

# 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. Trouble-shooting the compost piles (Part 1), Mark King  
1:15 p.m. Trouble-shooting the compost piles (Part 2) outdoor activity, Mark King and Maine Compost Team  
2:30 p.m. Break  
2:45 p.m. The Economics of Composting, Nick Rowley  
3:45 p.m. Field Trip Preview, Team  
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  
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. Robert Rynk, SUNY Professor, Retired

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12:15 p.m.	<b>Read Solvita</b>
12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch onsite</b>
1:15 p.m.	<b>Composting Site Selection and Management—Michael Parker, OHMS II, Maine Department of Environmental Protection</b>
2:15 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:30 p.m.	<b>Sizing your compost pad—Doing the math, Mike Parker</b>
3:00 p.m.	<b>Site Development Outdoor Exercise—Designing your site, Maine Compost Team</b>
4:00 p.m.	<b>Wrap-up</b>

## **FRIDAY**

8:00 a.m.	<b>Compost Utilization in Agriculture, Dr. Peyton Ginakes: University of Maine Research Assistant,</b>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Compost Application Rates, Nick Rowley</b>
10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:15 a.m.	<b>Innovative Uses of Compost, Mark King</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Lunch – on-site</b>
11:45 a.m.	<b>Test Review</b>
12:00 p.m.	<b>Certification Exam, Course Evaluation</b>
1:15 p.m.	<b>Wrap-up and Depart for Home!</b>