



## Buckwheat



Buckwheat is a short season annual with a delicate fibrous root system. Establishes quickly and is useful for weed suppression and mellowing the soil while improving aggregate stability. Classic uses for buckwheat include: ground cover after early vegetable, cover before planting strawberry beds and bringing idle land into production. Buckwheat does well in low fertility soils. Residue from the succulent buckwheat plants decomposes quickly.



Land preparation is necessary to ensure a quick start for the crop. Avoid wet spots due to buckwheat will not recover from flooding. Minimal fertilizer is needed. Seeding rate: 50lb/ac drilled, ½ to 1 in. deep. Best date for seeding is June and July. It can be planted as early as May 20 or as late as Aug. 15 but will give less growth. With buckwheat control use is moving 35-40 days after seeding, or when the field has just turned white with flowers.



Not recommended for planting into hard soil. Flooding stops growth permanently. Weeds will grow in any gaps over 10 inches. Parasitic wasps, ladybugs and hoverflies are beneficial insects attracted to buckwheat. Harmful insects such as tarnished plant bugs and aphids are attracted as well. The good news is that aphids can serve as a food source for the beneficial.

