ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Dagster

The Insider's Guide

Asset-based data orchestration platform, now part of Prefect



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among automation tools, read from Dagster's own pages.

Made by Prefect Technologies, Inc. · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Dagster's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Dagster's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.0

GPA, above 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade

Dagster is an orchestration platform for data pipelines built around assets: the tables, files and models a pipeline produces. Its core framework is open source and can be self-hosted, and Dagster+ is the hosted product with a catalog, data quality checks and cost insights. The site says Dagster is now part of Prefect.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Dagster**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **You define pipelines as Python code and run or host a code location, which is a developer's setup, not a click-through one.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for Python data pipelines built around assets**

Dagster orchestrates data pipelines written in Python, organised around the tables and files they produce.

2 **Paid plans start at $10 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $10 per month plus $0.040 per credit (Solo).

3 **You can try it first**

30-day free trial with access to everything Dagster offers

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Asset-based orchestration**

Pipelines are modeled as assets with dependencies, alongside workflow-based orchestration for work that is not tied to a data asset.

6 **Data catalog and lineage**

Asset metadata, asset-level lineage and, on Starter and above, catalog search; column lineage is listed on the comparison table.

7 **Data quality checks**

Asset checks, freshness policies and dbt test integration surface the health of each asset.

8 **A 2.0 GPA, above 26 of 134**

That is against the other automation tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Dagster you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Dagster at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $10 per month plus $0.040 per credit (Solo)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day free trial with access to everything Dagster offers

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Prefect Technologies, Inc.

CATEGORY
Automation

OUR GRADE
2.0 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for Python data pipelines built around assets

Dagster orchestrates data pipelines written in Python, organised around the tables and files they produce. There's no free hosted plan, credits are billed on top of the monthly fee, cost tracking sits on Pro, and the site now says Dagster is part of Prefect, so plans may shift.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Dagster** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Solo is $10 a month and Starter $100, but every asset and op also costs a credit ($0.040 or $0.035), so the bill isn't just the headline. The category's middle is $19.99.
Free plan and trial	C	30-day trial with everything on, and the core framework can be self-hosted for nothing. There's no free hosted plan, so after a month you pay or run it yourself.
Features	C	Orchestration, catalog, data quality checks and cost insights. Cost tracking, project-level roles and several alert types are Pro only.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. You define pipelines as Python code and run or host a code location, which is a developer's setup, not a click-through one.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web console with integrations for dbt, Snowflake, Databricks, AWS and Airbyte. No desktop or phone apps.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Dagster is for

- ✓ Fits if your team writes Python and thinks of pipelines as tables and files
- ✓ Works for data teams that want a hosted console but can self-host the core later

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you can't write Python, as pipelines are code
- ✗ Tight if you're not paying: no free hosted plan, only a 30-day trial
- ✗ Watch out: credits are charged per asset and per op on top of $10 or $100 a month
- ✗ Watch out: the site says Dagster is now part of Prefect, so plans and branding may change

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Data engineering teams that think in tables and models rather than tasks
- ✓ Teams running dbt, warehouse and ELT pipelines that want lineage in one place
- ✓ Individuals who want a hosted orchestrator for under $20 a month to start

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Usage is billed in credits: one per asset materialized and one per op executed, on top of the monthly fee.
- ⓘ There is no free hosted plan; the trial lasts 30 days, though the core framework can be self-hosted.
- ⓘ Cost tracking, role scoping by project and several alert types are limited to the Pro plan.
- ⓘ The site says Dagster is now part of Prefect, so plans and branding may change.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$10

A month to start

Dagster is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $10 per month plus $0.040 per credit (Solo).

> **There's no free hosted plan, so after a month you pay or run it yourself.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

SOLO

$10

per month, plus $0.040 per credit

1 user, 1 code location and 1 deployment for personal projects. Serverless compute is $0.010 a minute.

STARTER

$100

per month, plus $0.035 per credit

Up to 3 users, 5 code locations, 1 deployment and catalog search. Serverless compute is $0.010 a minute.

PRO

Custom

Unlimited code locations and deployments, cost tracking and insights, uptime SLAs and a private Slack channel. Sold through sales.

Trying it first

30-day free trial with access to everything Dagster offers

Read from dagster.io on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Asset-based data orchestration platform, now part of Prefect. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, AI features, workflow automation, dashboards.

> **Orchestration, catalog, data quality checks and cost insights.**
>
> From our grade for features

Asset-based orchestration

Pipelines are modeled as assets with dependencies, alongside workflow-based orchestration for work that is not tied to a data asset.

Data catalog and lineage

Asset metadata, asset-level lineage and, on Starter and above, catalog search; column lineage is listed on the comparison table.

Data quality checks

Asset checks, freshness policies and dbt test integration surface the health of each asset.

Insights and alerts

Pipeline metrics with a 30-day lookback and alerts by email, Slack or Teams; cost tracking for BigQuery and Snowflake is a Pro feature.

Hybrid or Serverless compute

Run on Dagster Serverless, billed at $0.010 a minute, or on your own infrastructure in Hybrid mode with no compute charge from Dagster.

Open-source core

The core orchestration framework is open source on GitHub and can be self-hosted; Dagster+ adds branch deployments, RBAC and cost insights.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

dbt · Snowflake · Databricks · AWS S3 · AWS Glue · Airbyte · ClickHouse · Anthropic

Dagster is made by Prefect Technologies, Inc.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

26/134

Other automation tools it is graded above

Dagster's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 27.

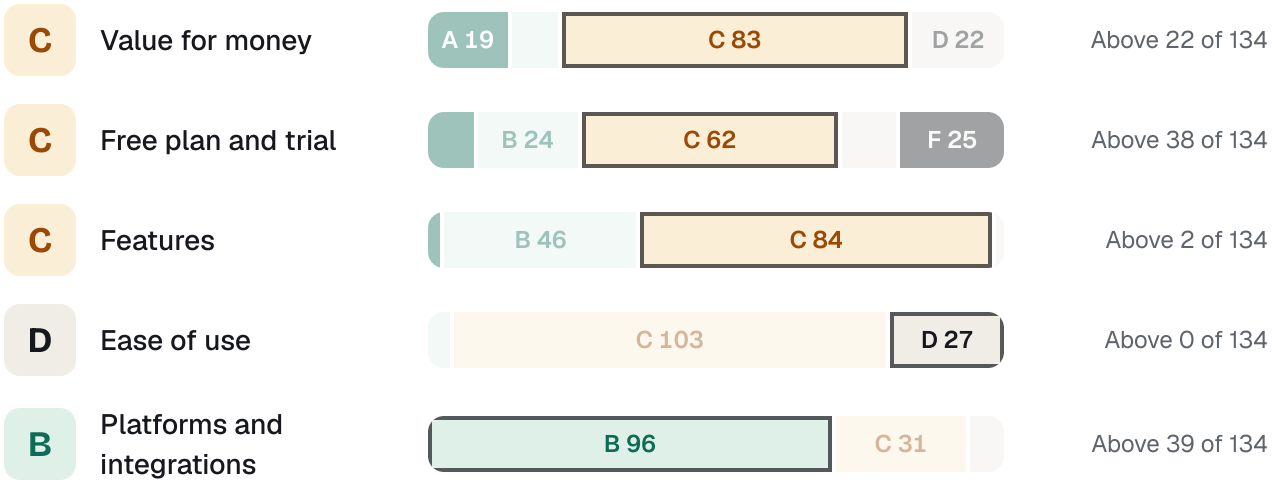
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 39 of 134) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $22.17 for the category: 10 of the 65 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 10 tools score higher and cost less.

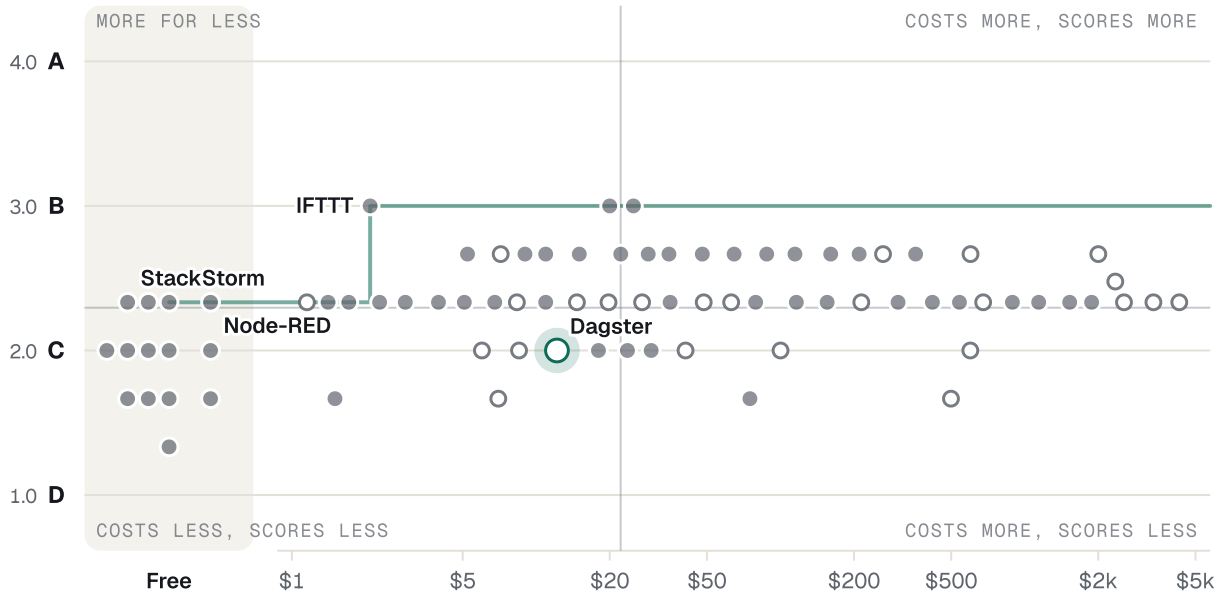
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 135 automation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Dagster's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 80 automation tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Dagster is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Dagster you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 81 of the 134 other automation tools grade higher. It costs $120 a year. Dagster is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could not

- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

- ✕ Connections that pull numbers from dozens of other services.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Dagster's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Prefect, Apache Airflow, Astronomer, Kestra and Windmill

The 5 tools Dagster is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.4 GPA

Prefect

Free plan · from $100/mo

Python workflow orchestration with an open-source core and a cloud.

- Prefect has a free plan. Dagster does not, though it has a free trial.
- Dagster also covers dashboards.
- Prefect also covers AI agents.

Dagster and Prefect compared in full

2.4 GPA

Apache Airflow

Free

Open-source platform for authoring and scheduling workflows in Python.

- Apache Airflow has a free plan. Dagster does not, though it has a free trial.
- Dagster also covers dashboards.

Dagster and Apache Airflow compared in full



1.8
GPA

Astronomer

Free trial · from $0.35

Managed Apache Airflow platform (Astro) with usage-based pricing.

- Dagster is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Astronomer also covers AI agents.

Dagster and Astronomer compared in full



2.4
GPA

Kestra

Free plan

Open-source workflow orchestration platform defined in YAML.

- Kestra has a free plan. Dagster does not, though it has a free trial.
- Dagster also covers dashboards.

Dagster and Kestra compared in full



2.6
GPA

Windmill

Free plan · from $10/mo

Open-source platform for scripts, workflows and internal apps.

- Windmill has a free plan. Dagster does not, though it has a free trial.
- Dagster also covers dashboards.
- Windmill also covers AI agents and app builder.

Dagster and Windmill compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

12

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Dagster free?

No, Dagster is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day free trial with access to everything Dagster offers.

How much does Dagster cost?

Dagster lists 3 plans. Solo: $10 per month, plus $0.040 per credit.

What platforms does Dagster work on?

Dagster is available on Web.

Does Dagster have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Dagster is listed for Web.

Does Dagster have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Dagster is listed for Web.

Is Dagster open source?

Yes. Dagster is open source, according to its own site.

What does Dagster integrate with?

Dagster's listing names dbt, Snowflake, Databricks, AWS S3, AWS Glue, Airbyte, ClickHouse and Anthropic.

Who makes Dagster?

Dagster is made by Prefect Technologies, Inc.

What are the alternatives to Dagster?

The closest alternatives to Dagster in our directory are Prefect, Apache Airflow, Astronomer, Kestra and Windmill.

How does Dagster compare with other automation tools?

Dagster's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 27.

Is Dagster good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Dagster C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $22.17 for the category: 10 of the 65 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Dagster?

To replace Dagster you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Dagster's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Dagster's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Prefect Technologies, Inc. Prices change, so check dagster.io before you buy.

dagster.io/pricing
dagster.io/integrations
dagster.io

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Dagster, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/dagster

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Dagster: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/dagster
```

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Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/dagster/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded automation tools after Dagster, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Automation Insider's Guide

Every one of the 135 automation tools we grade, compared

Knime Insider's Guide

Open-source visual workflows for data analysis and automation

3.2 GPA

IFTTT Insider's Guide

Simple trigger-and-action automations for apps and smart devices

3.0 GPA

Node-RED Insider's Guide

Open-source, flow-based programming tool for event-driven apps

3.0 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Dagster's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Dagster is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Prefect Technologies, Inc. Prices and plans change: check dagster.io before you buy.