

SHARECOST

RENTALS & SALES

Your Landscape. Your Lifestyle.

BULK ORGANICS 2025

COMPOST • GARDEN SOIL • LAWN SOIL • BARK MULCH

SELLING THE FINEST TOPSOILS & MULCHES IN NANAIMO SINCE 1997



Buy Exactly What You Need

You can buy our organics in any volume, from a 5-gallon pail to 100s of yards. Discounts are given for orders of 10 yards or more.



Trust Our Tested Organics

We produce screened and blended soils that meet or exceed the latest *BC Landscape Standard* specs for planting and lawns.



Move the Earth with Rentals

Sharecost rents Bobcat skid-steers, excavators, and powered wheelbarrows to quickly move your soil right where you need it.

PHONE 250.758.2401 ONLINE SHARECOST.CA RETAIL YARD 1716 NORTHFIELD ROAD, NANAIMO BC

Bulk Organics

Product & Delivery Details

250.758.2401
1716 Northfield Rd
sharecost.ca



Certified Compost

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$70/YD	\$58/YD

100% ORGANIC CONTENT Our nutrient-rich Compost blend is made exclusively from composted yard trimmings and food scraps, and contains zero bio-solids. This 'Class A' Compost is created under strict controls and tested regularly, resulting in a fine, fertile media that can be blended in with existing soils to improve organic content, soil structure, water retention, soil nutrients, and more. Compost works best when 'turned-in' to existing soil annually by spade or rototiller. Use up to a 1:3 ratio of compost to soil (ex: if you turn the top 6" of soil, blend in 2" of compost). This Compost will have some smell when initially placed that goes away within a couple of weeks.

GrowMix Garden Soil

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$68/YD	\$54/YD

65% ORGANIC CONTENT A light, humus-like soil, GrowMix Garden Soil offers a precise blend of organics, compost, and coarse sandy loam. GrowMix is your best choice for an all-round performer that you can use anywhere in your landscape, and an excellent choice for veggie gardens and flower beds. GrowMix contains minimal-to-no weed seed, and can also be used to build up landscaping beds in preparation for shrubs, trees, hedge-row, and general planting. An excellent soil with all the right stuff for your garden!

Turf Soil

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$55/YD	\$44/YD

40% ORGANIC CONTENT Turf Soil is built specifically for new turf installations or when starting a new lawn from seed. You'll see short and long-term results due to a precise combination of high nutrient levels (seed germination) and organic content (root development). Features a high content of coarse sandy loam with compost, and minimal-to-no weed seed. An initial application of pelletized 'seed and sod starter' fertilizer yields best results. In wet areas, lay a 2"-3" layer of bedding sand below Turf Soil for drainage. For very wet areas consider a French drain.

Bed Builder Soil

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$51/YD	\$39/YD

44% ORGANIC CONTENT A good quality, sandy loam that uses our native Vancouver Island soil as a base. Bed Builder Soil contains native screened dirt with organics and compost. This soil has good structure, but with less compost, and therefore has reduced nutrient levels. Available at a reduced price, Bed Builder Soil is an excellent choice for use on larger installations. Bed Builder Soil is also good soil for building up shrub beds, turf areas, or garden beds. May contain some weed seed. For best results, mulch, seed, or sod immediately after placing Bed Builder Soil.

Dark Bark Mulch

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$55/YD	\$48/YD

100% ORGANIC CONTENT Chocolate-brown in color, our Dark Bark Mulch is great for simply topping soils, improving garden bed aesthetics, increasing moisture retention, and weed control.

Medium Bark Mulch

	Per Yard	10+ Yards*
	\$40/YD	\$34/YD

100% ORGANIC CONTENT Chestnut brown in colour and an excellent choice for topping soils for improved aesthetics, moisture retention, and weed control.

U Pick-Up

Pick up your organic materials at our retail yard located in Central Nanaimo.

Stop by Monday thru Saturday and we will carefully load your truck or trailer with our Bobcat loaders (no canopies, please).

Mon-Fri 7:30am-5pm
Saturday 8am-4pm
Sunday Closed

Island-Wide Delivery

Order by Phone or Email In-Town Delivery Rates (within 25km of Sharecost)**

250.758.2401	0-5 yards	5-20 yards	21-35 yards
orders@sharecost.ca	\$95	\$160-\$190	\$200

Deliveries may be weight and/or site dependent. We can often book last-minute requests for smaller orders, but require reasonable lead time for 10+ yard orders. **Please leave adequate room to dump at your site. Our single-axle dump trucks can get into most residential addresses, but we may need to check your site before delivering with our larger tandem-axle trucks. We can also arrange slinger-truck service at an hourly rate for you through third-party trucking. **Call or visit sharecost.ca for details.**

About Our Organics

Soil Contents & Quality

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WHAT'S IN OUR SOIL Here at Sharecost, we produce our own soils so you know exactly what you and your plants are getting, from one truck load to the next, and from year to year. Here are some details about what is and what isn't present in our organic materials.

Organic Compost

All three of our soil blends contain varying amounts of fertile, organic compost. This compost is produced by a reputable and local Island supplier who actively and properly composts yard trimmings with food scraps. Our compost contains ZERO bio-solids. Your compost will contain some small bits of plastic from various food packaging labels, etc. We believe that re-using this resource is the best practice we can do for our community and environment. By purchasing our soils, you're an active participant in supporting a renewable resource.

Screened Organics & Sand

We screen different types of dirt to produce our soils. We also utilize washed sand and coarse organics in our blends. These components are all thoroughly blended to give you consistent, high-quality soil for your next landscape install.

Soluble Salts

The 'secret' to getting the most from our soil blends is to understand that our organic compost has naturally-occurring water-soluble salts which not all plants will like. Removing these salts is easy: give our soils at least two heavy soakings of water before digging in your plants or seeding. Otherwise, normal, regular watering of your garden will also dilute and remove these salts very quickly.

Peat

We no longer use peat in our soils, as peat mining is proving detrimental to wetland habitats. Extraction of peat also releases carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, further contributing to global warming. Our compost is a close replacement for peat, both in texture and water-holding characteristics, but also has the added benefits of naturally-high nutrient values.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD SOIL We make the best quality soils possible in order to provide you with a solid starting point to build your landscape. Our soils are carefully blended to help you achieve long-term plant health and growth.

What makes a quality soil?

We think soil quality and fertility has everything to do with plants and their requirements for strong, healthy growth. Water-holding capacity, lack of weeds, pH/nutrient balance, and the ability for oxygen to get to roots are some of the factors which contribute to a quality soil.

Does Sharecost test their soils?

Yes. We test our soils against the British Columbia Landscape Standard (sections 6.1 and 6.2) to ensure they comply with their specifications. This detailed approach to crafting and testing our soils results in a product you can trust in your garden.

Is darker soil 'better'?

We often hear that our customers prefer a darker soil. In general terms, darker soils are indicative of more organic content – but not necessarily anything to do with the overall soil quality or fertility. So remember, you can't properly judge a soil by its colour alone!

How does top-dressing help?

Your soil improves once your plants root in, and earthworms and other organisms set up shop in your garden beds. With a yearly amendment of our compost or other soil blend, your garden soils will be alive with life. That means our soils will get better over time!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP We want your landscape and garden projects to be successful. If you have questions, visit our retail yard, give us a call, or send an email for help!

Gardening 101

Soil Conditions & Weed Seeds

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BUILDING YOUR GREEN THUMB The plants we add to our yards have been discovered by botanists and come from all corners of the Earth. In the past 100 years or so these plants have been ‘domesticated’ and made available to purchase for our own yards.

Our soils provide many but not all of the components for good plant growth. Healthy plants also need the right levels of water, oxygen, sunlight, and weeding, as well as the correct location in your garden. Perhaps most important of all, your plants need a green thumb to care for them!

As a result of making all these varied plants available to you for your yard, it's no wonder that different landscape plants will require different types of (micro)climate **conditions and soils** to thrive. Some plants need soil that retains water; others need to drain. Some need nutritious soils; others, not so much.

To get the absolute best growth out of the different plants in your yard, you may need to **adjust our soil blends** with basic components like sand or compost or pelletized fertilizer. Alternatively, you may want to consider and select your plant species to maximise the value of your soils.

Creating a yard that works with a variety of plants is something we call the Gardener's Dilemma. It can be hard work to get the flowers and the look we want. But this is what having a ‘green thumb’ is all about: enjoying the process of **figuring out the conditions** your plants need to grow well.



*"I started using Sharecost's **organic compost** in customers' gardens this past season. I love the rich, dark, organic consistency. I was so impressed with the results I worked more than 40 yards of the compost into my own garden. I highly recommend this product."*

– Douw Hattingh, Gardens Alive Nanaimo Ltd.



WHAT ABOUT WEEDS? Weeds will be present in ALL soil mixes, even mixed in with expensive bagged soils. Any good soil will have some weed seeds, but NOT lots. At Sharecost, we aim to produce soils with *minimum* weed seeds, with differing results depending on the blend.

Garden & Turf Soils

We have been able to consistently produce our GrowMix Garden Soil and Turf Soil blends so they arrive to you **virtually weed-free**. This is due to our thoughtful selection of soil components, careful screening, and deliberate handling methods.

Organic Compost

With our *Organic Compost*, any weed seeds initially present are **destroyed** during the high heats generated within the active composting phase. This means that when you plant a new garden or lawn you give yourself and your new landscape a fighting chance against weeds!

Bed Builder Soil

Our *Bed Builder Soil* will have some weed-seed due to the fact this soil is screened from native soil from the uppermost (most organic) layer of the soil profile. Again, we do our best, but it is important that you **understand and choose** the right soil for your needs.

No matter which soil you use, weed seeds will *eventually* blow in on the wind or arrive from bird droppings. A regular weeding regime or a layer of our *Dark Bark Mulch* or *Medium Bark Mulch* on top of our fertile soil blends is often the best long-term insurance against weeds.

Soil FAQs

Answers to Common Questions

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Can you help me amend my existing soil?

You bet! We regularly hear from our customers that the soil they have on their property isn't up to the job of gardening or planting lawns. Often their soil is heavy and clay-based with little or no drainage. Other times they have soil that is too sandy, which prevents any meaningful water retention. No matter what soil you're trying to improve, we can help: **just bring in a 5-gallon bucket sample of your soil.** We'll help you to determine the correct amendment to improve your soil's structure and fertility using our soils and compost.

What are these small bits of plastic?

Our compost is made exclusively from food offcuts/scrap and yard trimmings. Any plastic you find are remnants, like banana peel labels, that do not break down in the composting process. There's an on-going effort to remove these bits of plastic, but your plants don't mind, and they won't affect plant growth!

Why is the soil sometimes warm?

Microbial activity. This is due to high organic content, and from stacking the soils in large piles/bins prior to sale or delivery. Most natural soils on the Island are about 5% organics and 4" to 12" deep. In comparison, our most fertile soil has 65% organic content. With this comes life, and with life comes warmth. This warmth dissipates quite quickly with watering and once added to your garden.

What's the white ashy stuff in my soil?

Actinomyces! These are aerobic, spore-forming gram-positive bacteria responsible for the 'earthy' smell characteristic of freshly turned healthy soil. Actinomyces contribute in biological buffering of soils and nitrogen fixation; they help improve the availability of soil nutrients and minerals; they are critical in the formation of stable humus; they enhance the production of metabolites, and promote plant growth regulators. In short, these are the good guys, and part of the magic in good-quality compost.

What's that smell?

That's the compost. It has a manure and/or earthy smell due to the high content of compost and the active life in our soils. The smell is most noticeable when fluffing and handling the soils. Within a week or two of placing the soils the smell goes away.

Why are there mushrooms?

Due to the compost content with some woody organics still in the mix. Our soils are full of life, and any mushrooms (if they occur) are short-lived and will only help to further stabilize your garden soils. The best soils really are alive, and you will find other organisms like worms, nematodes, mites, mycorrhizae, and centipedes happily 'setting up shop' soon after placement of our soil in your garden.



"Sharecost's soil mixes are weed-free, with excellent drainage and just the right mix of organics. Our veggie gardens, ornamental beds, and lawns are all thriving!"

– Scott Nicol, North Arrow Landscapes
(formerly Nicol Landscapes)



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Tips & Tricks

Building a Successful Landscape

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Here at Sharecost we see a lot of professional landscapers and gardeners, and many of our staff are passionate about their own gardens. We did some asking around to come up with a list of helpful gardening tips and tricks to share with you here. Happy gardening!

Invest for success

Plants are expensive to buy (especially the bigger ones). Money spent on good quality soil is money well invested to keep plants healthy.

Protect your piles

If possible, avoid moving/placing soil in rain. Working wet soil will cause the loss of soil structure and air spaces needed for healthy root and plant growth. The compost portion of our soil is extremely water retentive. This has the benefit of minimizing your watering requirements during the heat of Summer, but you should do your best to keep excess water out. So when we dump soil on your driveway or you unload it from your vehicle or trailer, please, cover it with a tarp until you place it. Besides, drier soil is lighter and easier to shovel!

Replenish nutrients yearly

Plants consume soil and the nutrients within while growing, especially vegetables and flowers. Rains further leach nutrients from the soil and reduce soil pH. Low pH makes it difficult for plant roots to pull the nutrients they need from the soil particles. For best continued growth, add Dolopril lime and blend in a 1"-2" layer of our GrowMix Garden Soil or Organic Compost to your existing garden beds yearly to keep up with your plants' need for nutrients. For lawns, after de-thatching and/or aerating, top-dress with 1/2"-1" layer of our Turf Soil. For a putting green-like finish, you will need to use concrete or masonry sand to top-dress in addition to a pelletized fertilizer.

Don't encourage weed growth

Weed thoroughly **before** adding our nutrient-rich soil – otherwise you've just fertilized the plants you don't want around!

Weed bare patches, too

If you allow soil to sit bare long enough, weed seeds will blow in via dandelions or dropped by birds. These seeds will germinate! Keep an eye on bare soil and weed when required. A "hula-hoe" is an excellent tool for this task. For best results, add a layer of bark mulch to minimize the chance of weed seed germination from below.

Don't smother roots

Mulch installed in a 2" to 4" thick layer can greatly help with weed control and water retention. Place mulch up to the drip-line of the plant (where the leaves end) so oxygen can get to the plant roots.

Give your plants a chance

Many popular garden plants are imports from somewhere else in the world. Our native Island soil is typically clay-based, acidic, and low in nutrients and organics. Alone, our native soils (~5% organics) will not support good growth of popular landscape plants. Compost, or a compost/soil blend, will improve the fertility, nutrients, texture, and structure of native clay-based soils to aid plant growth. You can also add approximately 1 part compost to 3 parts soil for best results, yearly, to gradually build up organics in existing on site soils.

Don't drown your lawn

For very wet or low-lying lawn areas where water pools, we suggest installing a French drain or building up the area with bedding sand to help aid drainage. Most lawn installations would benefit from a 2"- 4" layer of bedding sand placed prior to a topping layer of our Turf Soil. This layer forces grass to root deeper to reach water, which will help to maintain healthy green growth during the heat of Summer. Turf Soil should be placed at a minimum of 4" thick (6" is even better).

Lay your lawn later on

Lawns are best established once the soil temperature warms, so April is usually ideal for Vancouver Island. You can also consider planting or seeding in late Summer/early Fall after the heat has passed.

Keep lawn seed damp & fertile

If planting lawn from seed, our Turf Soil must be kept damp but not soaked for seed to germinate. Once seed has germinated, keep the soil damp. Lightly irrigate early morning, mid-day, and early evening until the seedling roots are deeply established to prevent dry-out. Any turf or seed start will absolutely benefit from the addition of pelletized 'turf and seed starter' fertilizer.

Plan large jobs carefully

For large jobs that require heavy machinery such as Bobcat loaders or excavators, watch the weather closely. Give yourself time to avoid installing any bulk material in the rain. **DO NOT** allow heavy machinery to run over freshly-placed soil: the soil structure will be compacted and damaged. Larger installations can be done any time of the year, but most landscapers agree that the late Spring through to mid-Fall is best for larger jobs. Proper planning helps to avoid the bulk of our wet weather and the associated problems that come with it.