

## Local Resources for Compost and Grass Seed as January 2024

*PRODUCTS & PRICES BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE; NO ENDORSEMENTS ARE IMPLIED.*

### COMPOST

- A few of the suppliers below were trained by the “Maine Composting School.”
- Some municipalities offer (free or low cost) compost, but they do not always achieve the proper heating level when making compost.
- For flower & vegetable gardens, avoid compost that uses grass clippings unless you know that the grass was not treated with pesticide.
- Look for compost that is “approved” for Organic land and gardens, which means it meets the NOP (National Organic Program of the USDA) standards for organic gardening. MOFGA Certification is the same as NOP and MOFGA is good for 3 yrs.

### SOME SUPPLIERS:

COUNTRY FARE in Bowdoin: bulk. Meets NOP standards (MOFGA 2018) \$46-67/y prices vary. 666-5603.

RAINBOW VALLEY FARMS in Sidney: bulk. An organic dairy farm (Jeff Bragg). Meets NOP standards. \$70-80/y plus <\$100 for the delivery. PFAS test was negative. (this compost is used by Jeff Quirion, landscaper for Kennebec Savings Bank properties)

KINNEY COMPOST in Unity. bulk. Meets NOP standards and does the most frequent chemical analysis and PFAS test is negative. \$70/y, call re: delivery. 568-3683. (Johnny’s Selected Seeds has used this compost)

BENSON FARM in Gorham but available at Richmond Farm & Home Supply 737-4502. Bulk, pick up or arrange delivery. “Surf n Turf” Compost is NOP approved.

MB BARK: Bulk. Buy it at Winthrop at D.R. Struck. (It’s from Auburn). Meets NOP standards. The “Certified Organic Compost” is made from local grocery store vegetable waste, coffee roaster waste, leaves, some bark. Price varies by amount. 25 y is \$70/y delivered. 786-0600.

COSMIC STONE & GARDEN SUPPLY in Topsham. Meets NOP standards. Several types. See price list \$78/y + delivery

FEDCO SEEDS in Clinton: compost in bags only, 3 excellent types, meets NOP standards

CAMPBELL’S HARDWARE, in Farmingdale; sells bags of “Coast of Maine” compost, which meets NOP standards and is excellent. They use a national company for bulk compost, “Old Castle Lawn & Garden”, which DOES NOT MEET NOP standards.

NOTE: To calculate the amount of compost you need in order to cover to a ¼” depth you can use this chart (or others) at: <https://www.greenmountaincompost.com/compost-calculator/>

## GRASS SEED

- Make sure to use grass seed that is not treated with any coating or chemical. The label should also state “no noxious weeds” and the package should contain <1% of other types of weeds, in general.
- Before buying seed, a good question to ask yourself is "What do you use your lawn for?"
- Diversity is the key! Use a mix including at least 2-3 of the basic grass types:
  - Kentucky Bluegrass: tolerates cold weather, poor shade & drought tolerance
  - Fine Fescue: tolerates dry soils, acidic or poor-quality soil, poor wear tolerance
  - Perennial Ryegrass: tolerates heavy foot traffic, germinates quickly, not as cold- hardy but OK to use in Maine
  - Tall Fescue: good shade tolerance, good wear tolerance
- And add 5-10% “Mini” or Dutch White Clover to the grass seed. It tolerates drought, crowds out weeds, and feeds nitrogen to the grass.
- These are excellent articles on choosing grass seed, planting and caring for a lawn:  
<https://www.mofga.org/resources/fact-sheets/establishing-and-caring-for-an-organic-lawn/> or <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2367e/> - Establishing a Home Lawn in Maine; and <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2166e/> - Steps to a Low Input, Healthy Lawn

## SOME SUPPLIERS:

Campbell’s Hardware, Gosline’s Hardware, Longfellow’s Greenhouses, Paris Farmers Union, Tractor Supply, and big box stores. Not local, but helpful: Allen Sterling & Lothrop in Falmouth; Eldredge Lumber & Hardware in York and Portland (manager, John Bochert is very knowledgeable).

The following information is an excerpt from [Maine Yardscaping for a Healthy Maine](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/lawn/seed.shtml)  
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- [Allen, Sterling & Lothrop](#) - YardScaping Mix
- [Lebanon Turf Products](#) - Winning Colors Tall Fescue Blend & Ecology Mix Fine Fescue
- [Norpine Landscape, Inc](#) - Low Mow Fescue Mix
- [North Country Organics](#) - Variety of mixes
- [Northeast Agricultural Sales, Inc.](#) - Shady Supreme Mix, Maine Roadside Mix II
- [O'Donal's Nursery](#) - YardScaping Mix
- [Prairie Nursery](#) - No Mow Mix
- [Preferred Seed](#) - Low Gro, Drought & Wear Supreme
- [Pro Time Lawn Seed](#) - Ecological Mixes
- [Seedland.com](#) - Variety of mixes
- [Seed Research of Oregon](#) - Native Grasses
- [Wildflower Farm](#) - Eco-Lawn

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