



Spring 2026 Seedling Trial Report - Compost



Summary

This report covers seedling trials conducted in February and March 2026 on compost and soil blend from all Black Earth Compost sites. The trials measure plant vigor of seedlings grown in Black Earth compost and soil blends against a control and determine whether there is contamination from herbicides or weed seeds present.

Methods



Compost and soil blend samples are collected monthly. Solvita tests and testing of pH and electrical conductivity are done to determine compost maturity. Trials are conducted under grow lights. Each trial condition and the control fill a 10 by 10-inch open tray. Samples are completely saturated with water just before seeding, and are watered throughout the trial as needed. Seedling germination and overall vigor are monitored for 21 days. Observations are recorded with photos and seedling counts. Evaluation of performance is based on comparison with a control, for which we use a commercial compost-based potting soil.



February/March Compost Batch Trial - pH/EC Before Trial

Sample ID	pH	EC	Sample Source
Groton August/September 2025	7.7	1.86	Groton
Framingham B2	8.62	1.38	Framingham
Framingham Organic	8.16	0.54	Framingham
Wareham II	8.34	0.75	Wareham
Manchester 2506	8.7	2.48	Pine St

February/March Compost Batch Trial - Individual Trial Report

Trial Name: February/March batch trial	Sample Names: Framingham B2, Framingham organic, Groton August/September 2025, Manchester 2506, Wareham II	
Date and Trial Day # (seeding day is day 0)	Photos	Notes, Observations, Methods
Day 0 - 2/23/26		Tested pH, EC Drenched samples Seeded 20 each pea, clover,

		<p>napa cabbage Diluted 2506 with 50% peat moss due to high EC Diluted B2 with 50% peat due to high pH and somewhat high EC</p>
Day 3 - 2/26/26		Top watered all
Day 7 - 3/2/26		<p>Top watered all - temperature has been in the low 60s F for the first week, observing some slow germination as a result</p> <p>Groton Aug/Sep: Pea 70 Clover 45 Napa cabbage 25 Framingham B2: Pea 20 Clover 50 Napa cabbage 5 Framingham organic: Pea 65 Clover 50 Napa cabbage 25 Wareham II: Pea 5 Clover 25 Napa cabbage 0 2506: Pea 60 Clover 50 Napa cabbage 45 Control: Pea 50 Clover 65 Napa cabbage 20</p>
Day 10 - 3/5/26		Top watered all
Day 14 - 3/9/26		<p>Bottom watered all</p> <p>Groton Aug/Sep: Pea 75 Clover 40 Napa cabbage 45 Framingham B2: Pea 80</p>

		<p>Clover 75 Napa cabbage 40 Framingham organic: Pea 85 Clover 80 Napa cabbage 55 Wareham II: Pea 65 Clover 35 Napa cabbage 5 2506: Pea 100 Clover 55 Control: Pea 90 Clover 90 Napa cabbage 50</p>
<p>Day 17 - 3/12/26</p>		<p>Bottom watered all</p>
<p>Day 21 - 3/16/26</p>		<p>Groton: Pea 85 Clover 40 Napa cabbage 50 Framingham B2: Pea 80 Clover 80 Napa cabbage 55 Framingham organic: Pea 100 Clover 80 Napa cabbage 55 Wareham: Pea 75 Clover 35 Napa cabbage 10 2506: Pea 100 Clover 55 Napa cabbage 65 Control: Pea 80 Clover 65 Napa cabbage 55</p>

Final Notes and Conclusions	Is further testing or remediation needed?
<p>All samples are clear of herbicides. Wareham</p>	<p>Wareham II needs retesting after longer</p>

<p>It showed poor germination and slower growth than other samples.</p>	<p>curing. Other samples are all clear.</p>
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