

2024 Maine Compost School Schedule

MONDAY

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration**
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome, Introduction of Participants, Introduction to the Course**, *Mark King, Organics Management Specialist, Maine DEP—Director of Maine Compost School*
- 9:00 a.m. **Biology of Composting**, *Mark Hedrich, Nutrient Management Program Manager, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*
- 9:45 a.m. **Composting Methods & Systems**, *Mark King*
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Compost Feedstocks – Characteristics, Types, Potential Problems, Complementary and C:N**, *Mark Hedrich*
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch on-site**
- 12:30 p.m. **Compost Feedstocks (Cont.)– Laboratory Exercise**, *Maine Compost Team*
- 2:00 p.m. **Compost Math 101**, *Nick Rowley, Extension Educator, University of Maine Cooperative Extension*
- 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 p.m. **Composting Food Scraps within Your Community**, *Mark King*
- 3:30 p.m. **Maine Compost Team—Team Exercises**
- 4:00 p.m. **Wrap up**

TUESDAY

- 8:00 a.m. **Pile Management**, *Mark King*
- 9:00 a.m. **Break**
- 9:15 a.m. **Pile Management – Field Exercise**, *Mark King*
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Compost Equipment – Functions, Types, and Safe Use of Equipment** (onsite), *Nick Rowley*
- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch onsite**
- 12:15 p.m. **Composting Site Selection and Management**-*Michael Parker, OHMS II, Maine Department of Environmental Protection*
- 1:15 p.m. **Sizing your compost pad—Doing the math**, *Mike Parker*
- 1:45 p.m. **Site Development Outdoor Exercise—Designing your site**, *Maine Compost Team*
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **The Economics of Composting**, *Nick Rowley*
- 4:00 p.m. **Wrap-up**

WEDNESDAY

Field Trip Day

- 7:45 am Students arrive at school
- 8:00 am **Depart Highmoor Farm – Monmouth—8:00 am Sharp!**
- Travel to Rainbow Valley Farm
- 8:45 am **ETA Rainbow Valley Farm**
- 9:15 am Depart Rainbow Valley Farm
- 10:00 am **ETA Farmington Recycling Center**
- 10:45 am Depart Farmington Falls Recycling Center
- 11:00 am **ETA Living Acres - New Sharon**
- 12:30 pm Depart Living Acres- New Sharon
- 12:35 pm **ETA 438 Farmington Falls - New Sharon**
- 1:00 pm Depart 438 Farmington Falls- New Sharon
- 2:30 pm **ETA 56 Trapp Rd. Auburn ME**

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- 3:00 pm Depart 56 Trapp Rd. Auburn ME
- 3:45 pm **ETA Little River Compost**
- 4:45 pm Depart Little River Compost
- 5:30 pm **ETA Highmoor Farm (End day)**

THURSDAY

- 8:00 a.m. Start Solvita Test
- 8:30 a.m. **Recipe Development (classroom) – Reading Feedstock Analysis –Hands-On *Inside* Activity, Mark Hedrich**
- 9:30 a.m. **Recipe Development (classroom) – Hands-On *Outside* Activity, Maine Compost Team**
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Recipe Development—Doing the Math, Mark Hedrich**
- 11:15 a.m. **Quality, Maturity and End Uses, Dr. William F. Brinton—Woods End Laboratories**
- 12:15 p.m. **Read Solvita**
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch onsite**
- 1:00 p.m. **Trouble-shooting the compost piles (Part 1), Mark King**
- 2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 p.m. **Trouble-shooting the compost piles (Part 2) outdoor activity, Mark King and Maine Compost Team**
- 4:00 p.m. **Wrap-up**

FRIDAY

- 8:00 a.m. **Compost Utilization in Agriculture, Dr. Peyton Ginakes: University of Maine Research Assistant,**
- 9:00 a.m. **Compost Application Rates, Nick Rowley**
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 a.m. **Innovative Uses of Compost, Mark King**
- 11:00 a.m. **Conserving Nitrogen Through Cover Crops and Compost Use, Nick Rowley**
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch – on-site**
- 12:15 p.m. **Test Review**
- 12:45 p.m. **Certification Exam, Course Evaluation**
- 2:00 p.m. **Wrap-up and Depart for Home!**