



BUCKWHEAT

Producers may know that cover crops benefit the soil and agricultural operations, but do they know the benefits of each species? Each month a different cover crop species will be highlighted to provide producers with information needed to successfully grow cover crops or alternative forages on their operation.

AT A GLANCE

- Quick growing cover crop that matures in 70-90 days
- Germination occurs in around 3 days, making it one of the fastest germinating crops
- Buckwheat is a good weed suppressor
- Helps make phosphorus available to following crops that would otherwise not be available

PLANTING DETAILS

- Should be planted at a depth of 1/2" - 1"
- Planting dates:
 - N of I-94: June 15-August 15
 - S of I-94: June 1-September 1
- 18,000-20,000 seeds/lb; 45-68 lbs/acre seeding rate; min germination temp 50F

ABOUT BUCKWHEAT

- Quick growing cover crop that matures in 70-90 days
- Commonly used as a mid-season cover that can be planted during summer months
- Rapid growth makes for quick & easy establishment; germinates in around 3 days

BENEFITS

Weed Suppression

Allelopathic effects when buckwheat is growing make it a good suppressor of weeds, along with shading and overall competition. Buckwheat crowds out plants after tillage, especially perennial weeds that can be tough to handle such as thistles.

Soil Health

Buckwheat scavenges for nutrients. Phosphorus is taken up by the plant and released to the following crop as the buckwheat residue breaks down. This phosphorus would otherwise be unavailable to next crop. Also excellent for pollinators.



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