

Where are we?

We are located off the Snakeroot Road in Pittsfield. You can find us by going ½ mile down the Snakeroot Road from the Somerset Ave. end. Our driveway, called Organic Farm Road, is on the right, opposite the first house on the left. If you look down our driveway, you can see our sign.

At the end of our driveway is a large open gravel area with plenty of room to turn around in and drop your load.

If you would like to know more about how we do things, or would like a tour of our compost piles or mulched beds, we would be happy to share with you what we are doing.

**Our annual walk about
Farm Tour
is on the second Sunday in July
from Noon–4pm.**



OPEN

- Any daylight hour.
- 7 days a week.
- All year long.



Snakeroot Organic Farm

Owned and operated by
Tom Roberts & Lois Labbe
27 Organic Farm Road, Pittsfield Maine 04967
416-5417 • tom@snakeroot.net
416-5418 • lois@snakeroot.net
www.snakeroot.net/farm

Gardeners for the public since 1995.

Don't throw them away!

We'll take your

leaves
grass clippings
pine needles
sawdust
old hay
and more...

Snakeroot Organic Farm

What we want

Leaves

The leaf pile is for loose whole leaves. We use this pile for mulching garlic and tomatoes and for mixing with cow manure to make compost. If you shred your leaves with a lawn mower, please add these leaves to one of the Shredded Leaves piles instead.

Shredded Leaves

Picked up with a bagging mower or leaf vacuum, these are especially useful to us for mulching garlic and onions. Mixed in grass clippings or pine needles is fine. If the ground is not too muddy, we may ask if you can drop these near where they will be used in spring.

Grass

The grass pile is for grass clippings, garden waste (pumpkins, corn & sunflower stalks, vines, hosta leaves, etc.), sod, potted plants (without the pots), woodshop sawdust.

Pine Needles

Pine needles, bagged or loose, new or old. Cones and a few twigs are OK.

Bags

Plastic or paper bags full of leaves. We prefer closed bags to open ones. These are used to bank our houses for the winter, then to mulch tomatoes in late June.

Chips

Chips from a wood chipper, chainsaw sawdust, stump grinding chips. Totally rotted wood.

Hay

Baled hay, broken bales or loose hay. New or rotted hay. String trimmer hay. We use hay to mulch our celery and winter squash.

Look for the signs when you pull in!

- From Pittsfield or from elsewhere.
- **No trash or brush**, please. No pressure treated sawdust.
- **No herbicide treated lawn clippings.**
- **Can we get too much?** No, never! Ask for a tour of our leaf, grass and compost piles and mulched gardens.

When are we open?

- **Any daylight hour.**
- **7 days a week.**
- **All year round.**

How to bring it?

Just drive in and drop it off.

The first time you stop by look for the signs and you may be able to immediately see where to drop what. If it's not obvious, beep your horn and we will show you where to put bagged items or loose items.

If you put things in the "wrong" place, it's not that big a deal, since we can move them with our bucket loader. Putting stuff where we want it does save us some work, however.

Why?

When you bring your leaves to the dump — the transfer station—they have to be either burned (adding to air pollution), or buried (taking up space in the landfill), or hauled away (adding to transfer station expenses).

Instead of bringing these items to the dump, where the town has to spend our tax money to handle and dispose of them, bring them to our farm where we will use them to grow our seedlings, vegetables and herbs organically.

You'll be feeding a farm that feeds you.

What do we do with it all?

Compost and Mulch. We are eager to receive your organic matter which we use as mulch on the surface of our gardens and as feedstocks for our compost piles. Composts and mulches are basic ingredients in organic farming.

We use pine needles, hay, and whole & shredded leaves as a mulch on our garden beds. Crops where we use mulches include tomatoes, celery, garlic, onions, leeks, shallots, asparagus, rhubarb, winter squash and perennial herbs.

Mulch is a layer of organic matter which is used to retain moisture in the soil, suppress weed growth, keep the beds from freezing in the winter and keep the soil cooler in the summer. During the growing season, the action of soil microbes and earthworms eventually break down the mulch until it becomes humus, adding to the fertility of our soil.

Whole leaves, garden waste and grass clippings are used to build to our compost piles. These items are mixed with cow manure and hay, then piled high to heat as the microbes do their magic of decomposition.

The piles are turned several times during the year. Turning re-mixes the ingredients and adds air to the interior of the pile to keep the microbes active. Each time the piles are turned, the original ingredients become less and less identifiable as they decompose their way to finished compost.

In the third year, the compost from the piles are loaded into our manure spreader and spread onto our five acres of gardens. The compost is then disked into the soil and beds are made. The gardens are then ready for seeds and transplants.

Every year we have compost piles in the building stages and in the turning stages. This is basically the same process nature uses to build soil in forests and fields; we just organize it and speed it up a bit. Check our website to learn more about how we use mulches and compost.