



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
460 Old Drewsville Road
Walpole, NH 03608
445-5104

Email: cdgowdyco@aol.com

Hours of operation: Call first.

Sells compost.

Elm Island Farm

Tom & Sharlene Beaudry
827 Wentworth Road
RR 1 Box 295
Walpole, NH 03608
756-9582

Hours of operation: Call first.

Sells bulk compost.

Keene Recycling Center

Duncan Watson
Route 12 North
Keene, NH 03431
352-5739 Ext. 2

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

Website: www.ci.keene.nh.us/departments/public-works/recycle-center

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

Graymist Farm

Nancy & Gordon Gray
317 Brown Road
Groveton, NH 03582
636-1294

Email: graymistgn@gmail.com

Website: www.graymistfarm.com

Hours of operation: Call first.

Pick up bulk compost at farm or arrange delivery.

GRAFTON COUNTY

Winsome Organic Farm

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

Website: www.facebook.com/pages/Piermont-NH/WinsomeFarm/187548073701

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

Email: info@idealcompost.com

Hours of operation: M-F by appt. only. Saturdays 8:30-1 (April, May, June), closed on Sundays and Memorial Weekend.

Website: <http://www.idealcompost.com>

Materials accepted: Leaf and yard waste.

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

MERRIMACK COUNTY

The Dirt Doctors

709 Keith Avenue
Pembroke, NH 03275
229-3200

Email: keith@dirtdoctorsnh.com

Website: www.dirtdoctorsnh.com

Hours of operation: M-F 7 am – 5 pm, Sat 8 am – 4 pm, and Sundays (seasonally).

Materials accepted: Leaf and yard waste.

Sells organic compost bulk, will load trucks or deliver.

Lewis Farm

Harry Lewis
192 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301
228-6230

Email: harrylewis192@comcast.net

Website: www.lewisfarmnh.com

Hours of operation: Open 7 days a week.

Materials accepted: Leaf and yard waste, animal manure.

Sells compost by the bag or by bulk, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

Outdoor World of New England

Brian Boudreau
240 Sheep Davis Road (Rte 106)
Concord, NH 03301
224-2226

Email: info@outdoorworldne.com

Website: www.outdoorworldne.com

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

Sells bulk organic compo

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Griffin Lawn Care

Nick Griffin
104 Kelsey Road
Nottingham, NH 03290
817-1067

Email: griffinlawncare@yahoo.com

Website: www.griffin-lawncare.com

Hours of operation: by appointment.

Materials accepted: leaves, grass clippings, and garden debris. No Biosolids or sludge. Call first.

Sells bulk organic compost. Pickup or delivery up to 5 miles radius (2 yard minimum).

Moor Farm

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

Website: www.moorfarm.org

Materials accepted: seaweed, manure, shredded leaves, green untreated grass clippings. No food or meat.

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

Email: jffarms@hotmail.com

Hours of operation: 8-5, M-F, 8-12 Saturdays

Materials accepted: Leaf and yard waste, animal manure.

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

Seacoast Farms Compost Products, Inc.

Bob Kelly
Shirkin Road
Fremont, NH 03044
772-6490

Email: bobk@seacoastcompost.com

Website: www.seacoastcompost.com

Hours of operation: M-F 7-4:30, Sat 9-2 – call first.

Materials accepted: Yard waste, animal waste and agricultural residuals.

Sells both bulk organic compost and super loam. Will deliver a minimum of three yards of compost.

Tamarack Landscaping

Bill Garvey, David Ferris
22 West Road
Hudson, NH 03051
882-0361

Email: info@tamaracklandscaping.net

Website: www.tamaracklandscaping.net

Hours of operation: M-F 7-5

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

STRAFFORD COUNTY

Earth Tenders

Eva Christensen
Corner of Paulson Road and Rte 11
Farmington, NH 03835
767-0806

Email: evamchristen@yahoo.com

Website: www.earthtenders.org

Hours of operation: Tues & Thurs, 9-3. Open mid-April thru Nov. 30. Closed during heavy rains, snow, or thunderstorms.

Materials accepted: Leaves, grass clippings, garden & house plants, pine needles, cones, acorns, minor brush.

Sells organic compost available in bags and in bulk.

Pinewoods Yankee Farm

Erick and Tina Sawtelle
93 North River Road
Lee, NH 03861
659-8106

Website: www.localharvest.org/farms/M5207

Hours of operation: Call first.

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

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Taylor Farm

166 Main Street
PO Box 271
Meriden, NH 03770
469-3483

Email: rob@taylorbrotherssugarhouse.com

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) 796-2151 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: extension.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

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Revised 5/2011