

Buckwheat

Fagopyrum esculentum



Season type: Summer annual broadleaf grain

Uses

Compaction reduction	F	Attract beneficials	E
Residue persistence	P	Nitrogen scavenger	P
Erosion control	F	P & K scavenger	E
Weed control	E	Forage quality	P
Nematode control	F		

E=Excellent; VG=Very Good; G=Good; F=Fair; P=Poor/None

Seeding rate: 50 to 60 lb/acre drilled; 90-100 lb/acre broadcast

Planting date: after last frost

Production

Residue: 2,000 to 6,000 lb/acre

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Buckwheat grows quickly to suppress weeds, protect the soil from erosion, attract beneficial insects, and build organic matter.

Surface residue

Can produce 4,000 to 6,000 lb/acre of residue in six to eight weeks.

Weed control

Strong weed suppressor. May be sensitive to herbicide carryover.

A scavenger of phosphorus and calcium. Grows better on low-fertility soils than cereal grains. Not drought-tolerant.



Terminate within 7 to 10 days after flowering to prevent seed production.

May be used as an emergency cover crop in case of cash crop failure.



Adapted from *Managing Cover Crop Profitably 3rd Edition*



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