

**Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*)**

Buckwheat is a commonly used summer cover that is loved by pollinators and beneficial insects. It will emerge rapidly and grows quickly, but is not drought tolerant and doesn't perform as well on sandy soils as soils. It will produce viable seed in as little as 30 days and will reseed. In row crop production it is can be used after corn harvest. Late plantings in August will not produce as much biomass as earlier plantings. Farmers use it most often in summer cover crop mixtures.

**Recommended Varieties**

Variety	Reasons Why	Source
Mancan	Good growth and larger seeds, stems, and leaves.	Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data, Southeast AgriSeeds
Lifago	Larger leaves and later bloom.	Southeast Agriseeds

**Planting Information**

Information	Comments	Source
Drilled Seed Depth (inches)	½ - 1 ½	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Drilled Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	40 - 60	Managing Cover Crops Profitably
Broadcast Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	90 - 100	ARS Fact Sheet
Aerial Seeding Rate (lbs/acre)	Not recommended.	

**Termination Information**

Information	Source
Buckwheat can be terminated by mowing, herbicides or tillage. Terminate within 7-10 days of flowering to reduce seed setting and germination. Buckwheat is frost sensitive, but will not winterkill before setting viable seeds.	Managing Cover Crop Profitably
Consult your local Extension and state Pest Management Handbook for herbicide recommendations. Always follow the herbicide label.	

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**Cultural Traits**

Traits	Comments	Source
Typical Dry Matter Range (lbs/acre)	1,000 - 4,000	ARS Fact Sheet, Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center data, Managing Cover Crop Profitably
Typical Total N Range (lbs/acre)	0	
Life Cycle	Summer annual legume	
Growth Habit	Upright	
Preferred Soil pH	5.5 - 6.5	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Relative Seed Cost (\$/acre)	\$\$\$\$	Based on survey of seed costs using maximum price and max seeding rate
Min. Germination Temp (F)	50°	Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool
Cautions	Reseeds easily. Due to 60-day season, use with extreme caution if wheat is in the rotation used in export markets. See bulletin NRCS bulletin, NB 190-16-8 ECS for more details. Buckwheat may be negatively impacted by residual herbicides from the previous crop. Kill as soon as flowers begin. Do not use if field has a nematode problem. Buckwheat can harbor lesion nematodes.	USDA Buckwheat Plant Guide; Clemson

**Sources:**

ARS Fact Sheet:

<https://iapreview.ars.usda.gov/SP2UserFiles/Place/60100500/FactSheets/FS04k.pdf>

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center Annual Reports:

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2\\_022076](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_022076)

Managing Cover Crops Profitably: <https://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books>

Midwest Cover Crops Council Selector Tool - Missouri Data:

<http://mccc.msu.edu/covercroptool/covercroptool.php>

Southeast AgriSeeds:

<http://www.southeastagriseeds.com/cover-crops/>

USDA Buckwheat Plant Guide:

[https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_faes2.pdf](https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_faes2.pdf)