

WHERE TO FIND ORGANIC FARM & GARDEN SUPPLIES IN THE HIGH COUNTRY?

A few years back, trying to buy organic fertilizers and pest control products in the High Country, when such supplies could be found locally at all, meant many stops and long travels. Fortunately, a number of local farm and garden suppliers have stepped up and now carry a nice selection of organic growing supplies for both the small gardener and the commercial-scale organic grower. The following Ashe, Avery, & Watauga County vendors are listed in alphabetical order, so be sure to read all the great options below. Also, please remember that organic supplies are still a new field for some of these vendors, so please be patient and supportive as they try to serve you! This list is probably not yet complete. If you know of an organic supplier that I have overlooked, please e-mail the information to richard_boylan@ncsu.edu

Boone Stockyards (828-262-0757) -- Boone Stockyards in Deep Gap began stocking OMRI-listed organic fertilizers in ton-totes a few years back. They have recently changed brands, but the new product is OMRI-listed, and considered acceptable for all organic production. It is "Chickity Doo Doo," and lists as a 5-3-2.5 analysis, with 9% Calcium.

Crop Production Services (336-846-3339) -- CPS (formerly UAP – on the East Side of Jefferson) carries a mix of OMRI-listed, organic products for disease & insect control, including horticultural oils (JMS Stylet in gallon jugs), insecticidal soaps (M-Pede in 2.5 gallon jugs), fungicides (Oxidate in 2.5 gallon jugs), biofungicides (Serenade in 12 lb. bags), and more. In general, their products are geared toward commercial-scale growers, but ambitious home gardeners may also wish to investigate their stocks. Even more organic products are available at the Newland (Avery County) outlet of CPS, which can be reached at 828-733-6001.

David Miller Farm Supply (828-297-4488) -- Growers both large and small can find fertilizers such as bone meal (in 4.5 lb. or 24 lb. bags), Neptune's Harvest 2-3-1 Fish & Seaweed Fertilizer in gallon jugs, ESPOMA Plant Tone (in sizes from 4 lb. to 40 lb.), Green Sand (36 lb. bags), and Perdue Micro-Start 3-2-3 (in 50 lb. bags or ton-totes) at David Miller Farm Supply, located in the Zionville area of Watauga County. They plan to add more brands and wider organic stock to their shelves as the market expands, so be sure to check for new availability. Additionally, they now carry Countryside Organic Feed, including Organic Soy-Free Poultry Layer Feed, Starter Feed, Scratch, Cattle, Goat, and others available via special order.

Homestead Supply (336-982-9777 or 336-620-9118) This store, located at the corner of highways 163 & 16 in the Glendale Springs area of Ashe County, carries a wide diversity of hard to find items for the sustainable home and organic farm. From the large scale, such as bulk Rock Phosphate available for sale in ton-totes to Fish Emulsion & other organic fertilizers in smaller quantities, plus industrial-grade tarps, Yanmar Tractors, and other farm and homestead supplies.

Parsons Farm Supply (336-246-4359) -- Parsons, on the Back Street of West Jefferson, had long been a good source for alfalfa meal and a few other organic 'fertilizers', which they carried as feed. Now they have branched out to carry the full line of organic products offered by Seven Springs Farm Supply (see <http://www.7springsfarm.com/catalog.html>), and a growing list of other organic materials. In general, most of what Seven Springs lists on its website, Parsons also has in stock. Thanks to this partnership, Parsons has become one of the best-stocked organic materials suppliers in the region.

Southern Ag & Insecticides (828-264-8843) -- Southern Ag primarily serves larger-scale growers. While the bulk of their business remains conventional grower supplies, they have begun to stock some important organic pest control products and can special-order many more. Right now, they

stock Cease (in 1-gallon jugs, a biofungicide also marketed as Rhapsody), Oxidate (in 5-gallon jugs), DiPel DF in 1-lb bags, Gnatrol, plus their own Conserve Naturalyte Insect Control (a dilute spinosad product) and Triple Action Neem Oil that have been recently listed by OMRI. Southern Ag can also special-order Mycotrol-O (the biological insecticide *Beauveria bassiana*), Serenade, Entrust (the full-strength version of Spinosad insecticide) and any other organic materials produced by BioWorks (Plant Shield, SuffOil, etc.). They carry a Fish Emulsion in 5-gallon jugs.

Southern States (336-246-3201) -- Southern States in Jefferson carries several organic fertilizer products by Espoma and NatureSafe, as well as lime, gypsum, and other general use soil amendments suitable for organic production. Their pest control product section also has some natural products available in home and/or small-farm quantities.

Tractor Supply (336-219-0247) Tractor Supply in Jefferson stocks fertilizers and other bulk materials seasonally. A manager recently reported that they would be open to stocking more organic products in coming seasons, so calls placed to them now with your wish-lists could expand organic offerings in the future.