

What is a seed bomb, and will I get in trouble?

Seed bombing is a type of guerrilla gardening. You throw some seeds into an unloved space, and then disappear leaving nature to take its course. By making seed bombs you are giving the seeds the best chance, and it is far easier (and more fun) to throw a seed bomb than scatter some seeds. A seed bomb in the right place can bring colour and encourage biodiversity in your area. Native wildflowers are best, but you could do this in your own garden or green with pollinator friendly annuals! Make sure you're being a good guerrilla gardener by never sowing weed seeds where someone will have to resort to pesticides to get rid of it!



The good, the bad and the beautiful of seed selection:

There are lots of different seed mixes to buy but not all seed mixes are created equally. At the side of the box or somewhere on the page it should say what the mix is made up of. Try to get native wildflowers as our wildlife likes them the best! Non-natives might be ignored or worse might push out our native species so that a bee won't be able to find their favourite anymore.

Make sure you are getting the right flowers for the spot you picked out. A woodland flower wants shade and won't like an open area. You can buy specific flowers for your mix to make your own or you can even save seeds! At the moment I am filling my hedges with dog rose, yarrow, spindle and alexanders. They won't all take but it is an easy and fun way to put some diversity in my hedge. It is good to plant these now as the seeds need a frost before they will sprout!

The Bad

Invasive species

Weeds your neighbour will use pesticides to get rid of



Better

Native

Different flowering times so you have flowers from spring to winter



The Good

Any pollinator friendly non-invasive wildflower



(Simply) The Best

Locally sourced wildflower seed

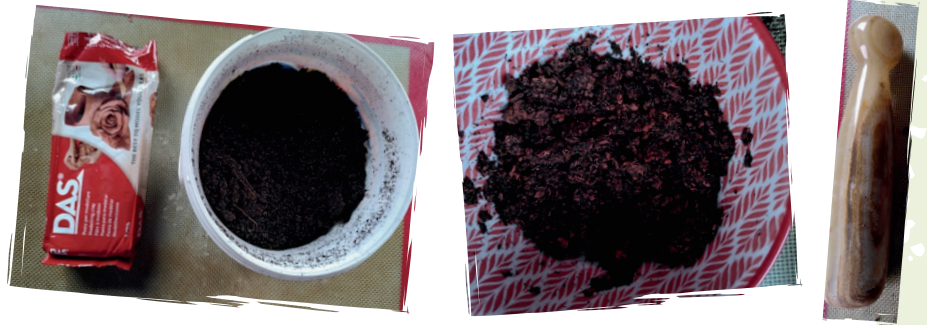


Make your own seed bomb

The method is simple and satisfying. I have copied Masanobu Fukuoka's technique except for flowers instead of grain.

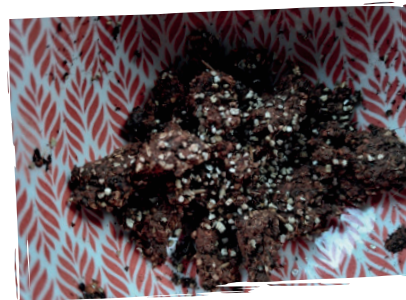
Step. 1

Mix equal parts of clay and compost. If you don't have clay you can use flour just use it in about 1 part flour to 10 parts soil. Use a pestle and mortar to mix the clay with compost if you need a little extra kneading power.



Step. 2

Add your seeds and knead through. Think seeds on a biscuit not too many but enough!



Step. 3

Add enough water to bring it together in a ball. You don't want it too wet because that will rot your seeds or have them sprout before you are ready.



Step. 4

Then just roll into balls and leave to dry. If you have eager kids, then get them involved in the process and introduce them to creating life in their garden. Enjoy making native friendly seed bombs have fun and stay safe.



Sources for seeds:

- ✓ garden centres
- ✓ hardware shops

- ✓ <http://wildflowers.ie/>
- ✓ Seedaholic.ie
- ✓ seedsavers.ie



COVID-19: It is important to stay up to date as social distancing guidelines may change over time. The most up to date advice, information and resources can be found on: www.hse.ie and www.health.gov.ie

Nature on Your Doorstep activity sheets brought to you by Carlow Sports Partnership in collaboration with the Carlow County Council Keep Well Campaign, Carlow Mental Health Association, Healthy Carlow & Carlow Tourism.