



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Education

*Garden STEM at Home*  
*Seed Balls*



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

## SEED BALLS



### OBJECTIVE:

KIDS WILL CREATE SEED BALLS, OR SEED BOMBS, THAT CONTAIN LOCAL SEEDS TO BE PLANTED IN THEIR BACKYARD OR A LOCAL WILD AREA.

### SOURCE

KidsGardening.org

### BACKGROUND

Seed bombs are an ancient Japanese practice known as Tsuchi Dango, which translates to Earth Dumpling. Reintroduced in the 1930s, seeds balls are used in a number of ways. They can help repopulate natural areas with native seeds. They can be used to plant wild food crops, and they can even be used for guerrilla gardening.

In essence, seeds bombs are a composite of powdered clay, compost and the seeds of your choosing. They provide the right mix of protection until the elements are right for plant growth. Then, the compost provides the nutrients necessary for healthy plant growth.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Collect the following materials: powdered clay, compost or potting soil, seeds for planting (wildflowers are a great choice, but you can experiment with other seeds).
2. Combine 5 parts clay with 1 part compost/potting soil.
3. Add enough water to make the mixture moist, but not dripping wet.
4. Carefully mix in 1 part seeds and shape the mixture into small balls (the size of a bouncy ball).
5. You can plant the seed balls immediately or allow them to dry completely.
6. Toss the seed balls in a location that you would like for the plants to grow. You can water or allow nature to take care of breaking them down on its own.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

KidsGardening.org Seed Ball Download:

<https://kidsgardening.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Seed-Balls.pdf>

Permaculture Research Institute: Making Seedballs

<https://www.permaculturenews.org/2014/06/18/making-seedballs-ancient-method-till-agriculture/>

On Guerrilla Gardening: A Handbook for Gardening Without Boundaries; ISBN: 0747592977

The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids: 101 Ways to Get Kids Outside, Dirty, and Having Fun; ISBN: 9781604692457