

**Seed Bombs**

**Objectives:** Create seed bombs for beautification projects.

**Time to complete activity:** Varies

**Skill level:** All ages

**Background/Setting the Stage:**

*What is a seed bomb? Seed bombing done by introducing new vegetation to land by throwing or dropping compressed bundles of soil containing live vegetation. Seed bombs are a planting method that dates back to ancient times. It is still used today to treat areas burned extensively by wildfires. On a smaller scale, it is a fun way for youth to sow seeds in areas that are hard to grow.*

*There are many varieties of flowers, shrubs, and trees. By taking a walk together as a family, you can explore the various varieties on your property. Can you identify areas that need beautification or some extra landscaping? Consider a seed bomb for these areas?*

**Materials:**

Large bowl

Clay (available from craft stores)

Compost or potting soil

Seeds (easy to grow or native varieties)

Water

**Methods:**

1. Divide your materials so you have:
	1. 5 parts clay
	2. 1 part compost/potting soil
	3. 1 part seeds
2. Combine the clay and compost. Add a little water if your mixture is too dry. The mixture should be moist but not dripping wet.
3. Add the seeds to the clay and compost. Thoroughly work the materials together with your hands.
4. Shape the mixture into a ball the size of a golf ball. You can either plant the seed bomb while it is still moist or allow it to dry. As long as it is watered (either manually or by rain) once it is planted, the clay will break down and the seeds will grow.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the clay and soil work in this project? What would happen if the seed bomb has not been moistened upon planting?
2. Think about the types of plants that would be good to plant by seed bombs. What did you come up with? Why would we need to use seed bombing as a planting procedure? Are there types of plants that thrive being planted in this style?

**Supplemental Information:**

1. Seed bombing on a larger scale is done by introducing new vegetation to land by throwing or dropping (usually from an airplane) compressed bundles of soil containing live vegetation. This aerial revegetation dates back to the 1930s and is still used today to treat areas burned extensively by wildfires. On the home front, and a much smaller scale, seed bombs are fun to make and an inexpensive way to plant seeds.
2. Another way to make this activity more advanced. Have the youth plant seeds using both traditional and seed bombs. Have them count the number of plants that grow in each process. Have them chart the growth as well as the number of days. Is there any difference? Does it work better for different types of seeds verses others? Have them use their minds to come up with great research questions around this!

**Reference:**

Adapted from Kidsgardening.org, The National Gardening Association