

## Seed Bombs and Pollinators

Adapted from: <https://mommypoppins.com/anywhere-kids/boredom-busters/make-wildflower-seed-bombs-earth-craft-for-kids>

First, some Science 101: Pollinators are insects, birds, and bats that pollinate plants. Pollination, when pollen from one flower mixes with pollen from other flowers, is how plants make seeds and food for us. But pollinators are in danger from the use of pesticides, habitat loss, and other threats.

If we lose pollinators, humans lose delicious fruits and vegetables, not to mention the rich biodiversity on our planet that pollinators make possible. That's where seed bombs come in; it's an easy way to plant the flowers that pollinators need, anywhere and everywhere.

### Wildflower Seed Bomb Materials

- Wildflower seeds native to your area (included in kit)
- Compost (included in kit)
- Red Clay Powder for Seed Balls, which is available on Amazon.com (included in kit)
- A bowl of water
- A tray or baking sheet pan
- A work surface you don't mind getting dirty
- Bags and note cards, to share your seed bombs

### Wildflower Seed Bomb Instructions

#### Step 1: Find Seeds Native to Your Area

Make sure to find seeds for plants that naturally grow in your area to help your local ecosystem. The creatures who live near you want to eat the food they recognize—local, native plants. If you use seeds that come from other parts of the world, you risk introducing invasive species that will take over the local fauna. In short, local wildlife needs local plants. The seeds that are included in the kit are from Prairie Moon Nursery which sends seeds through the mail. Another local source is Prairie Restorations which has a store in Scandia.

#### Step 2: Gather Supplies and Prepare to Get Dirty!

Once you have your native seeds, gather your other supplies (compost, red clay powder, water, a tray, and an area you don't mind getting a little messy). Prepare your work surfaces by putting down an old tablecloth or using the tray to contain the mess.

#### Step 3: Forming the Ball

Here's the fun part: mix the compost and red clay powder with some water until it can be formed into balls. Then, create 1-inch balls with this mixture.



#### Step 4: Add the Seeds

Each seed bomb only needs 2-3 seeds. You want the seeds to have enough room to grow once they sprout. If the seeds are big (like the size of a sunflower seed), you want them towards the inside. If they are small seeds, stick them toward the outside of the compost-clay ball.



#### Step 5: Wait (AKA Drying Time)

Once you have your seed bombs made, you need to set them aside to dry. Leave them on a tray to dry for 24 hours, until they're hard as rocks.



#### Step 6: Plant or Distribute!

The best thing about wildflower seed bombs is you don't have to do any digging to plant! Just find a good place for your seed bomb to rest. A bare patch of dirt without dense vegetation nearby is perfect. Rough up the soil a bit and place your bomb. The next time it rains your seed bomb will naturally disintegrate and, with time, bring beautiful native flowers to your part of the world.

If you would like to gift your seed bombs, you can wrap them up in bags with simple instructions for your nature-loving friends and family to plant in their neck of the woods.

