

# Make a Pollinator Seed Ball



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## Materials:

Air-dry clay  
Potting soil  
Seeds (easy to grow or native varieties)  
Ice cream scoop  
Tablespoon  
Plastic bags- sandwich or snack size

## Directions

1. Scoop one tablespoon of clay and roll it into a ball
2. Flatten the clay on a flat surface or between your hands
3. Sprinkle 1 tablespoon of potting soil in the middle and fold the clay around the soil. Mix soil into the clay (looks like cookies & cream)
4. Flatten clay/soil mix and sprinkle a pinch of seeds in the middle and fold the clay around the seeds. Mix seeds into the clay so seeds are evenly dispersed throughout clay/soil
5. Roll into a ball. Place in a plastic bag with directions to take home.
6. Let air dry for a few days or place it outside on the bare ground.
7. Water (either rain or hand watering) will melt the clay. Once the environment is favorable the seeds will germinate.



Photo by B.Haag

## **Topics to discuss while making the seed balls**

- Annual vs perennial (Example seed packet lists plants- both annuals & perennials)
- What makes a good pollinator plant (native, nectar, variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and bloom times)
- What do seeds need to germinate- water, temperature, air, good location (like soil)