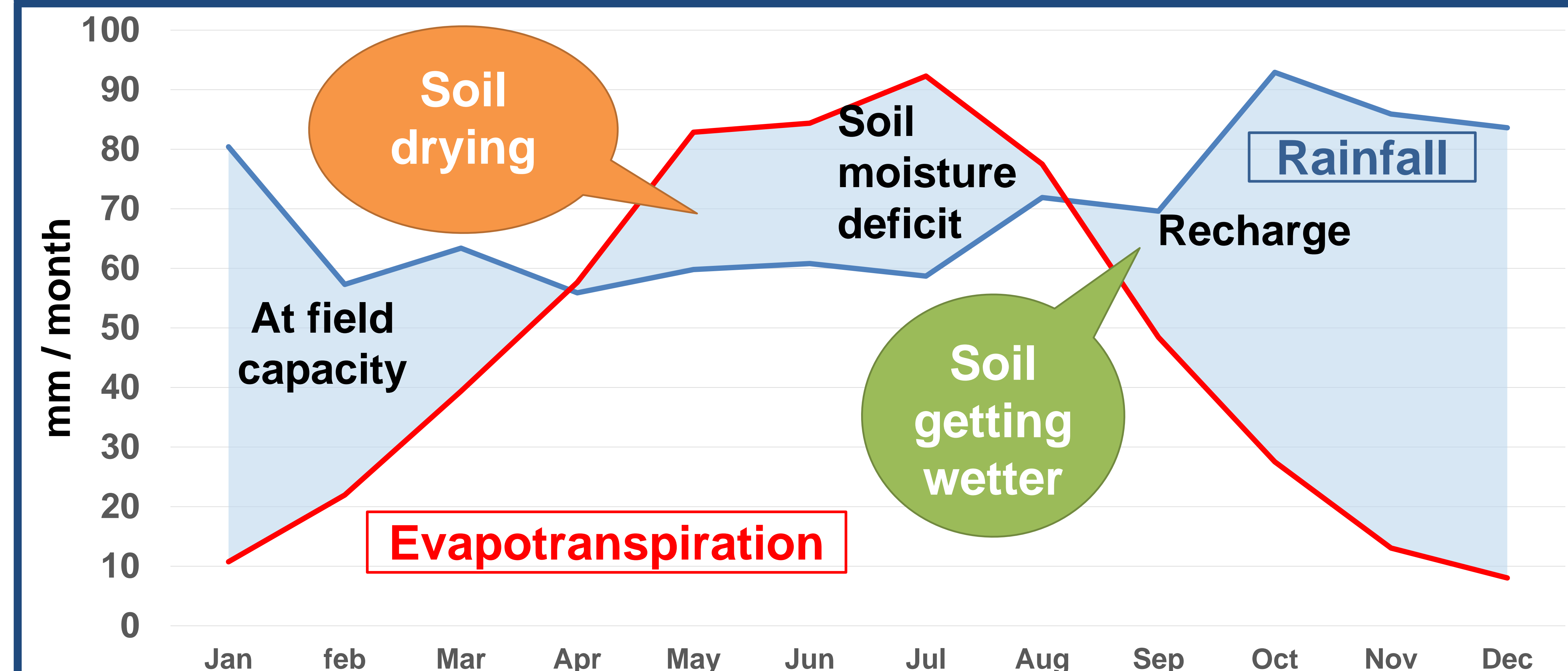
Yearly nitrate - N concentration & load

	mg/l	River flow (mm)	kg/ha
Ballycanew	2.60	514	13.4
Timoleague	5.95	670	40.5
Dunleer	5.46	412	23.1

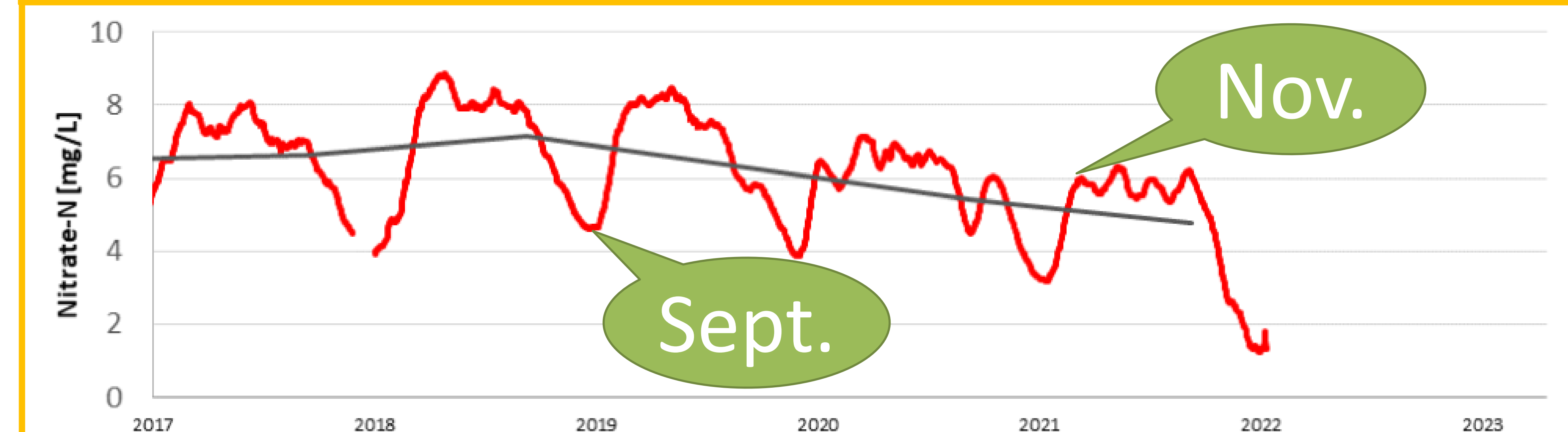
When is N lost to water?

- Nitrate dissolves easily in soil water
- Surplus N is available for uptake or loss
- ½ annual N loss during closed period
- Timing N is more important than amount

Soil water balance



Average N - Annual vs. Monthly



Take home message

Avoid N surplus to grass demand when water is moving down through the soil