

Tips on How to Make Seed Bombs

GreenGrace, Grace Episcopal Church

20 Belvoir Ave., Chattanooga, TN

A fun and easy project for adults and kids alike is playing in the mud! Or rather, making seed bombs. Seed bombs have been popular for decades but are recently getting more attention as our natural areas are shrinking. Native or indigenous plants used to be so great in number that their seed spread all on their own. Today, these plants are not as plentiful, so seed bombs are a fun way to disperse some seed, educate each other, and have fun while doing it! P. 3 contains sample information on the seed bombs that we hand out at the event.

PSA: Please make sure to disperse with care – neighbors, private property, state and federal parks, agricultural land can get you into a legal pickle without express permission.

1. Utilize native seed mixes. This is good for the soil, the ecosystem, and all the insects and other animals who depend on this important habitat. For our region, a good source for seed mixes is Roundstone Native Seed, <https://roundstoneseed.com>.
2. Basic Ingredient list: This can be scaled up based on the size of your crowd or the number of seed bombs you want to make.
 - 1 cup Seed Mix, full to partial sun mixes are most effective
 - 5 cups Compost (peat free)
 - 2-3 cups Clay Powder (this is recommended over yard clay because it has been baked so there won't be seed contamination.)
 - Mask for working with the clay powder - Optional but recommended, especially if using indoors.
 - Measuring Cups
 - Mixing Bowls
 - Drying Plates
 - Spoons – optional
 - Water
 - 5 Gallon Buckets, 2 or more
 - Towels for hand drying (preferably old, but clean as this is messy!)
3. Directions:
 - In each mixing bowl, mix together compost and clay. Then slowly mix in water until it all starts sticking together and fully damp. The wetter the mix, the messier and the longer it will take to dry!
 - *You can either mix seeds in with the compost and clay before the water, or people can roll the balls into a tray of seeds.
 - Grab a bit of the clay mixture and roll it into a ball. Roll the ball into your seed mix tray. If you added the seeds first, you are done!

(Spoons are helpful to create consistently sized balls if desired. This can help manage the mixture to people ratio.)

- Set new seed bombs in a sunny spot to dry.
4. If you are doing this outside as we would recommend, it is helpful to have a 5 gallon bucket of water for adding to the compost and clay and a 5 gallon bucket for hand washing.
 5. If you are doing this around earth day, a fun addition is to tear colored paper (white, blue, green) into pieces, placing each color in a separate bowl, wet the paper so it becomes tacky and add it in abstract earth motif around the ball.
 6. Lastly, advertise for the crowd you want to come! Newsletters, social media, inner circle, all are helpful.

For more information or to ask questions, please email us at greengracechattanooga@gmail.com.

Good luck! -- Lisa Lemza & Kristina Shaneyfelt, Grace Episcopal Church.



- (1) These Seed Bombs were handmade with 18 native plant species, rolled with a mix of clay, compost and water.
 - (2) Each Seed Bomb Explosion contains a mixture of native annual wildflowers which will flower in the first year and set seed after flowering. Biennials and perennial seeds will form roots and leaves but flowers follow in the 2nd and 3rd year.
 - (3) Store Seed Bombs in a cool, dry place until ready to throw and grow.
 - (4) Allow 1 Seed Bomb Explosion per square foot of soil.
 - (5) When rain is forecast, throw your Seed Bombs onto bare patches of earth, in containers, stone walls, flower beds, around trees, along riverbanks, disused railways embankments and unused land areas around Chattanooga that would benefit native bees and insect pollinators.
 - (6) Seed Bombs require water for the germination process to activate, which can occur from 14-28 days. Temperatures should reach 68 degrees for germination to occur.
 - (7) Seed Bombs can be grown indoors, or in greenhouses and poly tunnels in cooler months to give them a head start.
 - (8) Seed Bombs are grown outdoors from April-May onwards when the risk of frost has passed.
- THIS SEED MIX:

Enjoy! Chattanooga Area Pollinator Partnership (CHAPP)



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