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# Purchasing Compost

Compost, the end product of a controlled decomposition of plant and animal wastes, makes an excellent addition to lawn or garden soil. Adding compost to your soil helps improve both its drainage and water-holding properties. Compost stores plant nutrients and prevents them from leaching. It “opens up” the soil so plant roots can penetrate easily. Some recent research indicates that compost can help prevent many common plant diseases.

Although most gardeners can produce their own compost from kitchen scraps and yard and garden wastes, making *enough* compost is a tough job for gardeners with thin or poor topsoil.

Legislation that went into effect in 1993 made it illegal for New Hampshire municipalities to incinerate or landfill leaf and yard wastes. Some municipalities currently collect and compost these wastes at town solid waste facilities, offering the compost free to residents; check to see if your town is among them.

The legislation also created opportunities for commercial composting operations to take in leaves and other organic waste products and process them into compost for sale. The following pages of this fact sheet list composting operations throughout New Hampshire that sell bulk and/or bagged compost to the general public.

Many different types and percentages of organic materials may go into any given batch of compost, so no two batches, even from the same supplier, are likely to be uniform with respect to plant nutrients, pH and texture. Because you can't take compost back if it doesn't perform the way you expected, ask questions and scrutinize the product before you buy.

Here are a few guidelines to help home gardeners become savvy compost buyers:

- Ask the vendor for the compost “recipe.” What materials went into the compost and how was it made?
- Some composts contain *biosolids* (residuals from sewerage treatment plants). New Hampshire law requires any compost containing biosolids to be tested and sold with a label that lists the product's concentration of heavy metals and nutrients, along with recommendations for use of the product.
- Ask the vendor if a laboratory analysis of the compost is available (helpful, but unlikely, because the vendor would have to test each batch individually, an expensive proposition).
- Don't buy material that contains identifiable undecomposed materials such as leaves, stems, seeds, chunks of bark or eggshells.
- Don't buy compost containing nondegradable trash such as glass, plastic or metal.
- Don't buy any product with an off-odor. Finished compost has a sweet, rich smell.

**Note:** *Experts recommend wearing gloves when handling compost, or at least scrubbing thoroughly after handling compost with bare hands.*

## CHESHIRE COUNTY

### Brookfield Farm

Chris Gowdy  
Walpole, NH 03608  
445-5104

**Hours of operation:** Call first.

**Materials accepted:** Leaf and yard waste.

**Sells compost**

### Echo Moon Farm

Tom & Charlene Beaudry  
Walpole, NH 03608  
756-9582

**Hours of operation:** Call first for bulk compost, bagged materials available anytime on the honor system.

**Sells compost** bagged and bulk, wholesale and retail.

### Keene Recycling Center

Duncan Watson  
352-5739

**Hours of operation:** M-F7-3, Sat 8-1

**Materials accepted:** Leaf and yard waste, small brush.

**Compost available free of charge** to Keene residents only, one cubic yard limit; product unscreened.

## COOS COUNTY

### Gray Mist Farm

Nancy & Gordon Gray  
Brown Road  
Groveton, NH  
636-1294

website <graymist-farm.com>

**Hours of operation:** Call ahead.

## GRAFTON COUNTY

### Winsome Farm

Jim and Ellen Putnam  
529 Route 10  
Piermont, NH 03779-3313  
272-5875

**Hours of operation:** Most daylight hours. Call first to make sure.

**Materials accepted:** chips, leaf and yard waste.

**Sells compost** in bulk, will load trucks, will deliver.

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

### Ideal Compost

Mike Lombard  
439 Old Greenfield Road  
Peterborough, NH  
924-5050

**Hours of operation:** Call first, appt. only.

**Materials accepted:** food waste, leaves.

**Sells compost** bulk or bagged, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

### PK's Landscaping and Design

Paul Kerouac  
email <pkrouac@Juno.com>  
607 Amherst St.  
Nashua, NH  
598-6815

**Hours of operation:** weekdays 8 A.M. - 6 P.M.; weekends 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**Materials accepted:** vegetable and food wastes, barnyard manure, brush up to diameter of your thumb.

**Sells compost** bulk or bagged, sifted or unsifted. Will deliver.

## MERRIMACK COUNTY

### Lewis Farm

192 Silk Farm Road  
Concord, NH  
228-6230

**Hours of operation:** weekends and evenings.

**Materials accepted:** leaf and yard waste, brush - 6" or less in diameter, horse manure, vegetable matter.

**Sells compost** bulk, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

### Outdoor World

Carrie Williams  
Rte.106 240 Sheep Davis Rd.  
Concord, NH  
224-2226

**Hours of operation:** weekdays, 7A.M-5 P.M; weekends 8-4, Sundays in season 9-4.

**Materials accepted:** leaves and vegetable waste.

**Sells compost** several varieties of compost, bagged or bulk, certified analysis.

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## ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

### Moor Farm

Dick Wollmar  
109 Walnut Avenue  
North Hampton, NH  
964-6793

**Hours of operation:** Call first

**Materials accepted:** seaweed, manure, shredded leaves, green untreated grass clippings.

**Sells compost** bulk or bagged, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

### J&F Farm

Phil Ferdinando  
120 Chester Road  
Derry, NH  
432-5263

**Hours of operation:** 8 - 5 Mon thru Fri, 8 - 12 Sat

**Materials accepted:** compost, manure, food waste, some leaves.

**Sells compost** in bulk, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

**Seacoast Farms Compost Product**

Bob Kelly/Darren Davis  
 Sheirkin Road  
 Fremont, NH  
 772-6490

**Hours of operation:** Call first.

**Materials accepted:** food waste, leaf and yard waste, manure.

**Sells compost** in bulk, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

**Raspberry Ridge Herbs**

Joe White  
 140 Deerhill Road  
 Brentwood  
 679-5718

**Hours of operation:** Call first, appt. only.

**Materials accepted:** shredded leaves, spoiled hay, vegetable matter, manure, seaweed, brewery waste.

**Sells compost** in bulk; does not load trucks, does not deliver.

**Tamarack Landscaping**

Bill Garvey, David Ferris  
 22 West Road  
 Hudson  
 882-0361

**Hours of operation:** April-June, open daylight hours seven days/week. July-March, closed Sundays.

**Accepts** leaf & yard waste and animal manures at a different location. Call for more information.

**Sells compost** by cubic yard, will load trucks for customers, will deliver within 20-mile radius. Product screened and analyzed at UNH lab.

**STRAFFORD COUNTY****Pinewoods Yankee Farm**

Erick and Tina Sawtelle  
 93 North River Road  
 Lee  
 659-8106

**Hours of Operation:** Call first

**Sells various compost products** in bulk or custom-bagged; will load trucks for customers, will deliver

**SULLIVAN COUNTY****Eccardt Farms, Inc.**

2766 E. Washington Road  
 E. Washington, NH  
 495-3157

**Hours of operation:** Open all the time.

**Materials accepted:** None.

**Sells compost** in bulk; will load trucks for customers; will deliver locally (within 5-10 mile radius).

**Taylor Farm**

166 Main Street PO Box 271  
 Meriden, NH  
 469-3483

**Hours of operation:** By appt. only, call first.

**Materials accepted:** sawdust from mills.

**Sells compost** in bulk, will load trucks for customers, will deliver locally. Can arrange to deliver outside the local area.

**Note:** We've done our best to search out and include all New Hampshire bulk compost vendors. Inclusion in this list does not imply a recommendation by UNH Cooperative Extension, nor does failure to appear on the list indicate disapproval of any company or product. If you know of a New Hampshire company not on this list producing and selling a compost product to the general public, please call Peg Boyles at (603) 225-5505 or email her at <peg.boyles@unh.edu> so we can include the company on the next revision of this fact sheet.

*Visit our website: [ceinfo.unh.edu](http://ceinfo.unh.edu)*

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