



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 compost to the 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.

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

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.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY****Brookfield Farm**

Chris Gowdy
 460 Old Drewsville Road, Walpole, NH 03608
 (603) 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
 (603) 756-9582
 Hours of operation: Call first.
 Sells bulk compost.

CARROLL COUNTY**White Gates Farm**

2153 Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth, NH 03886
 (603) 662-7538
 Email: whitegatesfarm@gmail.com
 Website: whitegates-farm.com
 Hours of operation: 9am-6pm
 Bulk & Bagged, all organic.
 Worm castings also available

Spider Web Gardens

252 Middle Road, Tuftonboro, NH 03861
 (603) 569-5056
 Email: Spiderwebgardens@ne.twcbc.com
 Website: spiderwebgardens.com
 Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm
 Bulk or Bagged, Organic & Municipal compost, our own soil mix and bark mulch

GDC Garden Center

7 Intervale Lane, Intervale, NH
 (603) 356-7001
 Compost by the bag, yard, or tractor trailer, will deliver.

Limmer Landscapes

Eric Limmer
 PO Box 515, Glen, NH 03835
 (603) 383-6466
 Hours of operation: Call first.
 Will deliver only bulk orders.

COOS COUNTY**Lancaster Floral Design & Garden Center**

Todd Brown
 306 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584
 (603) 788-3311
 Email: lfggc@myfairpoint.net
 Website: lancasterfloraldesign.net
 Hours of operation: Open 7 days a week during growing season. Materials accepted: Leaves and wood chips.

GRAFTON COUNTY**Winsome Organic Farm**

Jim and Ellen Putnam
 529 Route 10, Piermont, NH 03779-3313
 (603) 272-5875
 Website: winsomefarmorganics.com
 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, delivery arrangements made.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**Ideal Compost**

Mike Lombard
 439 Old Greenfield Road, Peterborough, NH 03458
 (603) 924-5050
 Email: info@idealcompost.com
 Hours of operation: M-F by appt. only. Saturdays 8:30-1:00 (April, May, June), closed on Sundays and Memorial Day Weekend.
 Website: idealcompost.com
 Materials accepted: Leaf and yard waste. Sells compost bulk or bagged, will load trucks for customers, will deliver.

Knight Farm

Brad Knight
 21 Upham Road, Amherst, NH 03031

(603) 673-8822
 Email: kchvic@comcast.net
 Website: bknightcustomhomes.com
 Hours of operation: Call first.
 Sells bulk compost.

Connolly Brothers Dairy Farm, LLC

140 Webster Highway, Temple, NH 03084
 603-924-5002
 Email: Connollybrothersdairyfarm@yahoo.com
 Hours of operation: Open 7 days a week call ahead
 Composted cow manure for sale bagged or bulk. Can load your truck or delivery can be arranged.

Dodge Farms

Attn: Claire Dodge
 NH Rt. 77, Weare Road, New Boston,
 NH 03070
 (603) 487-3339
 Website: www.nhmade.com/members/clairedodgeaol-com
 Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, call to schedule appointment. Sold by the cubic yard

MERRIMACK COUNTY

The Dirt Doctors

709 Keith Avenue, Pembroke, NH 03275
 (603) 229-3200
 Email: keith@dirtdoctorsnh.com
 Website: 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
 (603) 228-6230
 Email: harrylewis192@comcast.net
 Website: 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.

StoneFalls Gardens

184 Stonefalls Road, Henniker, NH 03242
 Office: (603) 428-6161
 Cell: (603)470-6660
 E-mail: StoneFalls Gardens@compost.net
 website: stonefallsgardens.com/about-stonefalls-gardens.php
 Hours of Operation: M-F - 8- 6 Sat-Sun 9-4, April 1 - Nov 1

Materials Accepted: Leaf and yard waste
 Sell organic compost - bulk.
 Will load trucks or deliver.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Griffin Lawn Care

Nick Griffin
 104 Kelsey Road, Nottingham, NH 03290
 (603) 817-1067
 Email: griffinlawncare@yahoo.com
 Website: 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).

J.M. Hayden Equipment LLC

John M. Hayden
 24 Route 108, Newfields, NH 03856
 (800) 772-9366
 Email: jmhayden@haydenequipment.com
 Website: jmhayden.com
 Hours of operation: April 1st to November 15th – 7:30am to 5:00pm
 November 16th to March 31st – 7:30am to 4:00pm
 We accept yard waste only, no food or animal waste and no brush, trees or stumps
 Sold by the cu/yard loaded or delivered.

J & F Farm

Phil Ferdinando
 120 Chester Road, Derry, NH 03038
 (603) 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
 (603) 772-6490
 Email: bobk@seacoastcompost.com
 Website: 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 compost and super loam.
 Will deliver a minimum of three yards of compost.
 Compost approved for organic production through NHDA.

Tamarack Landscaping

Bill Garvey, David Ferris
22 West Road, Hudson, NH 03051
(603) 882-0361
Email: info@tamaracklandscaping.net
Website: 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**Pinewoods Yankee Farm**

Erick and Tina Fottler-Sawtelle
93 North River Road Lee, NH 03861
(603) 659-8106 or (603) 234-7908
Email: esawtelles@aol.com
Website: 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
(603) 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.

Visit our website: extension.unh.edu.

Updated 02/15-jdelisle

For more fact sheets, go to
extension.unh.edu/resources/category/Agriculture

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture and N.H. counties cooperating. 2015