



POLLINATOR WILDFLOWER SEED BALL ACTIVITY

GOAL

Bees love flowers as a source of food. When they eat the nectar and pollen in flowers they are also pollinating flowers. The process of pollination turns flowers into fruits in the garden - fruits that we eat! Growing pollinator wildflowers can help bees survive and attract them to gardens. Help bees and other pollinators by making your own mini flower garden by planting wildflower seed balls. Put your seed balls in a place with some soil and sunlight and they will start to grow. This could be a backyard, a porch planter, or street median - or anywhere!

MATERIALS

- Crayola Air Dry Clay
- Potting Soil (VT Fort Light Soil)
- Water
- Seeds (Bee Seed Mix)
- Containers (bowls, plates, trays...) to hold soil and clay and to be used as a work surface
- Paper bag

Seeds – Bee Feed Mix

The seed mix in your seed balls is a blend of nectar and pollen flowers for honey bees, native bees, bumblebees, and other pollinators. This mix of low-maintenance perennials (P) and reseeding annual wildflowers (A) contains:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Agastash foeniculum</i> - Anise Hyssop (P)• <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> - New England Aster (P)• <i>Callistephus chinensis</i> - China Aster (A)• <i>Cheiranthus allionii</i> - Siberian Wallflower (P)• <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> - Lanceleaf Coreopsis (P)• <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> - Plains Coreopsis (A)• <i>Cynoglossum amabile</i> - Chinese Forget-Me-Not (B)• <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> - Purple Coneflower (P)• <i>Erigeron speciosus</i> - Fleabane (P)• <i>Eschscholzia californica</i> - California Poppy (A) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> - Indian Blanket (A)• <i>Gilia capitata</i> - Globe Gilia (A)• <i>Layia platyglossa</i> - Tidy Tips (A)• <i>Linum perenne</i> - Blue Flax (P)• <i>Lobularia maritima</i> - Sweet Alyssum (A)• <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> - Bergamot (P)• <i>Nemophila menziesii</i> - Baby Blue-Eyes (A)• <i>Papaver rhoeas</i> - Corn Poppy (A) <p>(Varieties are subject to change depending upon availability.)</p> |
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Resource

We have sourced the wildflower seeds from Johnny's Seed Company. To see photos and find out more about the seeds go to: <https://www.johnnyseeds.com/> and type in "Bee Feed Mix" in the "Search Johnny's" box in the upper right corner.

INSTRUCTIONS



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Follow these steps for the recipe to make one seed ball:

1. Use ~1 Tablespoon (1 oz) clay.
2. Mix in ~ $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (.25 oz) of potting soil. Add water to wet as needed.
3. Make sure to mix the soil and clay so that you don't see any visible streaks or bands of clay.
4. Roll into a ball.
5. Roll the ball in $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon (.25 oz) of a pollinator feed mix of wildflower seeds.
6. Or flatten your ball in your palm and put a pinch of seeds into the flattened ball. Then roll the seed into the ball, enclosing the seed.
7. Place your seed balls into a paper bag.
8. Air dry your seed balls for at least 48 hours in the bag or out in the air at home.
9. Toss or place your seed balls somewhere in the landscape so it can start growing immediately. Or, if dried thoroughly, the seeds in the pods can be kept for up to a year before planting.