



Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District

www.FranklinCountyNRCD.org

431 Franklin Park West, Ste. 100a, St. Albans, VT 05478

info@FranklinCountyNRCD.org

Dear friends,

2025 has been an incredible year at the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District. We've been able to enthusiastically advance our mission of empowering and partnering with land stewards and communities on the ground by supporting connections that benefit natural resources, water quality, soil health, and the working landscape in Franklin County and across Northwest Vermont.



From left to right: Lauren Weston, Maria Burnett, Kerry Brosnan, Dorothy Kinney-Landis, Orenna Brand, Kate Wettergreen, Mel Auffredou, Morgan Pratt, Viva Goetze

In January 1946, a group of "25 or more owners of one or more acres of land" across Franklin County petitioned the State of Vermont to establish the Franklin County Soil Conservation District—now known as the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District. Since then, as one of more than 3,000 conservation districts across the United States and its territories, we have been rooted firmly in our community. This year, our nine staff have been busy leading earthwork projects, hosting and attending events and workshops, partnering with families, municipalities, and organizations, and strengthening our support to the region's agriculture and forestry producers.

We have been working to meet people where they are—whether in a corn field, a sugarbush, out on the water, in schools, at Town Meeting, or in our new offices in St Albans. Our relationships with all of you are what make this work possible. Serving the largest dairy producing county in New England and one of the largest maple producing counties in the United States comes with quite the responsibility, and we are proud of everything you have helped us accomplish.

Over the past five years, we have collected more than 1,110 soil samples for farmers, planted nearly 30,000 trees and shrubs across 58 acres, distributed over 63,000 stems through our annual Tree Sale, visited farms over 520 times to assist producers, and have had volunteers contribute over 2,870 hours towards community natural resources projects. In 2025 alone, we hosted nearly 50 workshops and events with participation from more than 1,150 people. This year, we also helped create a \$1.5 million pool of federal NRCS EQIP funds for our Franklin County farmers that was developed through a locally led process grounded in community input and feedback.

What else is needed? What more can we do? How can we help address the issues you are seeing—or celebrate the wonderful things being created in our communities? We would love to hear from you. Stop in anytime, give us a call, or connect with us online. Thank you for everything you do—we are so lucky to be a part of it!

Sincerely,
Lauren Weston, *District Manager*

Save the Date(s): Community Water Quality Meeting + Our 80th Birthday!

We're hosting a Community Water Quality Meeting at the St. Albans Museum on Wednesday, February 25th, 2026. This meeting will bring together watershed organizations from across Northwestern VT to share updates on ongoing water quality improvement projects. It will also be an opportunity for farmers, landowners, and community members to share their conservation concerns and help shape funding priorities for the 2027 fiscal year. Plus: the District turns 80 in 2026! We'll celebrate with a "birthday party" on the evening of Monday, July 13th, 2026.

2025 by the Numbers:

- **13,320** tree stems sold to **407** customers
- **8,225** trees and shrubs planted along waterbodies and streams with help from **180** volunteers at **7** sites
- **91** farms assisted
- **255** soil samples collected
- **\$1.5 million** secured for Local Led Conservation projects
- **48** posts about events, grants, opportunities, and surveys on our "Stay Up to Date" webpage and social media pages
- **43** grant proposals written with **77%** success rate
- Staff spent **44%** of their time working on Agriculture Programs, **33%** on Natural Resources Conservation and Restoration Projects, and **23%** on Education Programs, the Tree Sale, Administration, and Stormwater.

Organizational Updates

Meet the New Member of the FCNRCD Team



Viva Goetze, Agricultural Programs Specialist

Viva grew up in Richmond, VT, before moving to Maine to attend Colby College, where she graduated with a degree in Environmental Science and Art. While pursuing her degree, she participated in microbiology and environmental research, worked on an environmental art exhibit, and led trail work projects—experiences that sparked her excitement for conservation work. After graduating, she spent the summer with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum leading boat building and paddling trips along the length of Lake Champlain. She joined FCNRCD in May as a Summer Stewardship Intern and is excited to continue working at the District in the role of Agricultural Programs Specialist!

Returning Staff: Lauren Weston, Kate Wettergreen, Mel Auffredou, Dorothy Kinney-Landis, Kerry Brosnan, Morgan Pratt, Maria Burnett, Orenna Brand

Tree Sale Pick Up Location Change: Hudak Farm

After many wonderful years of hosting our annual Tree Sale at the Franklin County Field Days grounds in Highgate, we're moving our tree sale. **Our Tree Sale pick-up that was previously held in Highgate will take place in 2026 at Hudak Farm (599 St. Albans Road, Swanton) and will be one pick-up day only: 9am-3pm on Saturday, May 2nd, instead of the usual two days.** The additional pick-up locations in North Hero and Montgomery will remain the same as previous years. The ordering process and our wide selection of trees and shrubs will remain the same. We are also planning to add some more activities and resources to explore as part of a Conservation Fair during pick up at Hudak Farm. We're very grateful to the team at Hudak Farm for welcoming us to their beautiful farm this year!

2025 Weather & Land-Based Economy

Winter

Winter delivered the cold, wintry weather typical of New England. In mid-January, a polar vortex ushered in a prolonged stretch of frigid temperatures that persisted through much of the month, accompanied by regular snowfall. February remained similarly cold and brought a large snowstorm mid-month, with blizzard conditions and high winds that caused power outages and impacted infrastructure. Frequent light snowfalls throughout the season contributed to a significant overall accumulation by winter's end.

Spring

Spring bloomed warm and wet here in VT, with temperatures and precipitation both exceeding seasonal averages. Just before Memorial Day, a May thunderstorm swept through the state, bringing heavy rains, winds, and hail throughout the state and the Northeast. The storm caused road washouts, power outages, and damage to young crops. Prolonged wet conditions in early spring also delayed planting and pushed pollination later than usual.

Summer

Summer brought higher-than-average temperatures and minimal rainfall to Franklin County. A significant heatwave swept through the region in mid-June, intensifying the dry conditions. In July, smoke from Canadian wildfires drifted into Vermont, leading to poor air quality and reduced visibility across the state. Franklin County experienced a late summer drought in August, recording the lowest August rainfall on record. The prolonged dryness took a toll on crops and caused noticeable declines in the water levels of streams, rivers, and ponds.

Fall

Fall began with cool, clear weather and extended periods of sunshine. The ongoing drought continued to affect agriculture, with some farmers reporting reduced crop yields and an early apple harvest. Following a stretch of warm, sunny days, the first frost arrived right on schedule in early October, signaling the end of the growing season. Cover crops have since been planted and are beginning to sprout, helping to reduce nutrient runoff while protecting and enriching the soil. After an early snow, many ski resorts opened earlier than expected.

Community Engagement Highlights

Franklin County NRCD has been deepening our commitment to community-driven conservation, working collaboratively with farmers, families, towns, and Tribal partners to make sure that local voices guide local conservation.

Community Engagement Plan

With support from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, FCNRCD has created an *Agricultural Outreach and Community Engagement Plan*, a roadmap for how we connect with and serve our community in the years ahead. The plan outlines strategies to strengthen relationships with farmers and partners, understand barriers to adopting conservation practices, and ensure our work is grounded in trust, equity, and collaboration. We've begun implementing key recommendations, including improving communication tools and enhancing collaboration among partners and producers throughout Franklin County.

Locally Led Conservation

Each year, NRCDs in Franklin, Grand Isle, and Lamoille Counties, in partnership with USDA-NRCS, gather community input through meetings, surveys, and one-on-one conversations to identify local conservation priorities. This input directly shapes our projects and funding efforts: in FY26, community feedback helped secure a \$1.5 million NRCS EQIP Local Funding Pool exclusively for Franklin County farmers, with the aim of supporting water quality and farm infrastructure improvements. The Locally Led process will continue in 2026, with more opportunities for community members to help shape conservation funding and programming. Find the 2025-26 Locally Led Survey on our website at FranklinCountyNRCD.org/Local.



Gleaning at River Berry Farm in Fairfax.



Missisquoi Bay Partners meeting.



Innovative Riparian Buffer workshop.

Municipal Outreach

As a part of the greater community engagement strategy, FCNRCD is working on a special initiative to improve outreach and engagement with each village, town, and city in Franklin County—and to identify and develop several high-priority water quality projects through those partnerships. Through this effort, FCNRCD is reviewing existing planning documents and meeting with municipal staff and committees to identify high-priority projects across the forestry, road, wetlands, stormwater, lake shoreland, and river sectors. Following our Montgomery Flood Mitigation Study, we're now working with the Town of Montgomery to further develop flood resilience projects through feasibility assessments and landowner outreach.

Partnership with Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi

FCNRCD's ongoing partnership with the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (ANM)—funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program—recognizes the Tribe's deep ancestral and cultural connections to these lands and waters, and honors their enduring role as stewards. Through participatory workshops and youth engagement, we're supporting ANM in developing a Community Priorities Plan that uplifts Abenaki voices in water quality improvement processes. So far, outcomes include collaborative grant proposals for black ash stewardship, foraging education, and improved waterfront access, and will eventually include the creation of Abenaki language signage at culturally important sites.

Education Highlights

This year, FCNRCD continued connecting students and community members to the outdoors through hands-on watershed education. From the headwaters in Montgomery to the main channel of the Missisquoi River in Enosburg Falls, participants of all ages explored how healthy waterways sustain both ecosystems and communities.

In May, FCNRCD partnered with Montgomery Elementary School (MES) for the annual *Celebrating Our Watershed* event, held where Black Falls Brook meets the Trout River. The site's mix of forests, meadows, and wetlands offered an ideal outdoor classroom. Working with Principal Sandy Alexander, District staff and partners led five interactive stations. Students explored aquatic insects and water quality with Mel Auffredou (FCNRCD); built mini watersheds with Kerry Brosnan (FCNRCD) to see how land cover affects flooding; and planted fruit and nut trees with Morgan Pratt (FCNRCD). They also identified wetland plants and soils with Karina Dailey of the Vermont Natural Resources Council; and created cyanotype prints of local plants with MES art teacher Melissa Haberman—leaving with both muddy hands and a new understanding of their watershed.

Learning continued downstream at the Missisquoi River Fishing Festival in Enosburg Falls. 2025 was the family friendly event's third year celebrating all things fishing while emphasizing river stewardship and sustainable recreation. With 21 volunteers from partner organizations, visitors explored topics such as fly tying, fish identification, aquatic organism passage, and the connection between soil health and water quality. Over 80 students from the FNESU LEAPS Enosburgh Summer Camp joined in, casting lines alongside local experts and discovering how caring for our rivers supports healthy fisheries and vibrant communities.



MES students at *Celebrating Our Watershed*.

Hard'ack Food Forest



Design plans.

This year, FCNRCD planted an edible food forest at Hard'ack Recreation Area in St. Albans. This project was funded by a Community Tree Planting Grant from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, with additional shrubs donated from our Tree Sale. Each plant was carefully selected for its ability to provide food, support local wildlife, offer windbreaks and shade, and enhance educational programming in horticulture, agriculture, and conservation. The forest features 25 different species, including American plum, Korean nut pine, chestnut, white oak, and of course, Hardack trees!



Volunteers planting.



Staff planting.

Clean Water Projects

Trout Brook Reservoir Dam Removal

This year, the Franklin County NRCD coordinated the removal of the Trout Brook Reservoir Dam in Berkshire, Vermont. The project reconnects Trout Brook, a tributary of the Missisquoi River. Built in 1924 to supply drinking water to the Village of Enosburg Falls, the dam was used for about a decade before water quality issues rendered it obsolete. It was maintained in the following decades but has since fallen into disrepair. Removing the dam helped to restore natural stream flow, improving water quality and habitat by reducing temperatures, increasing dissolved oxygen levels, and removing built-up sediment. With the barrier gone, brook trout and other aquatic species can now access colder upstream habitat.



Contractors prepare the site for the dam removal.

Construction began in August with the removal of approximately 15,700 cubic yards of sediment from the pond upstream of the dam. This material was trucked to upland areas elsewhere on the site. In spring 2026, some final grading work on the floodplains, installation of woody material in the stream to create habitat, and planting native trees and shrubs will occur. The dam itself was dismantled in stages: first, water was released by opening the original valve to dewater the pond behind the dam, followed by the gradual lowering of the concrete spillway and abutments over several weeks. Despite the dry summer, the sediment upstream of the dam remained challenging to remove due to the water it was still holding, but eventually, the sediment was relocated with a bit of creativity. To assess ecological outcomes, FCNRC and VT DEC staff conducted biomonitoring to document the aquatic organisms present in Trout Brook. Becky Tharp of Just Water Consulting collected stream temperature data before and after the removal to track environmental changes over time. Engineers and scientists at SLR International also collected data on the physical site conditions, like plant communities, erosion, and woody material. These same metrics will be collected in 2026 to help understand the impacts of dam removal on an ecosystem.

This dam removal project is a collaborative effort, in deep partnership with the Village of Enosburg Falls and the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and with final design work and construction oversight completed by SLR International, cultural resources work by UVM Consulting Archaeology Program, and construction by Sloan's Excavating.

Garland Park Tree Planting

Garland Park in Fairfax is a community space along Stones Brook—a tributary of the Lamoille River—with popular walking trails. This past April, FCNRC staff and over 20 community volunteers planted 1,880 stems across 4.7 acres of the park to create a 50-foot buffer along the stream to improve the water quality.

FCNRC is excited to have set up an experiment to observe how varying tree heights, tree species, and the use of tree tubes—a plastic cylinder used to protect young trees from animal browse—impact survival rates. FCNRC plans to use the data gathered at this site to inform future planting materials, tree species, and heights.



Staking the Garland Park planting.

Agriculture Highlights

Agricultural Services

Franklin County NRCD offers a wide range of free services and resources to support local farmers and producers, including:

- **Assistance:** We meet with farmers to discuss needs, concerns, and goals—helping to identify services or programs individually. We can also help with communication with other agencies and partners on a farmer's behalf as part of a Farm Team. We can help write, submit, and report on grants.
- **RAPs, NMPs, Sampling:** We can help interpret Required Agriculture Practices for your operation, help with Corrective Action Letters and next steps, create and update NMPs, and help with soil and manure sampling.
- **Agricultural Guide for Producers:** Each year we publish the *Guide to Agricultural Assistance*, a comprehensive directory of programs and resources for landowners and producers.

Farmer Feature



Kristan Doolan and her goats.

Kristan Doolan and George van Vlaanderen own Does' Leap, a diversified farm in Bakersfield specializing in fresh and aged certified organic goat cheeses and pastured, whey-fed pork. Since 2023, they've worked with FCNRCD to understand and improve soil health on their farm, including by completing a Nutrient Management Plan through

UVM Extension's NMP course. Using that plan, they've identified their soils' manure and amendment needs and determined which fields would benefit from different inputs to improve yields and forage quality.

Reflecting on the partnership, Kristan noted: "I like having direction and assistance in terms of sampling and plans; it's been really positive for our farm. When someone looks at the information with you, it encourages us to improve soil quality in ways we might have ignored." They've also joined the Farmer Soil Health Innovator Network (FSHIN)—a collaboration of farmers and professionals supported by the USDA Vermont NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant. Through this network, they've tested new equipment and amendments and shared strategies for improving soil health through adaptive management.

Kristan and George have also hosted two FCNRCD field days, in 2022 and 2025, welcoming dozens of attendees to discuss innovative ideas like virtual fencing for goats. We're proud to celebrate their work and continue partnering with them toward their goals.

View Our Updated Guide to Assistance for Agricultural Producers

FranklinCountyNRCD.org/AgProducersGuide

Partnership with FWA

This summer, FCNRCD partnered with the Franklin and Grand Isle Farmer's Watershed Alliance (FWA) and the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership (VAWQP) to co-host a Summer Farm Meeting with farmers, community members, and partner organizations. The event was an opportunity to connect, learn about innovations on local dairy farms, hear updates at the state and federal levels, and get out in the field together! Presenters included Rebecca Manning from Ben & Jerry's Low Carbon Dairy Program and Brian Jerose from Agrilab Technologies.

Founded in 2006 by farmers committed to addressing on-farm environmental issues through knowledge, funding, and trust, FWA now has a twelve-member board and has expanded staff to include a Program Coordinator and Precision Agriculture Specialist. With this added capacity and some collaboration with the FCNRCD team, the FWA has broadened its work in precision agriculture, helping farmers set up, understand, and download data from tractor-based systems. This information streamlines nutrient planning, record-keeping, and grant reporting. We look forward to continuing our partnership with FWA. Learn more at: www.farmerswatershedalliance.org.

Statewide Dairy Agricultural Economy Report

Vermont's agricultural economy remains deeply tied to dairy, and 2025 has brought a mix of cautious optimism and persistent challenges. The state's 114,000 milk cows produced 214 million pounds of milk through midyear, averaging 1,875 pounds per cow. While production has remained steady, the number of Vermont dairy farms continues to decline, falling from 853 in 2015 to just 434 today. Franklin County remains the state's dairy stronghold, home to 88 active operations this fall, as of September 30.

Over the past decade, Vermont's milk price has increased non-linearly from \$16.49 to \$19.12 per hundredweight, and the Class III price rose from \$15.80 to \$21.57. Despite higher prices, profitability has been offset by inflation in feed, fuel, and labor costs. Average herd size has increased from 155 to 257 cows per farm as consolidation continues. At the same time, Vermont's dairy processing sector has grown from 135 processors in 2015 to 166 in 2025, with modest gains in on-farm processing and stronger growth among independent processors.

Persistent drought has added strain across the state, forcing many livestock farmers to haul water and purchase feed to maintain production. Nationally, U.S. dairy herds face long-term constraint due to replacement of heifer inventories reaching a 20-year low, limiting future supply growth. Meanwhile, federal uncertainty continues, with the next Farm Bill still pending and tariffs resulting in price increases for U.S. customers.

Vermont farmers are also adapting to new regulations, including Act 61, the strengthened Right to Farm law, and restrictions on certain neonicotinoid insecticides, parts of which took effect in mid-2025. Despite ongoing pressures, the resilience and innovation of Vermont producers—especially in processing, on-farm diversification, and soil and water stewardship—continue to define the state's agricultural landscape.

Maple Highlights

This past year, FCNRC held a series of workshops for maple producers to increase awareness on water quality and sustainable sugarbush management. The goal was to increase public awareness and knowledge of environmental topics related to maple production such as funding opportunities, organic certification, and water quality, and to increase public stewardship and adoption of Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs). Following four workshops, FCNRC staff visited interested landowners' sugarbushes to discuss road erosion, water quality, and any other concerns, also providing specific AMP recommendations based on their sugarbush and management goals.

The purpose of AMPs is to provide measures for loggers, foresters, and landowners to utilize before, during, and after logging operations to comply with the Vermont Water Quality Standards and minimize potential for discharge from logging operations. In practice, this often means improving and maintaining forest roads through the use of water bars, stream crossings, and skidder bridges.

FCNRC is continuing to offer AMP site visits in 2026. If you are interested in an AMP site visit, send us an email at info@FranklinCountyNRCD.org.



Skidder Bridge Rental Program

Are you a logging professional or forest landowner in need of a temporary skidder bridge? We own two that we rent out for \$100/month.

Email info@FranklinCountyNRCD.org, call 802-582-3133, or visit FranklinCountyNRCD.org/SkidderBridge to find out more.



FRANKLIN COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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The Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District empowers and partners with land stewards and communities on the ground by supporting connections that benefit natural resources, water quality, soil health, and the working landscape in Franklin County and across Northwest Vermont.

Tree Sale Information Inside!



FRANKLIN COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Newsletter 2025-2026

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Contact: Lauren Weston

802-582-3133

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Franklin County NRCD

2026 Tree Sale Fundraiser

Pick-up: May 2

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

PAPER ORDERS DUE FEBRUARY 27th

ONLINE ORDERS DUE APRIL 13th

We **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** ordering online at FranklinCountyNRCD.org for descriptions, up-to-date inventory & an extended ordering deadline

Availability is subject to change based on source nursery stock availability dependent on weather & other conditions. Thank you for understanding

CONTACT

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to:

Franklin County NRCD

Mail checks & orders to:

431 Franklin Park West

Suite 100A

St. Albans, VT 05478

Email: _____

Pick-up location (circle one)

Hudak / Montgomery / N. Hero

Mailing Street, Town, Zip: _____

KEY AND ORDERING INFORMATION

PAYMENT INFORMATION

N = Native to Vermont

★ = Self Fertile: Can reproduce w/ 1 plant but 2 or + preferred. Will pollinate others.

Nut Trees: Please order multiple of same variety for nut production.

Fruit Trees and Berries: If "Pollinator Required (Poll.Req.)" in description, please order at least two different varieties with similar bloom time.

More descriptions and pollen info at FranklinCountyNRCD.org

Total from all categories on front & back of Order Form \$

Additional Donation to Support Local Conservation \$

Total Enclosed \$

SEED MIXES	Name	Seeding Rate	Source	Price/Packet	# Packets	Total
	Grass for Compacted Sites	20 lbs/acre	MA	\$8 / 2 oz		\$
	Honey Bee Forage Mix (Clover)	10 lbs/acre	PA	\$10 / 1 lb		\$
	NE Annual & Perennial Wildflower	7-10 lb/acre	PA	\$8 / 2 oz		\$
	Riparian Buffer Mix	20 lbs/acre	PA	\$8 / 2 oz		\$
						Total this category: \$

TREES: EVERGREEN SOFTWOODS: SMALL ORDERS

Source	Name	Description	Size (Height)	Price/Stem	# Indiv. Stems	Total
NY	Cedar, White	<i>Arborvitae. Popular landscaping. N</i>	10-16 INCH	\$6		\$
NY	Fir, Balsam	<i>Christmas tree and wreath making. N</i>	10-18 INCH	\$6		\$
NY	Fir, Fraser	<i>Popular Christmas tree. Grows slow.</i>	10-18 INCH	\$6		\$
NY	Spruce, CO Blue	<i>Blue/gray. Drought tolerant.</i>	16-22 INCH	\$6		\$
NY	Spruce, White	<i>Up to 60 ft. Wildlife habitat. N</i>	15-24 INCH	\$6		\$
						Total this category: \$

TREES: EVERGREEN SOFTWOODS: BULK ORDERS

#stems/price	Cedar, White	Fir, Balsam	Fir, Fraser	Spruce, CB	Spruce, Wh	Total
10 @ \$45	#	#	#	#	#	\$
50 @ \$185	#	#	#	#	#	\$
100 @\$320	#	#	#	#	#	\$
						Total this category: \$

TREES: DECIDUOUS HARDWOODS

Source	Name	Description	Size (Height)	Price	#	Total
MI	Basswood, American	<i>Heart-shaped leaves. Attracts bees. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Birch, River	<i>Fast-growing. Exfoliating bark. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Maple, Red	<i>Maple suitable for wet areas. Red. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Maple, Sugar	<i>Valuable syrup. Rusty Orange. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Redbud, Eastern	<i>Eye-catching blooms. Pink flower. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Sycamore	<i>Camouflage bark. Deer resistant. N</i>	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
						Total this category: \$

NEW IN 2026: The primary pick-up location will be at Hudak Farm in Swanton, not at Field Days in Highgate. Our first-ever conservation fair will include free on-site soil testing, activities for kids, and more.

Contact: Lauren Weston

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Pick-up: May 2

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ONLINE ORDERS DUE APRIL 13th

NUT TREES

Source	Name	Description	Size (Height)	Price	#	Total
VT	Chestnut, American	Nuts formed in burr. Timber valuable. N	3-4 FT	\$25		\$
VT	Hazelbert	Oil-rich nuts in 3-5 years. Poll. req.	2-3 FT	\$19		\$
NY	Oak, White	Valuable for wildlife, strong branches. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
Total this category:						\$

FRUIT TREES

Source	Name	Description	Stem Diameter	Price	#	Total
NY	Apple, Gala	Sweet, tart, crisp. Mid-season bloom. Poll. req.	1/2 INCH +	\$35		\$
NY	Apple, Golden Delicious	Sweet, mild. Mid-late season bloom. Poll. req.	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
NY	Apple, Honeycrisp	Crisp, sweet. Mid-late bloom. Poll. req.	1/2 INCH +	\$35		\$
NY	Apple, McIntosh	Large, tart fruit. Mid-season bloom. Poll. req.	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
NY	Apple, Pink Lady	Sweet, tart, crisp. Early bloom. Poll. req.	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
NY	Cherry, Montmorency Tart	Sour. Yellow flesh, clear juice. Mid-late bloom. ★	3/8-1/2 INCH	\$37		\$
NY	Cherry, Stardust Sweet	Sweet. Large with orange skin and white flesh. ★	3/8-1/2 INCH	\$37		\$
NY	Peach, Blazingstar	Cold hardy. Freestone. Yellow, sweet flesh. ★	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
NY	Pear, Anjou	Cold hardy. Green fruit. Early-Mid bloom. Poll. req.	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
NY	Pear, Bartlett	Large yellow fruit. Early-Mid bloom. Poll. req.	1/2-7/8 INCH	\$35		\$
MI	Plum, American	Wild, thicket forming. Eat fresh, jellies, jam. N ★	2-3 FT (HEIGHT)	\$9		\$
Total this category:						\$

BERRY PRODUCING

Source	Name	Description	Size (Height)	Price	#	Total
MA	Asparagus, Mary Washington	Winter hardy, heirloom, rust resistance.	BUNDLE OF 25	\$22		\$
NY	Blackberry, Darrow	Large berries great for preserving. ★	12-24 INCH	\$9		\$
NY	Blueberry, Blue Ray	Large fruit ripe in July. Mid-season bloom. N ★	15-24 INCH	\$15		\$
NY	Blueberry, Jersey	Med-large fruit. Ripe August. Late bloom. N ★	15-24 INCH	\$15		\$
NY	Cranberry, Highbush	Large red tart fruit. Ripe Sept - Oct. N ★	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
VT	Currant, Pink Champagne	Tasty, pink fruit. Mildew resistant. ★	8-12 INCH	\$12		\$
NY	Currant, Red Lake	Bright red fruit. Tart, juicy. Cold hardy. ★	12 INCH	\$12		\$
NY	Elderberry, Black	Medicinal, grows in wetlands. Multiple Req. N	2-3 FT	\$10		\$
VT	Grape, Brianna	Med-large gold. Seeded. Cold hardy. ★	8-12 INCH	\$14		\$
NY	Raspberry, Latham Red	Med-large red fruit. Late June bearing. N ★	1-2 FT	\$11		\$
MA	Strawberry, Annapolis	Early season. Large berries. Mild, sweet. ★	BUNDLE OF 10	\$8		\$
MA	Strawberry, Seascape	Med-large. Everbearing. High-yield. ★	BUNDLE OF 10	\$8		\$
Total this category:						\$

CONSERVATION SHRUBS

Source	Name	Description	Size (Height)	Price	#	Total
NY	Dogwood, Red Osier	Forms thicket. Red winter color. Wildlife. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
MI	Nannyberry	Up to 16 ft. Wildlife and pollinator friendly. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Ninebark	Decorative bark. Late-spring blossom. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
MI	Serviceberry, Allegheny	Understory. Early spring blooms. N ★	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
MI	Spicebush	Stout, aromatic. Low drought tolerance. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
NY	Viburnum, Arrowwood	Straight stems. Blue-black berries. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
MI	Witch Hazel	Blooms winter, yellow flowers. Thicket. N	2-3 FT	\$9		\$
Total this category:						\$

NEW IN 2026: The primary pick-up location will be at Hudak Farm in Swanton, not at Field Days in Highgate. Our first-ever conservation fair will include free on-site soil testing, activities for kids, and more.

2026 Spring Trout Sale – Franklin County NRCD (you can also order online at FranklinCountyNRCD.org)

6-8" fish in lots of 25 can be picked up at the Pickup Location: the Park and Ride at 48 Fairfax Road in St. Albans, VT. 10-12" Rainbow Trout require a minimum order of 50 and will be delivered to your pond - please give detailed delivery directions.

Pick-up and delivery date: 1:00 pm on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026. Please check your email regularly for any changes or updates to this information. Please fill out this form and deliver or mail it with payment (check preferred) **no later than April 20th** to the address below or order online at FranklinCountyNRCD.org.

Franklin County NRCD
431 Franklin Park West, Suite 100A
St. Albans, VT 05478

Size	Trout Species	Lot Size	Delivery Method	Cost / Lot	# Lots	Total Cost
6-8"	Brook	25 Fish	Pickup Required	\$ 80		\$
6-8"	Rainbow	25 Fish	Pickup Required	\$ 80		\$
10-12"	Rainbow	50 Fish	Delivered to Your Pond	\$ 330		\$
No 10-12" Brook Trout Available in 2026						
Fish Food			Cost	# Bags		
Whole Bag (40 lbs)			\$ 60		\$	
Half Bag (20 lbs)			\$ 40		\$	
TOTAL - Fish and Fish Food						\$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address (Street, Town, State, Zip Code): _____

Pond Delivery Directions (if ordering 10-12" Rainbow Trout): _____

Frequently Asked Questions

Rainbow Trout can tolerate warmer water (55-65°F is optimal) and tend to be somewhat hardier. The rainbow trout is gamier than the brook trout, often leaping from the water to strike a fly and is also excellent eating. Rainbows can survive in stagnant water, have a longer life span and grow faster than brook trout, and can be handled for catch and release fishing.

Brook Trout are native to eastern North America and require a year-round supply of cold, oxygenated water (45-60°F is optimal). The brook trout is generally considered a favorite game fish with its beauty, easy catch-ability, and unrivaled table appeal combining to make it the highly reputable fish that it is.

Generally, it is okay to **mix different species of trout or trout of different sizes**. In some situations, competition, limited feed, and cannibalism can destroy the weaker and/or smaller trout. Trout will eat other trout half their size or less. However, a healthy pond with plenty of insects and plant life will minimize any incompatibility. **Purchasing feed** is generally only for fun. Trout will rise when you throw a handful of feed out and are fun to watch, but their best diet is native insects and plants.

How many trout would be suitable for a pond? Pond conditions dictate numbers and species of trout to stock. The average one-acre pond with a depth of eight feet that stays full all summer with fresh water can generally support 300 trout. Any of several variables may advocate stocking fewer trout, the most important being a dropping water level during the hot, summer months. The warmer the water, the lower the dissolved oxygen content, so it is important not to overstock a pond if the water level tends to drop during late summer.

More information about ponds can be found on websites for the **VT Fish and Wildlife Department**: Wildlife Habitat Management - A Landowner's Guide and **VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program**: Private Ponds.