

Seed Bombs

All Ages

This bomb explodes with beauty, fresh air and life. Small but mighty, they eventually grow into the plants and flowers that are part of the natural world. Your seed bombs will improve the habitat for bugs, bees, birds and people alike.

Seed Bombs are easy to make. Traditionally, they are made with clay, soil and seeds. As clay is not always available, a simple paper mulch method is offered as well as a clay recipe.

Paper Mulch Seed Bomb: (makes 12 seed bombs)

Adult assistance with use of the blender or see the no blender method noted below.

Materials:

- blender
- 3 sheets newspaper torn into small pieces
- 2 cups of water
- strainer placed in a mixing bowl
- native flower seeds—see page 2 for more about seed choices.

Optional Materials:

- 1/3 cup of compost or seed starter soil
- coloured tissue paper
- Silicone moulds

Instructions:

1. Tear newspaper into small pieces and put inside the blender. Add two cups of water. Blend until everything turns to mush! If the blender is having difficulties: add more water.
2. Pour the paper mulch into the strainer over the mixing bowl.
3. Press out the water with your fingers or a spoon. Squeeze out as much water as you can. Empty the mixing bowl of liquid and put squeezed mulch in the bowl.
4. Gently mix in compost or seed starter. This gives the seeds some extra nutrients. Your seed bombs will still work without this ingredient.
5. Flatten a generous scoop of the mix on your palm. Add 7 or 8 seeds.
6. Pinch closed and squeeze into a golf ball-sized ball. To keep track of different seeds, wrap a single layer of coloured tissue paper around the damp seed bomb to colour-code them.
7. Set aside to dry. They are done when they are hard and dry to the touch. Store in a paper bag so the seeds may breathe.

Option: Use a silicone mould (for ice cubes) to make shaped bombs. Press mulch mix into the mould to half-fill. Add 7-8 seeds and cover with mulch mix, pressing to fill the mould. Gently remove from mould to dry.

To Plant: Carefully position your seed bomb in your garden or lob them out into an area you want to seed. Either method works as long as the seed bombs are touching the ground.

No Blender— Tear very small pieces of newspaper into a mixing bowl. Add water to thoroughly wet the paper. Let the mix soak for an hour. Use your hands or wooden spoon to 'massage' the paper bits into a pulp. Add or drain water as needed to form a pulp. Follow steps 2 through 7 as above.



Step 5



Step 6



Colour-coded



Watch our 'how to' video for making paper mulch [seed bombs](#).



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Clay Seed Bombs:

(Makes 12 seed bombs)

Materials:

- 1/2 cup fine powdered clay—See Clay Options.
- 1/2 cup compost or seed starter soil
- 1/3 cup water
- mixing bowl
- native flower seeds
- Small pieces of coloured tissue paper (optional)

Clay Options:

Potter or artist clay — no water needed, massage soil into clay. Found in art supply shops. Pricey.

Unscented clay kitty litter - easy to find and inexpensive. May require more water to soften the clay and bind with the soil. Comes in a large quantity.

Crayola Air-Dry Clay— use only this Crayola clay product, it is a natural clay.



Instructions:

1. Mix powdered clay and compost together in mixing bowl.
2. Add water and stir. If the mixture is too dry, add a little more water. If it is too wet, add a little more compost. Aim for a 'cookie dough' feel.
3. Flatten a scoop of the mix on your palm and add 7 or 8 seeds.
4. Pinch closed and squeeze into a golf ball-sized ball. To keep track of different seeds, colour-code the seed bombs by wrapping them with a single layer of coloured tissue paper.

5. Allow the bombs to dry until they feel hard and dry to the touch.

6. Store in a paper bag.

To Plant: Toss or gently place into the garden or space you wish to plant. Either method works as long as the bombs are touching the ground.

So Many Seeds! What to Pick?

When possible choose seeds for native plants as they will thrive (grow really well) in your area. They are controlled from growing too much by the birds, insects, or other animals which eat them. Non-native plants do not have these checks and can become invasive or takeover a space. Avoid spreading weed seeds or planting invasive species.

What do you want the plants to do?

For example, Do you want to attract butterflies to your yard, support pollinators, produce seeds for birds and so on?

Where will your seeds be growing?

Plants have different needs for sunlight, water, and soil conditions. Will your plants be in the sun all day or only part of the day? Is there plenty of soil, or is it rocky? Ideal growing conditions are often listed on the seed packet or are readily available from a native plant resource. Be sure to plant your seed bombs in a habitat that will give them the best chance of success.

Where learn more

Native plant nursery in your community
Local plant societies like Master Gardeners

Online

[Natural Edge](#) has a Native plant data base with great photographs.

[Wildflower Farm](#) offers a Seed Selector Tool to narrow down your options.