

Seed Balls

Seed balls are a great way to reclaim areas of your garden that have become thin or barren! The clay vessels that you create for your seeds and compost offer a fun way to plant your seeds while providing protection for the exposed seeds. The compost in your balls act as a source of nutrients. The seeds remain inside the seed balls until rains soak the clay and stimulate the seeds.

Materials

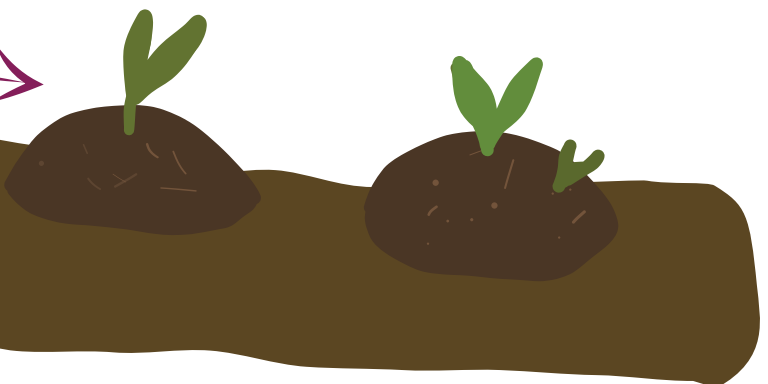
- Three parts natural CLAY
- Five parts COMPOST
- One part SEED (create your own custom blend, or use local wildflowers!)
- Enough water to create a biscuit-dough consistency

Directions

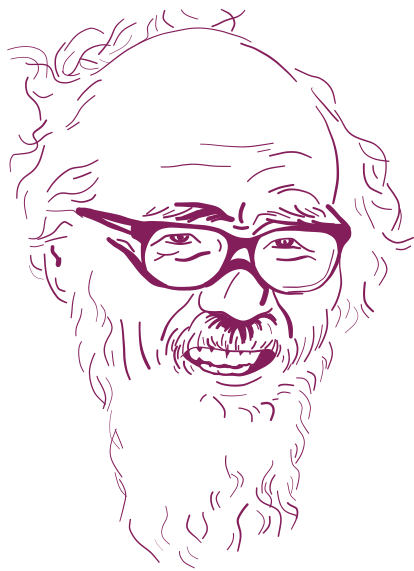
1. Mix the seed, clay, and compost together in a bowl to a ratio of three parts of clay, five parts of compost, and one part seed.
**Note If your clay is hard, knead it first to soften and then flatten clay with your palm and sprinkle seed and compost onto the centre and knead together again.*
2. You may need to add water. Do so gradually (you don't want it too gloopy), mixing it all together until you get a consistency of biscuit-dough.
3. Form into loonie-size balls.
4. Allow seed balls to bake dry on a sunny window for at least 4 hours. We recommend 24-48 hours for the best results.
5. Once they've dried, your seed balls are ready for use!



Reclaim barren areas
of your garden



Little
GreenThumbs



The History

Seed balls are ancient technology re-popularized by Japanese natural farming pioneer Masanobu Fukuoka in his 1975 book, *The One-Straw Revolution*. Fukuoka employed seed bombs, also known as seed bombs or 'earth dumplings', to plant his farm fields without cultivation.

How to Use Your Seed Balls

- Simply toss your seed balls at a patch of dirt and watch it explode! Once it rains (or you water them), your seed balls have everything they need to grow.
- They make great gifts! Put them in a paper bag and staple a sheet of directions on them, or cut fabric or tissue paper into 4-inch squares and place 5-6 seed bombs in the center of the fabric. Gather ends, tie with string, add a label and then tie with a bow.

Give them as gifts!



What Seeds??

Seed bombs are a particularly good way to plant local native species. Native wildflowers are plants that have been a natural part of your local ecosystem for long time. They are especially beneficial for local pollinators and wildlife and won't disturb the local ecosystem if your seed balls take root on empty lots or wild spaces.

Make sure to check any "wildflower mixes" to ensure they don't contain local invasive species.

Other good choices include drought-tolerant flowers (sunflower, snapdragons, calendula, or coneflower) or edibles (lettuce, spinach, kale, chard, radish, or tomato).

