

Harpe

The standard of silver buckwheat



Strengths

- Very good early vigour
- Excellent covering power
- Variety used for the Protected Geographical Indication « Buckwheat flour of Brittany »



Characteristics

- Family
- Species
- Stem
- Root system

Polygonaceae
Fagopyrum esculentum
Branched
Taproot



Outlets and uses

Flour for human food:

The buckwheat **Harpe** is mainly grown to make flour. Harpe is the only variety registered in the Protected Geographical Indication « Buckwheat flour of Brittany ». Flour of **Harpe** is also gluten-free.

A cover crop for game:

The buckwheat **Harpe** is a very good cover crop for game, in which a lot of insects are living. It helps to hide feed for wild animals. It could be also mixed with other species. **Harpe** is sensitive to frost.

A honey plant:

The buckwheat Harpe is flowering during a very long period, which generally differs compared with other species.

It helps bees to supply hives with abundant honey.

Animal feed:

Buckwheat has diversified and rich-proteins. It could be used for animal feed in addition with cereals and pulses.

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Crop management

Mid-early

Harpe is well adapted to poor soils and could be grown as main crop or catch crop

Sowing date and density

From mid-May to July, only with sufficient water reserve.
Sowing density : 150 to 200 seeds/m², being 30 to 40 kg.

Nitrogen input

The buckwheat is rustic and adapts its development to all different type of soils. But, intensive management with nitrogen excess is not recommended due to its lodging susceptibility.

Weed management

The cultivation technique consisting in creating a false seed bed gives good results. Thanks to its vigorous and thick growth, the buckwheat competes with weeds and may be considered as "a clean crop".

Harvest

The growing cycle of buckwheat is around 100 to 120 days with indeterminate growth . To get a good storage and an optimal quality, dry slowly seeds just after harvest.