



Try This at Home Science: Seed Balls

Activity Overview:

Learn how to make seed balls to plant in your own garden, or to add some beauty to local fields.

Materials:

- Seed ball matrix
- Native wildflower seeds
- Cookie sheet
- Parchment paper

Try this!

1. Lay the cookie sheet on a flat surface and cover with parchment paper.
2. Take a quarter sized chunk of seed ball matrix and squish it to look like a cookie.
3. Sprinkle about a dozen seeds on top of the squished matrix.
4. Gently roll the squished matrix into a ball shape.
5. Place onto the cookie sheet to dry overnight.
6. Plant your seed balls in a pot, or toss them into the garden and see where they land!

What's happening?

Each seed ball has everything, except water, necessary for the seeds to germinate and grow. The seed ball matrix is a mix of compost which mimics the topsoil that plants grow best in. Once water is added the matrix softens and hydrates the seeds, which then signals the seeds to germinate and begin to grow. As soon as the roots are long enough they will grow into the surrounding soil and a new garden will grow. Since we added wildflowers native to our home state, we know that we are adding plants that will come back each year as wildflowers are typically perennials.



How were seed balls invented?

Seed balls were first created as a way to bring flowers to urban areas where flowers and greenery was in short supply. Rogue gardeners wanted to see more plants, so they created seed balls and would toss them anywhere they visited. They would drop seed balls on the side of the road, open fields, abandoned properties, anywhere a plant could grow. Now people are using seed balls as a fun activity to make gardening easier, and as an activity the family can do together.

Additional Information

To order supplies or seed ball kits, visit the following site <https://seed-balls.com/>