**Methods**

*Experimental Design*

*Leaf gas exchange and trait measurements*

We sampled one random, fully expanded leaf with little to no visible external damage from each experimental individual for gas exchange measurements approximately six weeks after experiment initiation. Leaves were attached to a Li-COR LI-6800 (Li-COR Bioscience, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) portable photosynthesis machine to measure net photosynthesis (*A*area; μmol m-2 s-1), stomatal conductance (*g*s; mmol mol-1), and intercellular CO2 concentration (*C*i; µmol mol-1) at different atmospheric CO2 (*C*a; µmol mol-1) concentrations (i.e., an *A*area/*C*i curve) under saturated light conditions (1,500 μmol m-2 s-1), 50% relative humidity, and cuvette temperature set to 25°C. We measured *A*area, *g*s, and *C*i at each of the following reference CO2 concentrations (*C*a; μmol mol-1): 400, 300, 200, 100 50, 400, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1500, and 2000. We also collected fluorescence data of each focal leaf using a MultispeQ (PhotosynQ, East Lansing, MI, USA) device. Finally, we subjected individuals to at least a 30-minute dark period and quantified dark respiration (*R*d; μmol m-2 s-1), again using a Li-COR LI-6800 where the cuvette relative humidity was set to 50%, the cuvette temperature was set to 25°C, but incoming radiation in the cuvette was set to 0 μmol m-2 s-1.

Leaf trait measurements were collected on the same focal leaf used to generate each CO2 response curve. Images of each leaf were curated using a flat-bed scanner to determine wet leaf area using the 'LeafArea' R package (Katabuchi, 2015), which automates leaf area calculations using ImageJ software (Schneider *et al.*, 2012). Each leaf was dried at 65C for at least 48 hours, weighed, and ground until homogenized. Specific leaf area (*SLA*; cm2 g-1) was calculated as the ratio of wet leaf area (*L*area) to dry leaf biomass (*L*mass). Using subsamples of ground and homogenized leaf biomass, we also determined leaf nitrogen content (*N*mass; g g-1) through elemental combustion analysis (Costech-4010, Costech, Inc., Valencia, CA, USA) and leaf δ13C through isotope ratio mass spectroscopy. Leaf nitrogen mass per unit leaf area (*N*area; g m-2) was then calculated by dividing *N*mass by *SLA*.

We used leaf δ13C values to estimate the ratio of intercellular (*C*i) to extracellular (*C*a) CO2 (χ; Pa Pa-1) following the approach of Farquhar *et al.* (1989) as described in Cernusak *et al.* (2013). While intercellular and extracellular CO2 concentrations were directly measured during each CO2 response curve, deriving χ from δ13C provides a more integrative estimate of the *C*i:*C*a over an individual leaf’s lifespan. We derived χ as:

(Eqn. 1)

Δ13C represents the relative difference between leaf δ13C (‰) and air δ13C (‰), and is calculated from the following equation:

(Eqn. 2)

where δ13Cair is assumed to be -8‰ (Keeling *et al.*, 1979; Farquhar *et al.*, 1989), *a* represents the fractionation between 12C and 13C due to diffusion in air, set to 4.4‰, and *b* represents the fractionation caused by Rubisco carboxylation, set to 27‰ (Farquhar *et al.*, 1989).

*Whole plant traits*

After five weeks of treatment, we harvested all experimental individuals and separated biomass of each experimental individual into major organ types (leaves, stems, roots). We also harvested root nodules when present. Leaf areas of all harvested leaves were measured using a XXX and total leaf area was calculated as the sum of all leaf areas, including the leaf area of the focal leaf measured during the CO2 response curve. All harvested material was dried in an oven set to 65°C for at least 48 hours and weighed. Total dry biomass was then calculated as the sum of dry leaf, stem, and root biomass.

*Curve fitting and parameter estimation*

We fit *A*area/*C*i curves of each individual using the 'fitaci' function in the 'plantecophys' R package (Duursma, 2015). This function estimates the maximum rate of Rubisco carboxylation (*V*cmax; µmol m-2 s-1) and maximum rate of electron transport for RuBP regeneration (*J*max; µmol m-2 s-1) based on the Farquhar, von Caemmerer, and Berry biochemical model of C3 photosynthesis (Farquhar *et al.*, 1980). For each curve fit, we included triose phosphate utilization (TPU) limitation avoid underestimating *V*cmax and *J*max (Gregory *et al.*, 2021). We also determined kinetic parameters and CO2 compensation points using leaf temperature and equations derived in Medlyn *et al.* (2002). Dark respiration measurements were included in all curve fits, but were first standardized to 25C using a log-polynomial approach explained in O’Sullivan *et al.* (2013) and Heskel *et al.* (2016), where:

*R* is a dark respiration rate at temperature *T*, while *a*, *b*, and *c* are all coefficients of a temperature response model. We used coefficients set by Heskel *et al.* (2016) for C3 herbaceous species, where *a* was set to , *b* was set to , and *c* was set to . We then used an equation explained in Heskel *et al.* (2016)

For all curve fits, we manually standardized *V*cmax and *J*max to25C using a modified Arrhenius equation (as in Kattge & Knorr, 2007):

(Eqn. 9)

where *k*25 represents the standardized *V*cmax or *J*max rate at 25C, *k*obs represents the *V*cmax or *J*max estimate at the average leaf temperature measured inside the cuvette during the CO2 response curve. *H*a is the activation energy of *V*cmax (71,513 J mol-1; Kattge & Knorr, 2007) or *J*max (49,884 J mol-1; Kattge & Knorr, 2007). *H*d represents the deactivation energy of both *V*cmax and *J*max (200,000 J mol-1; Medlyn *et al.*, 2002), and R represents the universal gas constant (8.314 J mol-1 K-1). *T*ref represents the standardized temperature of 298.15 K and *T*obs represents the mean leaf temperature (K) during each CO2 response curve. ΔS is an entropy term that Kattge & Knorr (2007) derived as a linear relationship with average growing season temperature (*T*g; °C), where:

(Eqn. 10)

and:

(Eqn. 11)

We estimated *T*g in equations 2 and 3 based on mean daily air temperature of the 30 days leading up to the day of each sample collection. Temperature data were collected from a nearby weather station located on the Cornell University campus (42.449 N, 76.449 W), which was located within a 20-km radius of all sites. We then used *V*cmax25 and *J*max25 estimates to calculate the ratio of *J*max25 to *V*cmax25 (*J*max25:*V*cmax25).

*Statistical analyses*

We built a series of linear mixed-effects models to investigate the impacts of soil nitrogen fertilization and inoculation with *B*. *japonicum* on leaf photosynthesis, tradeoffs between nitrogen and water use, and whole plant growth. All models included soil nitrogen fertilization, inoculation status, and interactions between soil nitrogen fertilization and inoculation status as categorical fixed effects. Block number was included as a random intercept term. Models with this independent variable structure were constructed to quantify relationships between soil nitrogen fertilization and inoculation status on *A*400, *V*cmax25, *J*max25, *J*max25:*V*cmax25, *R*d25, *R*d25:*V*cmax25, *N*area, *SLA*, *N*mass, *L*area, *L*mass, *g*s, χ, *PNUE*, *iWUE*, *V*cmax:*g*s, total biomass, and total leaf area.

We used Shapiro-Wilk tests of normality to determine whether linear mixed-effects models satisfied residual normality assumptions. All models satisfied residual normality assumptions except XXX, XXX, and XXX (Shapiro-Wilk: p<0.05 in all cases). We attempted to satisfy residual normality assumptions for these dependent variables by first fitting models using dependent variables that were natural log transformed. If residual normality assumptions were still not met (Shapiro-Wilk: p<0.05), then models were fit using dependent variables that were square root transformed. All residual normality assumptions were met with either a natural log or square root data transformation (Shapiro-Wilk: p>0.05 in all cases). Specifically, we natural log transformed XXX and XXX. We also square root transformed XXX.

In all statistical models, we used the 'lmer' function in the 'lme4' R package (Bates *et al.*, 2015) to fit each model and the 'Anova' function in the 'car' R package (Fox & Weisberg, 2019) to calculate Type II Wald's χ2 and determine the significance (α=0.05) of each fixed effect coefficient. Finally, we used the 'emmeans' R package (Lenth, 2019) to conduct post-hoc comparisons using Tukey's tests, where degrees of freedom were approximated using the Kenward-Roger approach (Kenward & Roger, 1997). All analyses and plots were conducted in R version 4.1.0 (R Core Team, 2020).