



Organic Site Preparation Buckwheat/Winter Wheat Option

Our Buckwheat-winter wheat organic site preparation method will eliminate most weeds when used over a two season period. Here are the details:

YEAR ONE

- Plow field to turn under weeds in late spring. Disk and drag smooth, or roto-till to create seedbed.
- Plant buckwheat at a rate of 1.5 to 2 bushels per acre in June after the danger of frost is past.
- Allow buckwheat to grow until it is in full flower (usually sometime in August).
- Mow down buckwheat when in full flower. DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FORM SEED. Plow under after mowing.
- Allow plowed-under buckwheat to sit for one to two weeks to break down before planting winter wheat.
- Seed winter wheat at a rate of 100 lbs per acre in late August to early September. Allow wheat to grow into fall. Do not disturb the soil over fall or winter.

YEAR TWO

- Allow winter wheat to grow in spring and begin to “head out” with seed heads.
- Plow winter wheat under when it begins to head out.
- Allow plowed-under winter wheat to break down for two weeks before planting second crop cycle of buckwheat.
- Plant buckwheat in June when all danger of frost is past.
- Allow buckwheat to grow until it is in full flower, the same as the previous year.
- Mow and plow down buckwheat when in full flower, same as previous year.
- Disk and drag seed bed for planting to prairie.

- Plant prairie between Sept 15 and Nov. 15, as a dormant seeding.
- If site is subject to erosion, plant prairie between Sept. 1 and Oct. 1, with 15 lbs per acre annual rye nurse crop. The planting must be done prior to Oct. 1st in order for there to be sufficient growing time in the fall for the annual rye nurse crop to develop roots sufficient to properly hold the soil and prevent erosion.
- If only warm season prairie grasses are being planted, such as the bluestems, Indiangrass, Side Oats Grama, Switchgrass, etc, the field should be planted in the following spring rather than in the fall. This is due to the fact that warm season grasses exhibit reduced germination when seeded in fall. If the site is subject erosion over the intervening fall and winter, the site should be seeded to annual rye (NOT winter wheat, which will be difficult to get rid of next spring). Disk or plow the annual rye under the next spring and plant warm season grasses at the same time farmers are planting corn.

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