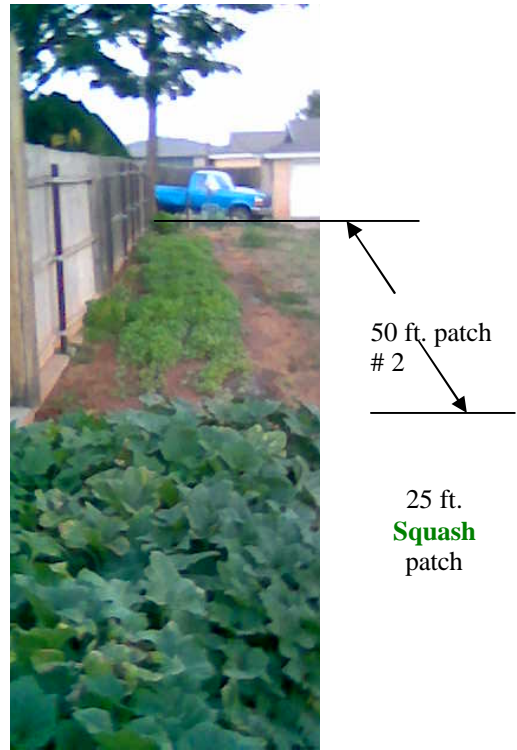


## Buckwheat (POLYGONACEAE)

**Rick, M., Wolfforth, TX.** I have been interested in growing garlic commercially for some time, and was informed that if I planted successive crops of Buckwheat beforehand, and plowed each one under that this would be one of the best ways to prepare the soil for garlic. On an experimental plot alongside my house, about 125 feet long and five feet wide, I began planting Buckwheat in late Spring / early Summer. By the end of July two separate crops had matured to the point where they could be plowed under and a third crop could be seeded.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> on the same strip of ground I planted a 50 foot patch of Buckwheat seed I had obtained from *Outside Pride* (seed packager from the northwestern USA) as before, and from the same 10lb sack, another strip of 50 feet on the opposite end, but with the addition of about 2.5 gallons (roughly 20 lbs.) of chelated trace minerals from Panaca, Nevada in their dry, unliquefied, natural form. Separating the two groups was a 25 foot patch of squash so that the control group would not benefit from the Buckwheat patch treated with the minerals.



My previous crops of Buckwheat, as well as the untreated August 1<sup>st</sup> patch, routinely took about 7-8 days to sprout. Much to my amazement the patch treated with the Montmorillonite starting coming up within just four to five days. As you can see from the photos, the control group, as with the previous plantings, still resulted in only about a 30% sprouting rate, whereas my treated patch boasted essentially a 100% sprout rate. The



Plot # 1,  
Control Group – no minerals

patch where Montmorillonite was applied was much healthier -- looking, thicker, and greener, and 18-20 inches tall before I plowed it under on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The other three buckwheat plantings only grew to be about 16" tall.



August 1st planting treated with  
*Montmorillonite* from Panaca