



# WEED CONTROL ON AN ORGANIC VEGETABLE FARM

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WHY DO MANY ORGANIC ROW CROP  
FARMERS SPEND LESS TIME ON WEED  
CONTROL THAN ORGANIC VEGETABLE  
FARMERS WITH BETTER RESULTS?

# CROP ROTATION, SUMMER BARE FALLOW, SEED PREDATION, SHADE, POPULATION, AND FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

- Vegetables following vegetables is not a crop rotation for optimum weed control
- Seed predation works best when land is not tilled for several years
- Vegetables need light and air drainage and only few provide sufficient shade in the early stages of development
- Nutrients are often available in excessive quantities leading to excessive growth of weeds. Even cover crops are often weedy when N is readily available.

# CROP ROTATION WITH SUMMER BARE FALLOW, SOME SEED PREDATION AND SHADE IN A VEGETABLE CROP ROTATION

- October year 1. Winter Rye
- June Year 2: Cut in anthesis and baled up for straw
- July Year 2: Bare fallow after rainstorms
- July Year 2: Buckwheat for four weeks
- August Year 2: Bare fallow after rainstorms
- September Year 2: Oats and Peas
- Late April through the end of May Year 3: Potatoes, Winter Squash, Carrots, etc.

## OTHER COVER CROPS IN VEGETABLE ROTATIONS



- 60 lbs. of crotalaria
- 20 lbs. of cow peas
- 10 lbs. of sorghum
- 5 lbs. of sunflower

80 lbs. of Buckwheat























## OTHER TOOLS

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*Mulching with clean straw or  
3 year old hay*



## OTHER TOOLS

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*Mulching with black plastic  
and clean straw or 3 year  
old hay*





## OTHER TOOLS

*Mulching with black plastic  
and weed fabric*



## OTHER TOOLS

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*Tarping*



## OTHER TOOLS

*Flame weeding*



## OTHER TOOLS

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*Mechanical Weed Control  
on raised beds*



## OTHER TOOLS

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*Mechanical Weed Control  
on Ridges*



*Mechanical weed  
Control on raised  
beds using  
precision weed  
control*



*Mechanical weed  
Control using  
precision weed  
control systems*



*Precision  
Mechanical weed  
Control on ridges*





## OTHER TOOLS

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*Avoiding seed rain*

WHY DO MANY ORGANIC ROW  
CROP FARMERS SPEND LESS  
TIME ON WEED CONTROL THAN  
ORGANIC VEGETABLE  
FARMERS WITH BETTER  
RESULTS?

Better Crop  
Rotations

Population  
and Shade

Optimum Fertility  
Management

# OTHER TOOLS AVAILABLE TO COMPENSATE:

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Avoiding  
Seed Rain

Mulching

Tarping

Flame  
Weeding

Mechanical  
Weed  
Control