

Phacelia Super Bee



Key Features

Phacelia is a non-legume, fast-growing broadleaf (2'-3') with the ability to accumulate and recycle excess Nitrates and Calcium. When planted at high seeding rates, it provides good weed suppression and the succulent tissue is easy to incorporate.

A quick growing plant which makes a fine, feathery but dense carpet that shades and holds the soil but allows moisture to trickle through. Phacelia attracts pollinators and is considered one of the very best bee plants.

Phacelia's lavender-blue, fragrant flowers are loved by people too.

While not a deep tiller in terms of root depth, it is one of the best soil improvers in terms of its ability to aggregate soil particles into the type of crumbly aggregate structure that is typical of high quality soils.

Application

Cover Crop
Pollinator

Planting Time

Spring

Establishment

Sow Phacelia in spring while the soil is still cool. Make sure seed is well covered, because phacelia seeds need darkness to germinate. The optimal soil temperature range for germination is between 50 – 68°F. Phacelia prefers well-drained soil

Management Keys

Phacelia is a quick growing green manure so it can be grown after an early crop is harvested. It is not related to any vegetable plants so it is easy to fit in without spoiling a crop rotation.

It is often planted alongside crop fields, where because of its nectar-rich properties it attracts pollinators such as honey-bees. It is also attractive to hoverflies which are useful as biological pest control agents because they eat aphids and other pests.

Seeding Rate

Drilled	4-6#
Precision Planting	3-4#
Broadcast	6-8#

Seeding Depth

No deeper than ¼, but covered

Characteristics

Nutrient Scavenging	4
Nutrient Release Rate	4
Compaction	5
Soil Builder	2

Scale 1-5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent)

