



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 compost is one product you can't take 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.

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 Ext. 2

Hours of operation: M-F 7-3, Sat 8-1

Website: < <http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/publicworks/recycle/composting.html> >

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
317 Brown Road
Groveton, NH 03582
636-1294

Email: graymist@ncia.net

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 03458
924-5050

Hours of operation: M - F by appt. only.

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m (April, May, June),
Closed Sundays and Memorial Weekend.

Website: < idealcompost.com >

Materials accepted: leaves.

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

MERRIMACK COUNTY

Lewis Farm

192 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301
228-6230

Hours of operation: Open 7 days a week.

Website: < lewisfarmsh.com >

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

Outdoor World

Carrie Williams
Rte.106 240 Sheep Davis Rd.
Concord, NH 03301
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.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Moor Farm

Dick Wollmar
111 Walnut Avenue
North Hampton, NH 03862
964-6793

Hours of operation: Call first

Website: < moorfarm.org >

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 03038
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 03044
772-6490

Hours of operation: Call first.

Website: < seacoastcompost.com >

Email: bobk@seacoastcompost.com

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

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

Tamarack Landscaping

Bill Garvey, David Ferris
22 West Road
Hudson, NH 03051
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, NH 03861
659-8106

Hours of Operation: Call first

Website: < localharvest.com/farms >

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, shavings & beddings from horse farms.

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

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.

*Fact sheet developed by Peg Boyles, UNH Extension Writer/Editor,
with help from Richard Uncles, supervisor of the Bureau of Markets at the NH Department of Food, Agriculture and Markets,
and UNH Extension Agricultural Resources Educators*

*UNH Cooperative Extension programs and policies are consistent with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations
on non-discrimination regarding age, color, handicap, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veterans status.*