



Buying Locally Grown Produce from Distributors

Many child care facilities, particularly larger centers, order their food, and even paper products, from a distributor. When it comes to fruits and vegetables, currently many distributors do *not* focus on buying locally, but there is a shift in this trend with the local food movement.

Farm to Child Care facilities have the option to talk to their current distributor about where they buy their produce and to work with other distributors, if need be, that focus on local farmers.

First Steps:

- ✓ If you currently order food from a distributor, call your representative to find out if any of the fruits and vegetables sold to you are grown in North Carolina.
- ✓ If so, find out what the options are for tracking or increasing the amount of local produce offered to you.
- ✓ If not, ask if they can begin to buy produce in North Carolina.
- ✓ If they cannot, switch to a different distributor for all your food or just for your produce.

Distributors That Sell NC Grown Produce

One distributor, based in Chapel Hill, is the POP Market. This distributor is unique in that it sells locally grown fruit and vegetables—none are from outside the state.

Several nationally known distributors are increasing their local produce purchasing because they know more and more customers value locally grown food and supporting local growers.

Profiles on several distributors follows.

