

**Local resources in Maryland/** Written by Tome Shaaltiel with the guidance of Joan Plisko and Perri DeJarnette

Considering so many people are trying to start growing their own garden at this time of crisis, I have compiled an assembly of resources local to Maryland that can be useful. These resources include where to find or purchase seeds, seedlings, soil, mulch, what kinds of resources are recommended and why. Please share them with whoever you think may benefit from it. And please share back with me if there are anymore resources you may want to add to this list.

*“We are indeed much more than what we eat, but what we eat can nevertheless help us to be much more than what we are.”* Said [Adelle Davis](#), a pioneer in the health movement in the 1960s.

### **Why Local and not Global?**

Local resources will most likely adapt best to their local environment, since they most likely fit the local climate, water source and soil, meaning there is more of a chance for your plants to thrive.

Local resources are more sustainable since they don't use as much fossil fuel in the process of delivery as a global resource does.

Purchasing locally encourages and builds community, supports the local farmers businesses and it promotes the importance of knowing where your food comes from.

For more information check this out:

**The Great Food Fight Local VS. Global** - <https://viewpoint.pointloma.edu/the-great-food-fight-local-vs-global/>

**Why Buy Local Food** - <https://foodrevolution.org/blog/why-buy-local-food/>

**The True Cost of Cheap Food** - <https://www.resurgence.org/magazine/article3035-the-true-cost-of-cheap-food.html>

### **Why Organic and not Conventional?**

Originally the word organic is a being or coming from a living plant or animal or fungus.

Organic produce refers to produce that is grown without synthetics, without the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, and without genetic modification (GMO). Instead of chemicals, using different farming and gardening methods that can help prevent the growth of weeds and control pests, such as sheet mulching, companion planting and planting a biodiversity of plants. Also using fertilizers

without chemicals, such as compost or other soil amendments, adding different concoctions of microbes and beneficial fungus to the existing soil.

For more information check out **What is organic?** -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trm76hyUm0U>

**Genetically Modifying and Patenting Seeds Is Not The Answer** -

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/oct/09/genetically-modifying-patenting-seeds>

**The Hidden Costs Of Industrial Agriculture** -

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/hidden-costs-industrial-agriculture#.Wc5Ut7IjFQI>

Here is a **link** to USDA Organic certification regulations -

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic>

### **Local resources to help you grow your own garden in Maryland:**

1. **Asking neighbors for plants**- when they separate their seedlings, or they thin their already full-grown plants.
2. **Seed exchange or plant exchanges with neighbors and fb groups**
3. **Farmers markets** - organic produce, seedlings and soil is more recommended  
[https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland\\_products/Pages/farmers\\_market\\_dir.aspx](https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Pages/farmers_market_dir.aspx) [https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland\\_products/Documents/2020-Maryland-Farmers-Market-Directory.pdf](https://mda.maryland.gov/maryland_products/Documents/2020-Maryland-Farmers-Market-Directory.pdf)
4. **CSA**- organic produce, seedlings and soil is more recommended  
<https://www.localharvest.org/search.jsp?map=1&lat=39.465347&lon=-76.80977&scale=9&ty=6&zip=21136>
5. **Leafgro**- compost from facility in Montgomery county, MD- residential and commercial composting. <https://www.menv.com/leafgro/>
6. **Green Girls organic produce** <https://www.greengirlsfarm.com/>
7. **Sharp's at Waterford Farm** <http://sharpfarm.com/>
8. **Valley view farm** <http://www.valleyviewfarms.com/>
9. **Cooperative Gardens Commission** <https://coopgardens.org/> **Maryland, D.C, Virginia local hub** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/227976245282944/>
10. **Herring Run Nursery** <https://bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery/>
11. **American Native Plants** <https://www.americannativeplants.com/>
12. **Hollins Organic**- mulch, topsoil, and compost  
<http://www.hollinsorganic.com/>
13. **Greenfields Nursery** <http://greenfieldsnursery.com/>