

WHAT IS A SEED BOMB?

Enter...the creation of seed bombs. A seed bomb, or seed ball, is a ball of seeds mixed with something compostable which can be shaped into a ball. In our case, we chose to use paper but seed bombs can also be made with clay and soil. The seeds are encased in the compostable paper or clay and can be thrown into the soil. As the rain falls, the paper composts away, the seeds germinate and grow wherever the bomb is thrown.

Seed bombs a popular part of guerrilla gardening – gardening in public spaces where gardens don't already exist. Whether you use the bombs in your own garden, in a public space or in a schoolyard making a seed bomb is a simple way to spread flowers and help bees and pollinators thrive.

What a perfect Earth Day activity!

HOW TO MAKE WILDFLOWER SEED BOMBS

construction paper (we used green, blue and white)

water

food processor

a variety of wildflower seeds

mini muffin pan



Begin by preparing the paper. We decided to use construction paper, but you could easily use newsprint or any paper you have on hand. We really wanted ours to look like the Earth for Earth Day. Rip the paper into smaller pieces and place the pieces in a bowl.



Now, add water to the bowl of paper. You will need to soak the paper pieces for at least 20 minutes. You are trying to soften the fibres, so the amount of time you need will depend on the weight of your paper. If you used a heavier paper, let it soak longer.



Once the paper is thoroughly soaked, it is time to add it to the food processor (you could also use a blender). Add the paper and process until the paper is completely broken down.



And, now it's time to make the seed bombs. We used a muffin tin to make our seed bombs, but you could totally use your bare hands to make a sphere.



Add a layer of the paper mash to the muffin tin. Then sprinkle in a layer of seeds.



Then top off the seeds with another layer of the paper mash. Be sure to press the paper firmly, to be sure that the fibres all stick together around the seeds inside.



Now, it is time to wait for the seed bombs to dry. Set them aside to dry for a few hours. Once the bombs were a little bit dry, we transferred ours to a baking rack to dry all the way through. We left them out overnight.



Once the seed bombs are dry, they are ready to take outside. It isn't time to plant our seed bombs (there is still snow on the ground here). We placed our seed bombs in a air tight container and stored them in a dry, dark spot until spring arrives.



We now have the perfect Earth Day activity. We will head out to our local ravine and toss a few seed bombs. We will also be sharing these seed bombs with our friends on Earth Day, so that they can grow flowers that the bees, and other pollinators, will love in their home gardens.

WHAT SEEDS SHOULD WE USE IN OUR WILDFLOWER SEED BOMBS?

When it comes to selecting the seeds you use, be sure to pick seeds that will grow where you are planning on throwing your bomb. It is a good idea to choose a variety of wild flowers. A variety of seeds means that at least some of the seeds should take hold and grow.

Be very careful that you aren't choosing seeds that are not native to where you live. You don't want to be responsible for introducing a non-native or invasive species into a public space.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT SEED BOMBS?

If you know that there is rain in the forecast, that is the best time to toss your seed bombs. You want them to land and then be activated by the rainfall. Seeds need water to grow, if you toss them in the midst of a draught they probably won't grow.