

How to Make Seed Ball Bombs

A seed ball bomb is a mixture of rich soil, seeds, and clay that is shaped into a small ball. Once dry, these ball bombs can be easily tossed, with permission, in areas that need a little brightening up with "flower power." When tossing the dry seed ball bombs use common sense. For example, don't seed ball bomb private property. Be certain not to seed ball bomb a field that is farm land. Once in place, the seed ball bomb will be watered by rain fall. This water will help the clay in the seed ball bomb to dissolve. Eventually the seeds will take root and flowers will grow.

Did you know seed ball bombs were first used in the 1930s by Japanese farmer-microbiologist-philosopher Masanobu Fukuoka. He created *tsuchi dango* (earth dumplings) to distribute seed on his farm. Fukuoka is known for other advances in sustainable farming, such as One Straw Revolution.

Supplies:

- rich soil and [compost](#) mixture
- clay
- seeds Its best to purchase seed that are native to our area to prevent spreading invasive species. You will want to think about the conditions the seeds will be growing in. Marigold, Zinnia or Poppy seeds like sunny areas. Foxgloves and impatiens love a dappled shady area. Cosmos grow well in most conditions.) Note: How much of each supply you need depends on how many seed bombs you intend to make.

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Easy Steps:

1. Soak the seeds overnight. This will soften their outer shells and help them to germinate faster. If there are seeds floating, discard them.
2. Combine the soil-compost mixture with clay and seeds and shape into a golf ball sized ball.

Note: There are a seemingly infinite number of ways to make the soil-clay-seed mixture. See some variations listed below.

3. Dry seed bomb for 24 hours before you start tossing.

Variations on Step 2:

Combine one-part seed with three parts compost-soil and five parts clay and combine until it is a cookie dough consistency. Add water if it is too dry.

As clay is a primary ingredient in kitty litter, some seed ball bombers use kitty litter in place of clay.

Instead of mixing the seeds into the clay-soil mixture, mix the clay and soil together and form into a golf ball sized ball. Then poke your finger into the ball to make a hole. Place seeds in the hole and then gently cover the hole with a bit of clay.

Combine five parts sawdust, one-part seed, and mix with a biodegradable food safe glue. You want the mixture to be not too wet but moist enough to form a ball.

Courtesy of Organic Authority