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.

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

Food & Agriculture

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: lggc@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/claireidodgeaol-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: StoneFallsGardens@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: griffinlawncares@yahoo.com  
Website: griffin-lawncares.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.

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

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