



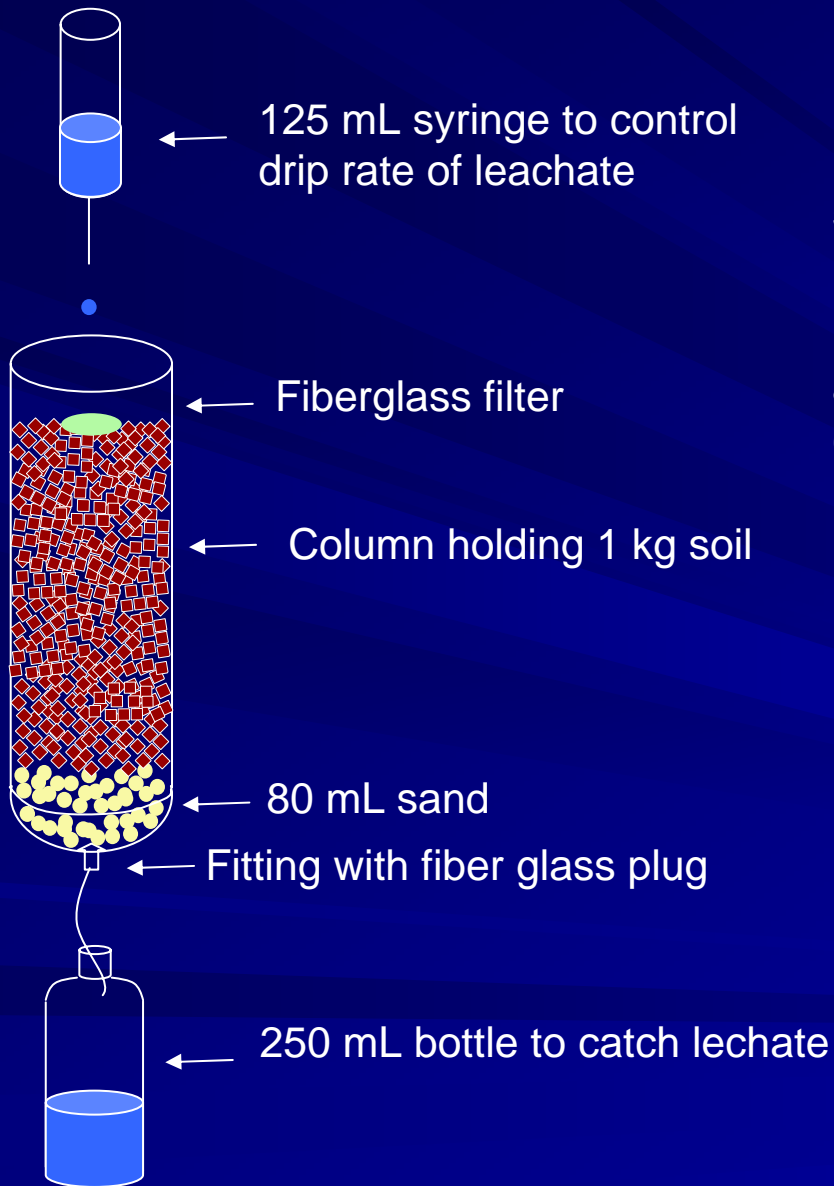
# Impact of Soil Biochar Applications on Nutrient Leaching

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# Experimental design



Biochar: 0, 5, 10, and 20 g kg<sup>-1</sup>  
Initial bulk density ~1.1 g cm<sup>-3</sup>  
Leached weekly with 200 mL 0.001 M CaCl<sub>2</sub>  
5 g dry swine manure (3.9% N) added week 12

Measure: NO<sub>3</sub>, Na, Mg, Ca, K, Si, Cu, Zn, B, and P in the leachate; and total C, N, pH, and CEC at end.

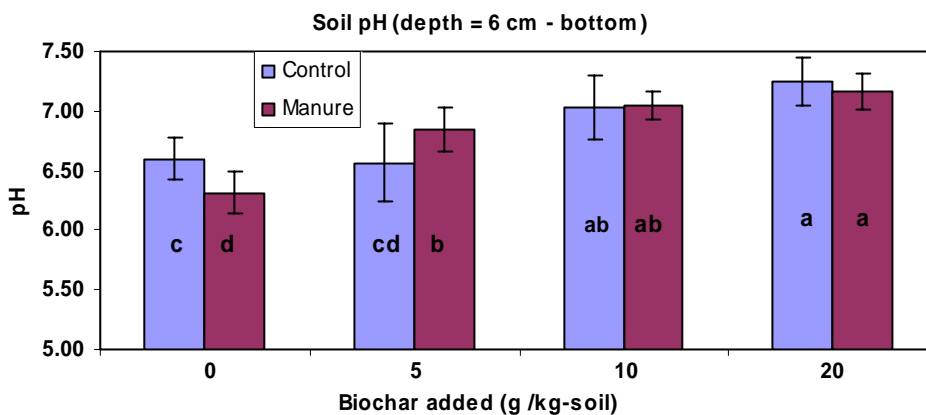
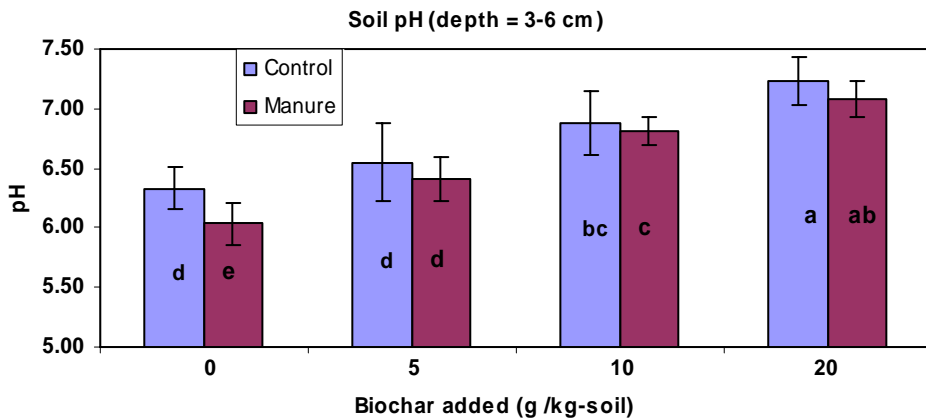
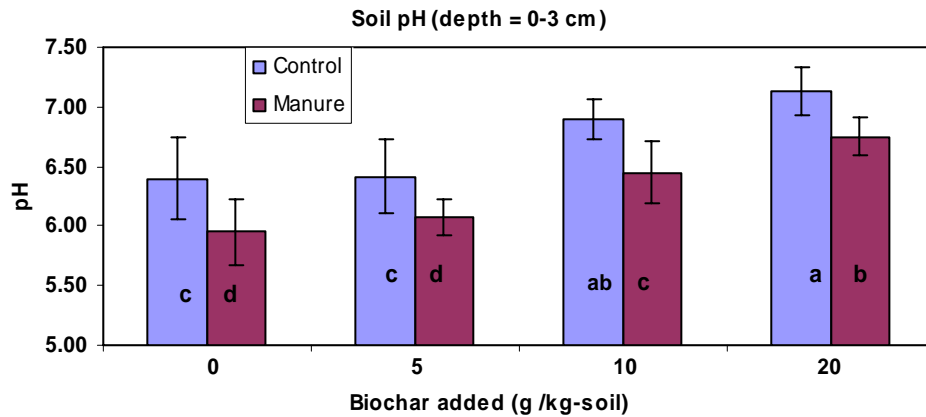


# Impact of Biochar on Soil pH

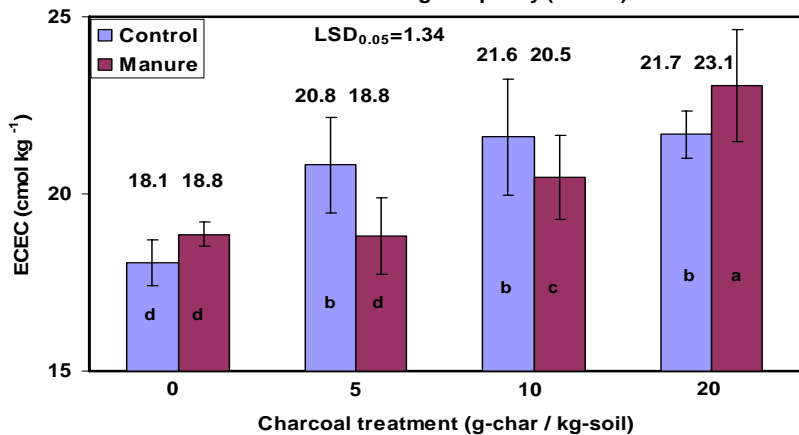
Ash content of biochar = 7.5%

Assuming the ash is CaO then:

$$\text{CCE} = 12.5$$



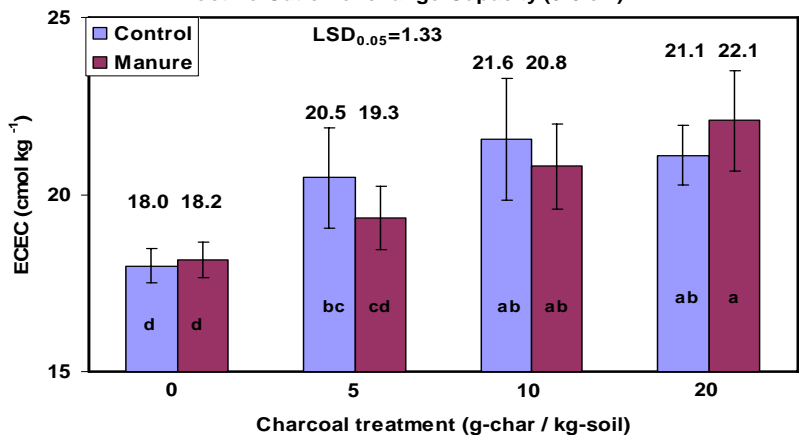
Effective Cation exchange Capacity (0-3 cm)



## Percent change in ECEC (0-3 cm)

<u>Char added (g/kg)</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>+Manure</u>
0	0	4
5	15	4
10	20	13
20	20	28

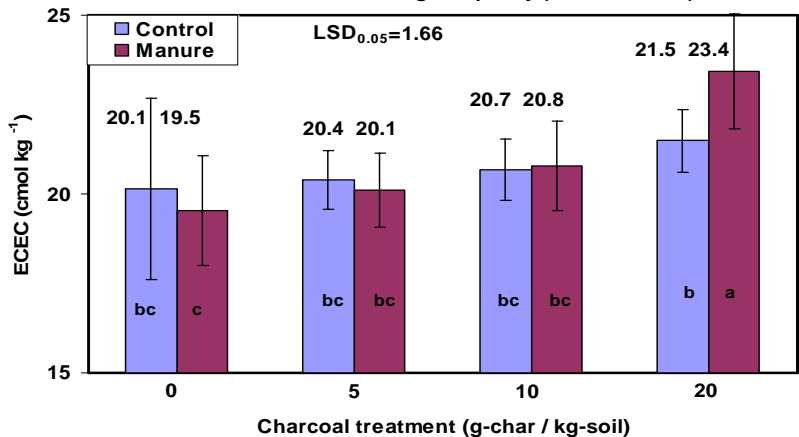
Effective Cation exchange Capacity (3-6 cm)



## Percent change in ECEC (3-6 cm)

<u>Char added (g/kg)</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>+Manure</u>
0	0	1
5	14	7
10	20	16
20	17	23

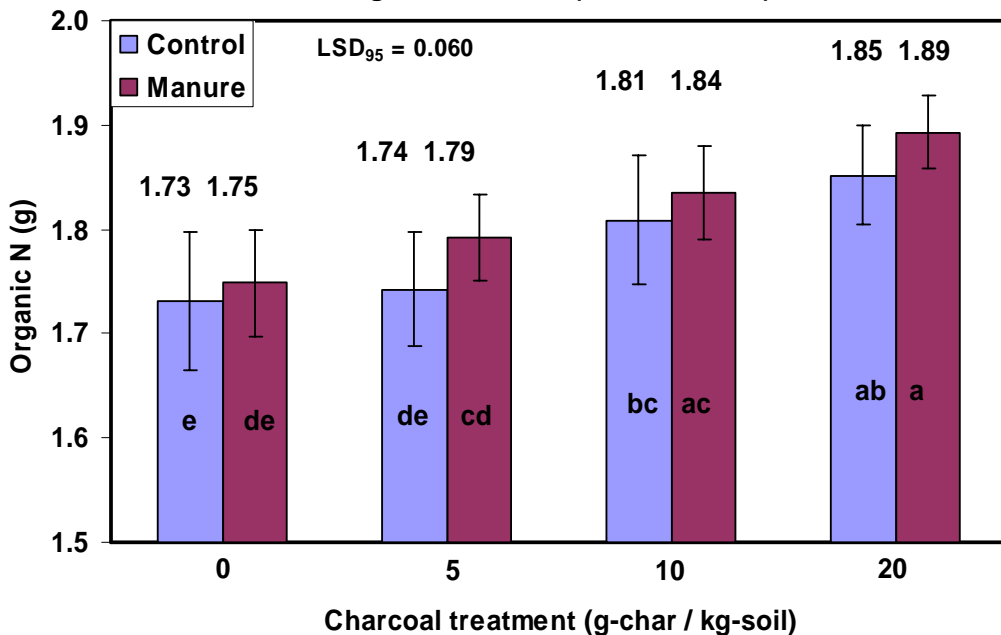
Effective Cation exchange Capacity (6 cm - bottom)



## Percent change in ECEC (6 cm – bottom)

<u>Char added (g/kg)</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>+Manure</u>
0	0	-3
5	1	0
10	3	3
20	7	16

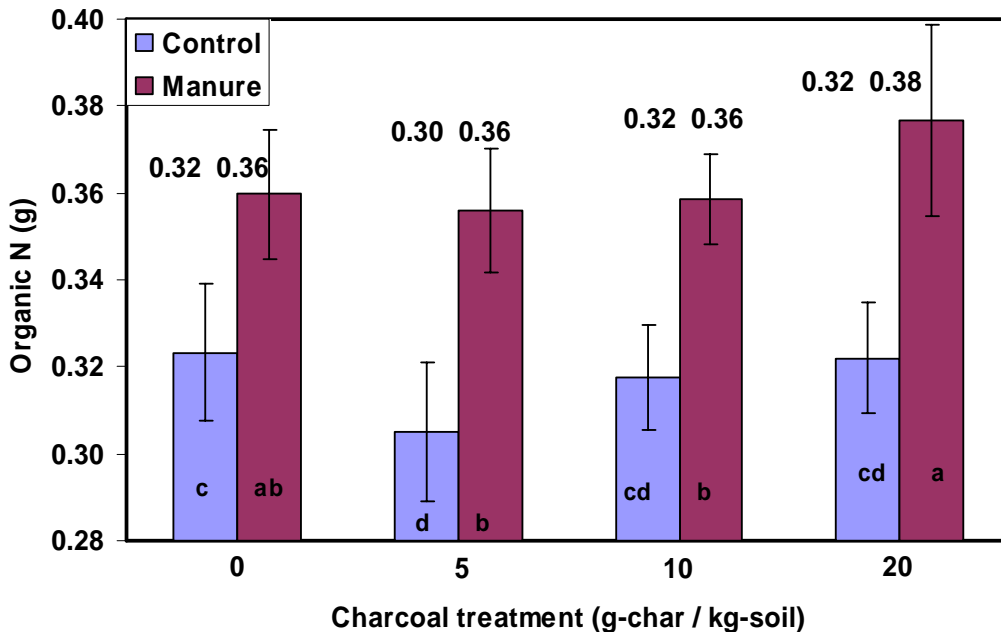
Organic N in Soil (whole column)



Recovery of biochar N whole column

<u>Char added (g/kg)</u>	<u>N recovery (%)</u>
0	-
5	31
10	108
20	84

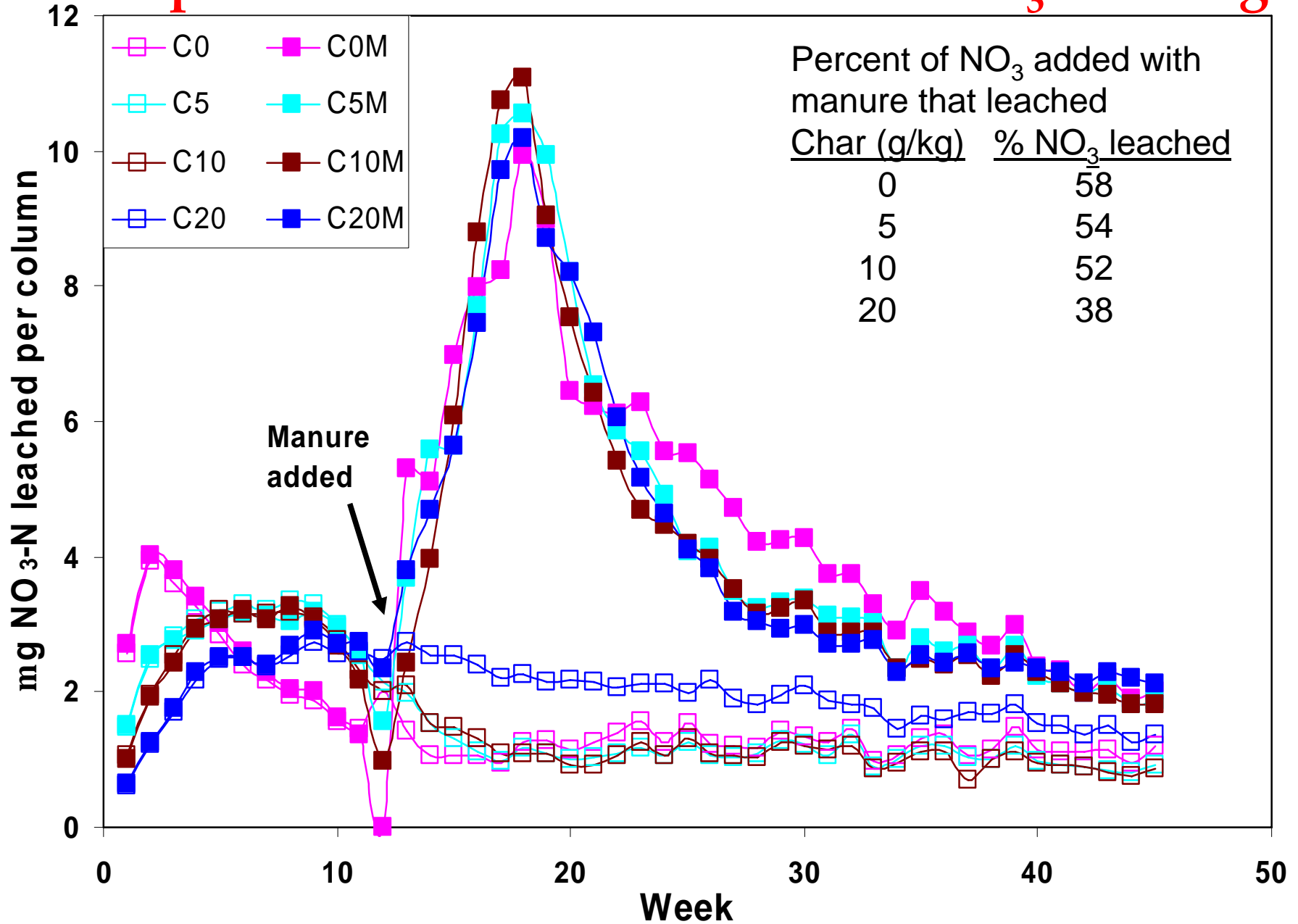
Organic N in Soil (0 - 3 cm)



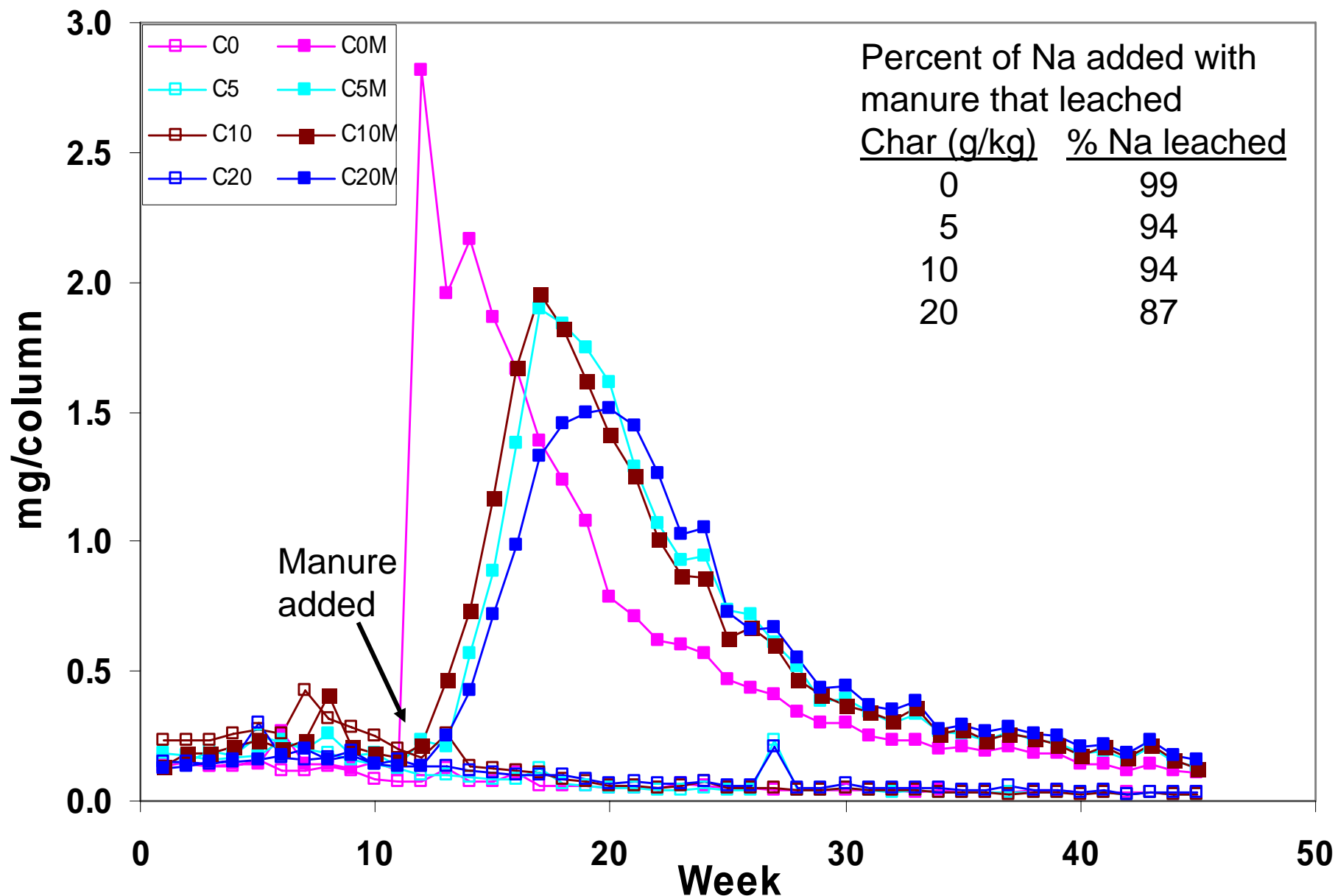
Recovery of manure N in 0-3 cm

<u>Char added (g/kg)</u>	<u>N recovery (%)</u>
0	21
5	29
10	23
20	31

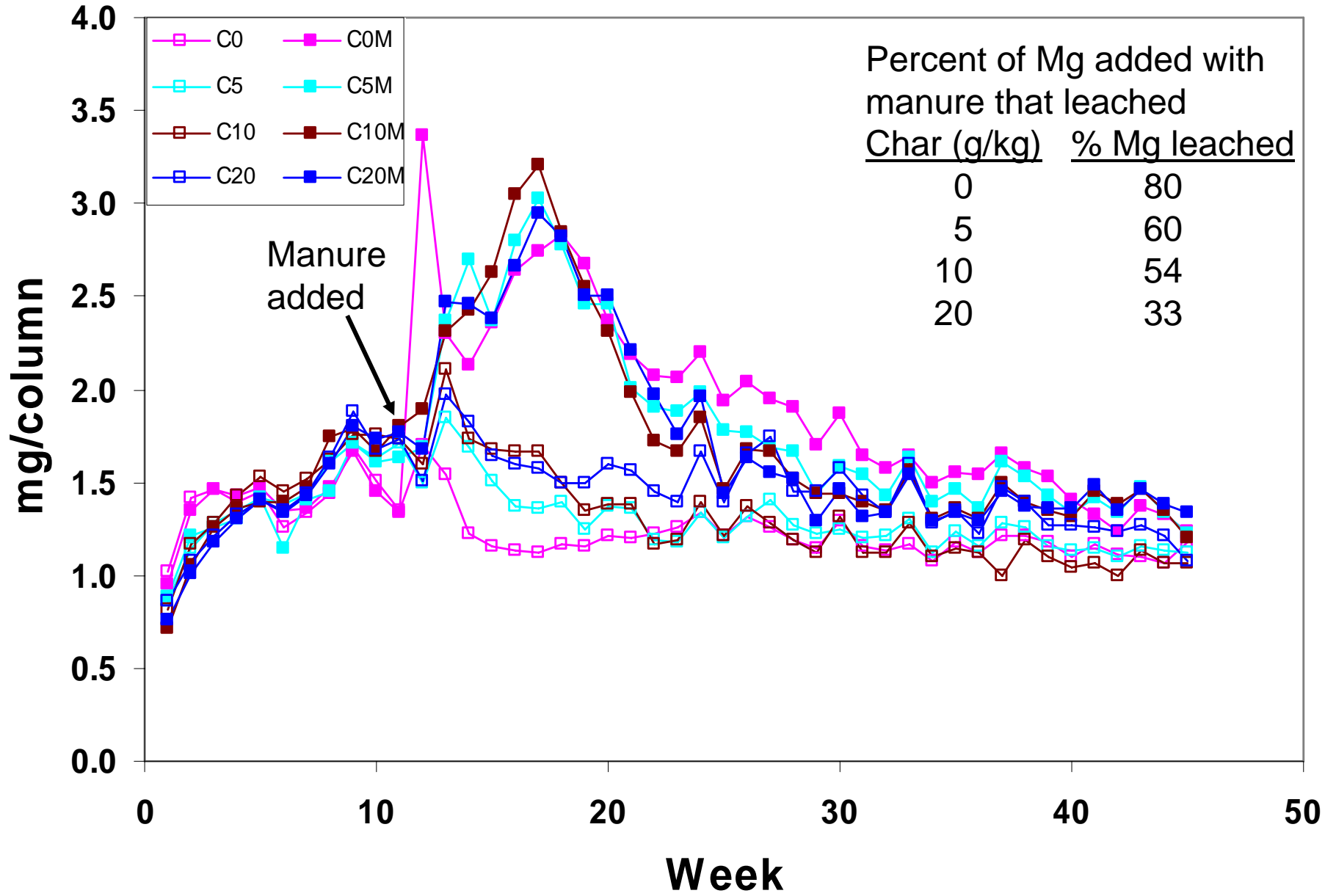
# Impact of biochar and manure on NO<sub>3</sub> leaching



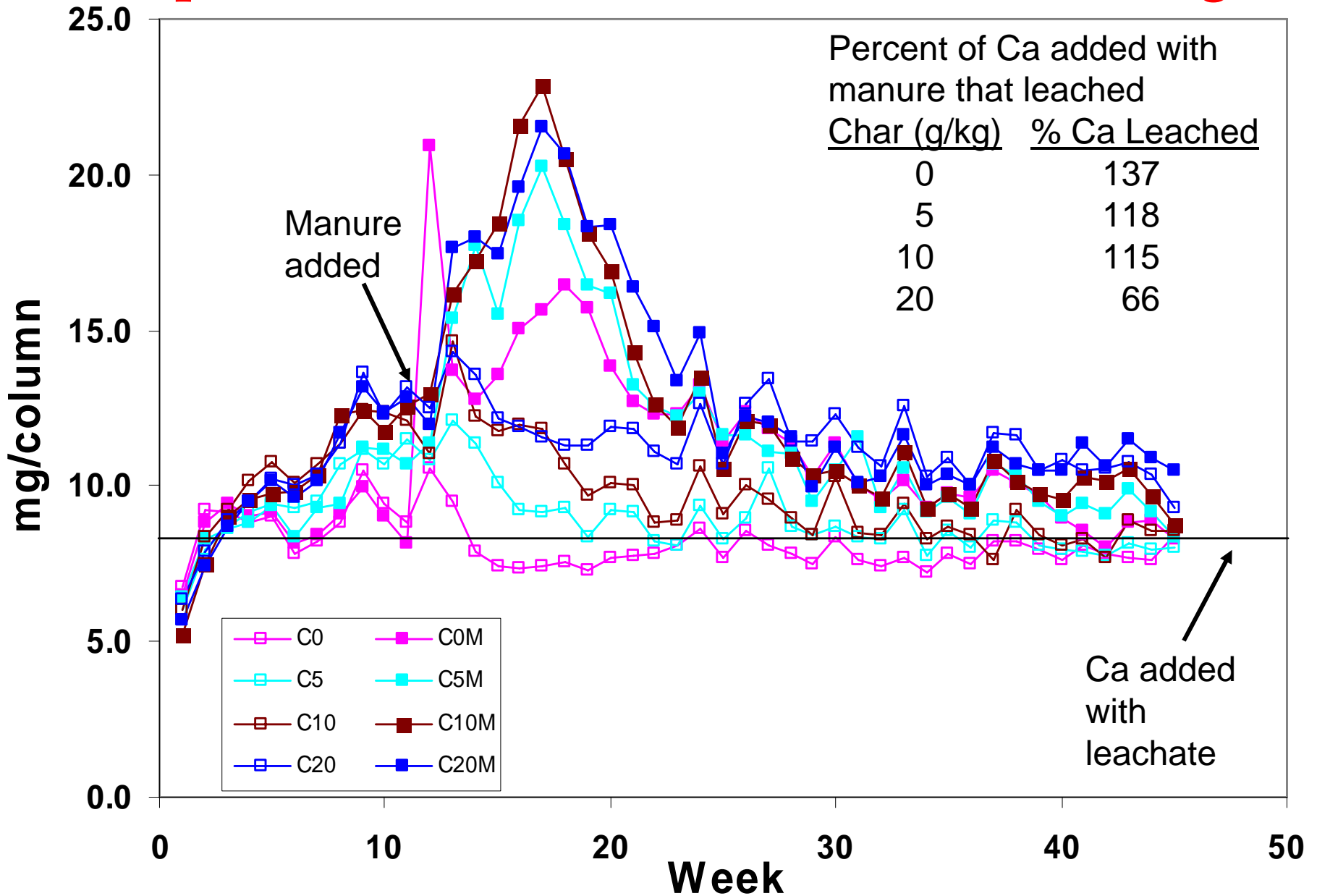
# Impact of biochar and manure on Na leaching



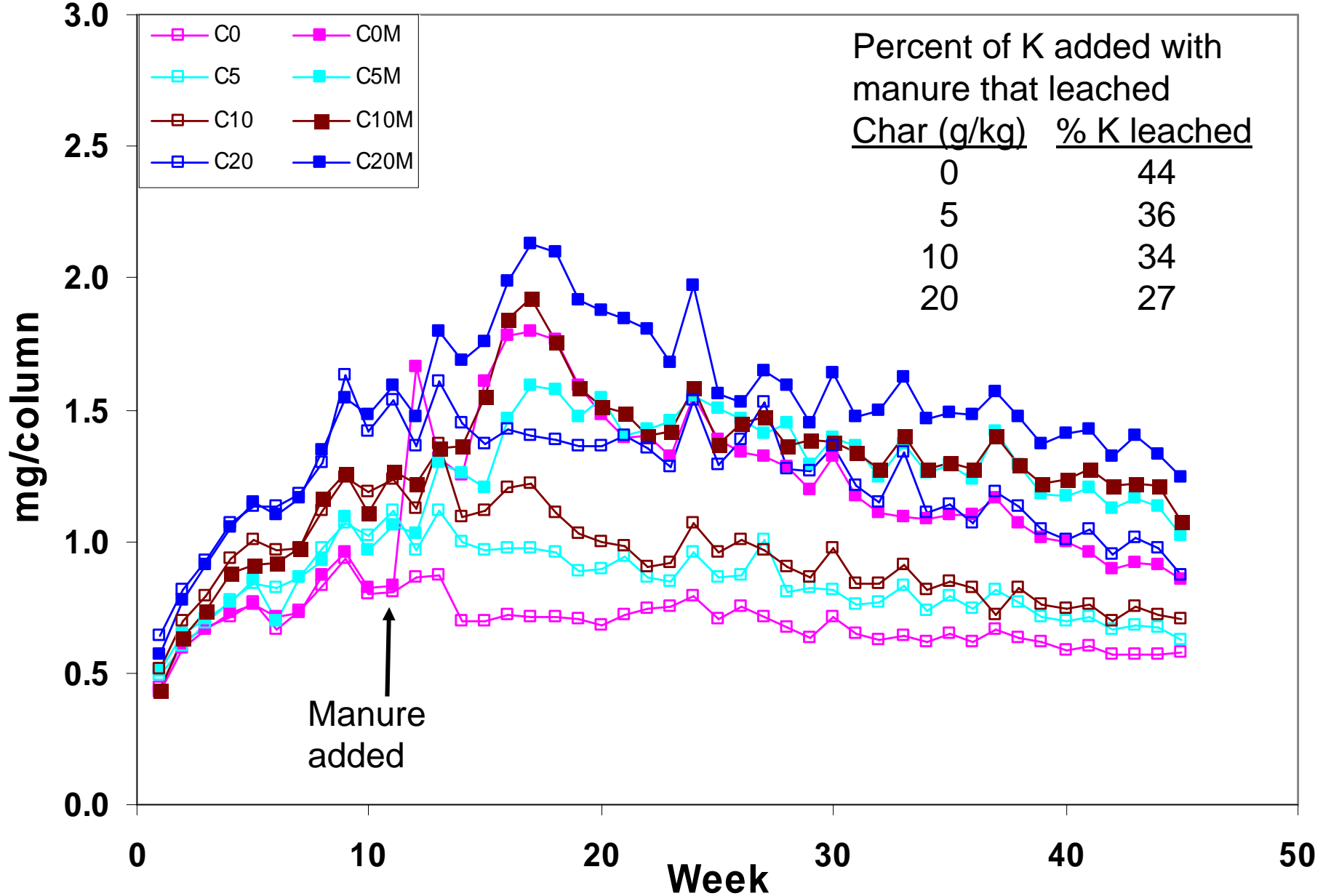
# Impact of biochar and manure on Mg leaching



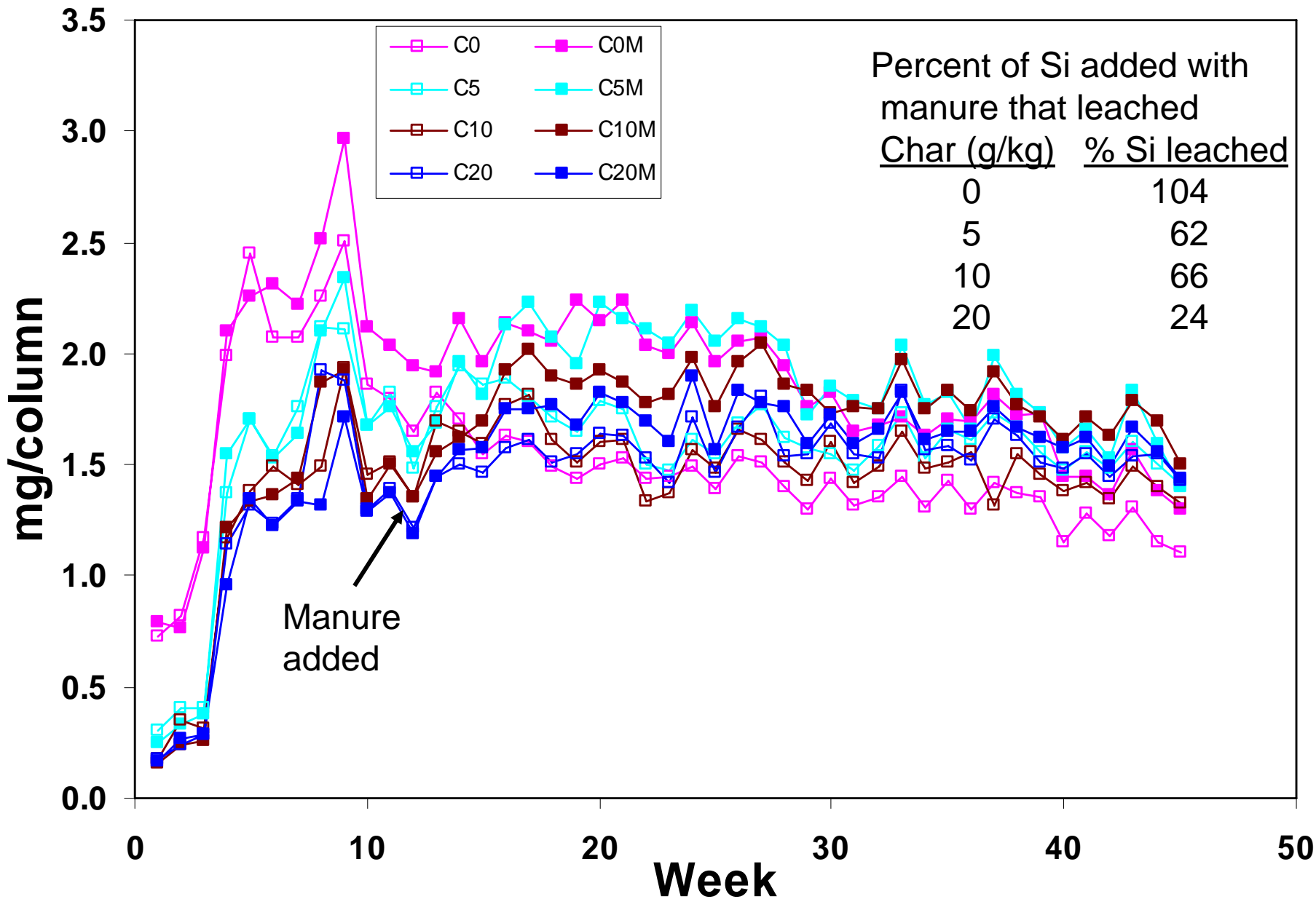
# Impact of biochar and manure on Ca leaching



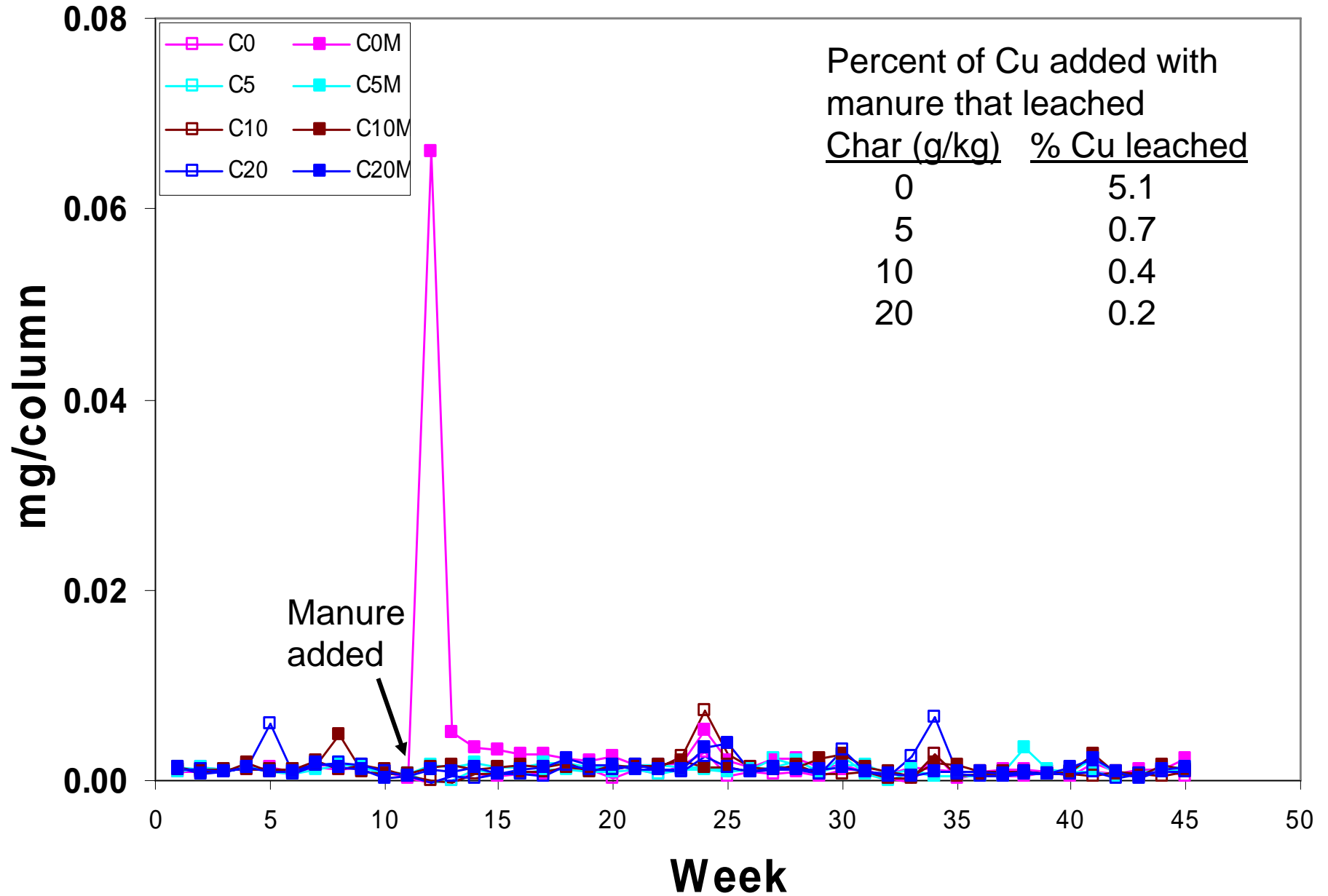
# Impact of biochar and manure on K leaching



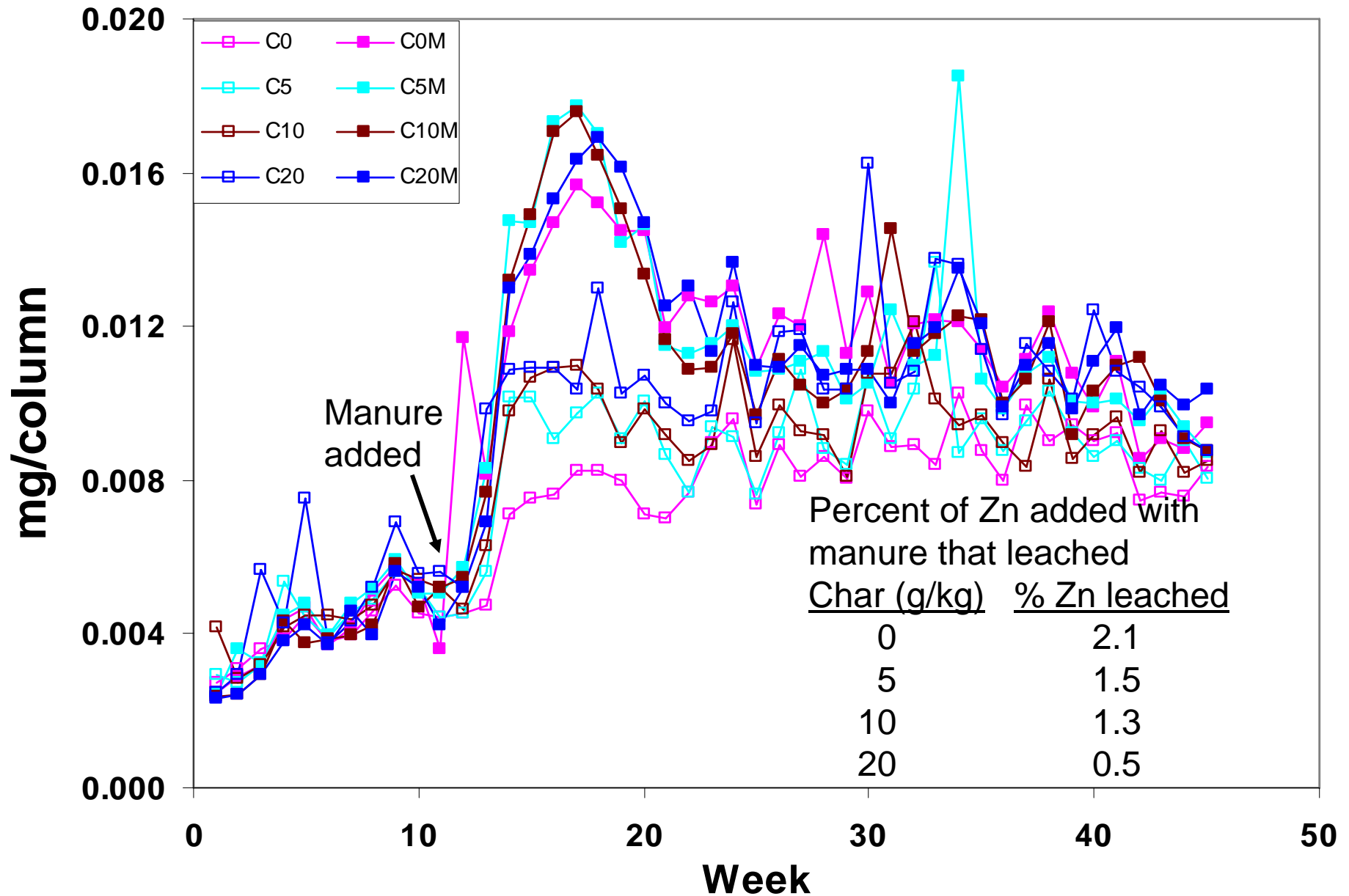
# Impact of biochar and manure on Si leaching



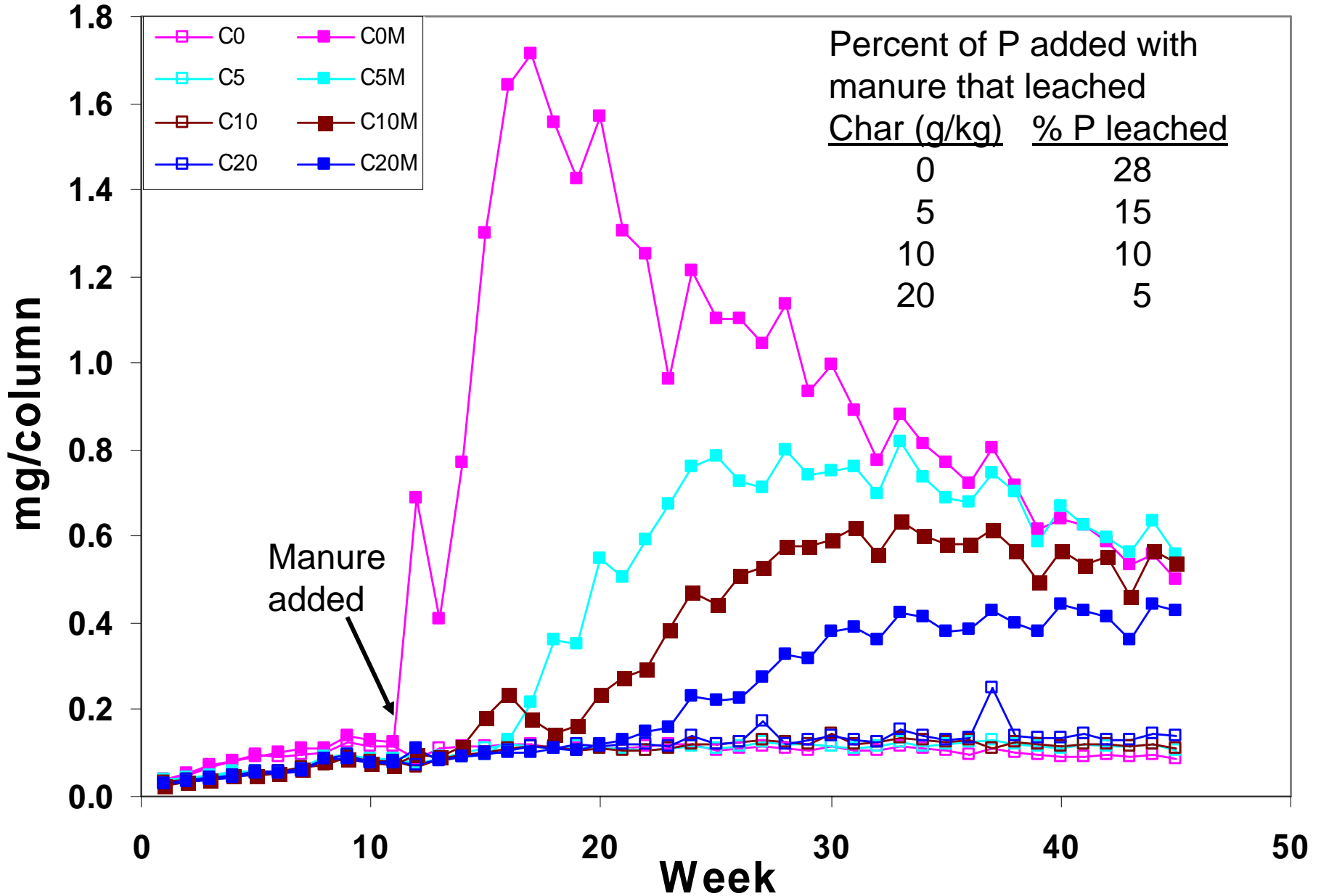
# Impact of biochar and manure on Cu leaching



# Impact of biochar and manure on Zn leaching



# Impact of biochar and manure on P leaching



# Conclusions

## Incorporation of hardwood biochar

- Increased CEC, pH, and total organic N.
- Reduced leaching of  $\text{NO}_3$  by 10% after manure application.
- Increase leaching of  $\text{NO}_3$  by 56% for the no-manure controls.
- Reduced leaching of Na, Ca, Mg, K, Si, Cu, and Zn.
- Biochar additions reduced P leaching by 40 to 70% following a manure application.

**Biochar additions to agricultural soils appears to be an effective means of reducing nutrient leaching following manure applications.**

Thanks to David Meek for help with statistics