



# LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Why not buckwheat?. Circular 75 May, 1917

Moore, R. A. (Ransom Asa), 1861-1941

[Madison, Wisconsin]: University of Wisconsin, Agricultural Extension Service, May, 1917

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Y5O7HMCREV66X8B>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

# Why Not Buckwheat

**For that acre where corn failed  
—the wet field you just drained  
—the sandy corner of the farm  
—that acre you just cleared**

**Large Wisconsin mills have, in other years, had to  
purchase much of their buckwheat  
from other states. Will you help Wis-  
consin to raise her own supply  
and more this year?**

# Why Not Buckwheat?

R. A. MOORE

Try a field of buckwheat this year.

This wheat substitute will be in greater demand than ever next fall and winter.

Buckwheat always takes quite an important place in the human diet for practically every one is fond of buckwheat pancakes.

A great deal of buckwheat is used for feeding purposes. It is highly recommended as a poultry feed.

Certainly there never was a time in the history of the state when more attention should be given to the buckwheat crop than the present year when all human and animal foods are so high in price. And Wisconsin farmers have not begun to supply the mills of the state with all the buckwheat they want. The millers have had to buy a large part of their supply from New York, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

## SOW WHEN OTHER CROPS FAIL

Besides all this, buckwheat is a handy crop—it fills in when and where crops like corn, clover, and other cereals fail to thrive. The land can generally be fitted for buckwheat after the other crop has failed. Newly cleared land that cannot be prepared before the middle of June can be put in buckwheat.

Buckwheat is easy to grow, and will give good returns on soil that is so low in fertility that other crops will scarcely grow. It will also respond readily to the richer soils.

While buckwheat should have good drainage, it is a splendid crop to grow on marshes which have been broken after drainage. It will help decay the vegetable matter on almost any new soil.

## BUCKWHEAT AS A NURSE CROP

Clover and grass seedings are often put in with buckwheat and where the desire is to follow the buckwheat crop the next year with a hay crop, the clover and grasses are seeded at the same time buckwheat is sown. Buckwheat renders good shade for the tiny grass and clover plantlets, and aids very much in getting this crop established in the fields.

Buckwheat is also a great weed killer, helping to destroy all kinds of farm weeds. It grows erect and has broad spreading leaves which aid very much in keeping down weed growth and preventing rapid evaporation of moisture on sandy lands.

## SILVER HULL AND JAPANESE BEST

Three varieties of buckwheat can be sown in Wisconsin—Silver Hull, Japanese, and common black. The first two varieties are exceptionally good strains for our conditions.

Buckwheat, just like any other crop, it responds to good culture and for that reason the ground should be well prepared. If the ground can be worked over in the early part of June and allowed to lie for a few days to become compact, it will aid in the production of a good crop. A bushel to the acre planted by an ordinary grain drill or seeder is sufficient. Where Silver Hull is used, three pecks to the acre is enough.

Don't plant buckwheat too deep—not more than an inch on heavy soils, and from one to two inches on light soils. If the ground is newly plowed, it is a good plan to use a planker or roller to firm the soil before the seed is sown.

## SOW ABOUT MIDDLE OF JUNE

While as a rule a crop of buckwheat can be matured in the southern half of Wisconsin if sown at any time up to July 1, it will be better to sow a little earlier so as to miss the heavy fall frosts. From June 10 to June 25 would be about the right time, and when the seed is sown the crop needs no more attention until it is ready to harvest.

The time to harvest can usually be determined by the number of the ripened seeds. All the seeds will not ripen and there will be green seeds and even flowers on some of the plants, yet it can be caught at a time when the large portion of the seed has turned black, gray or brown.

Cut into small loose bundles and shock it like other grain. In order to allow the buckwheat to dry to better advantage, it is often cut with a binder without binding and left in loose bundles on the field. Later after drying, it is bound by hand. If the bundles are small and loose, they will dry out if properly shocked.

Buckwheat is threshed the same as other grains with an ordinary threshing machine. Concaves of the machine should be lowered so as not to crush seeds.

Usually a good local market is found for buckwheat. If, however, there is any doubt about securing a good market for the seed, full information can be secured by addressing the Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison. The large buckwheat mills usually pay a good price for all buckwheat that is produced.

It seems in these days when there is need for an increased food production that a great deal of land which has not been used heretofore could be put into shape to raise a profit-producing crop of buckwheat.