

Help fuel your local bumblebees with flower power, thanks to these brilliant seed balls! Just follow our step-by-step guide below.

Making seed balls is a fun activity for all ages to enjoy – whether you plant one, two, or a lot of them. Sowing seeds in your garden provides vital food to support a range of important pollinators, including **bumblebees**. By planting these seed balls in bare soil, it will also brighten up your space!

Creating your seed balls

There are three different methods you can try: flour (Method A), powdered clay (Method B) or scrap paper (Method C).

You will need:



Native wildflower seeds or seeds (from plants rich in pollen and nectar!) collected from your garden



Water
Mixing bowl
Tray or plate



Then either:

- Method A: flour and peat-free compost, or
- Method B: powdered clay and peat-free compost, or
- Method C: scrap paper (no compost needed)



1. In a bowl, mix together either

Method A. 10 parts peat-free compost to 1 part flour. Add in water and mix together slowly, until the texture becomes sticky like dough.



Method B. 5 parts peat-free compost with 2–3 parts powdered clay. Add in water and mix together slowly, until the texture becomes sticky like dough.



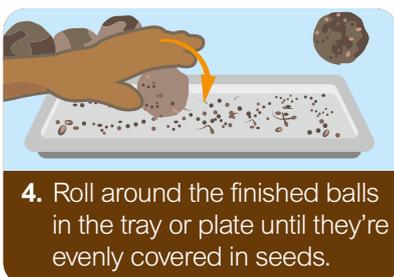
Method C. Torn-up scrap paper (nothing glossy) with water until the texture becomes like porridge. Leave the wet scrap paper to soak overnight before draining the next day.



2. Shape the mixture into firm golf-ball sized balls.



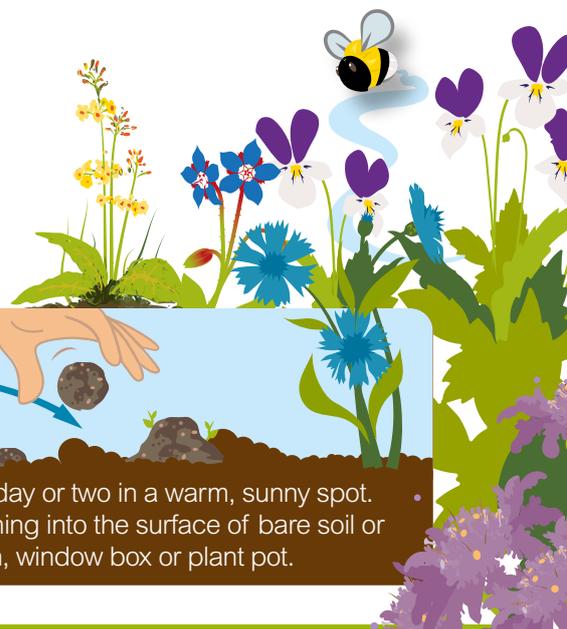
3. Fill a tray or plate with your chosen bumblebee-friendly seeds.



4. Roll around the finished balls in the tray or plate until they're evenly covered in seeds.



5. Leave the seed balls to dry for a day or two in a warm, sunny spot. Once dried, plant by slightly pushing into the surface of bare soil or peat-free compost in your garden, window box or plant pot.



Which seeds to sow and when...

Seeds to sow in autumn.



Bird's-foot trefoil



Common knapweed



Cowslips



Red clover



Field scabious



Native wildflower mix

Seeds to sow in spring.



Borage



Cosmos



Cornflower



Heartsease/Wild pansy



Corn marigold



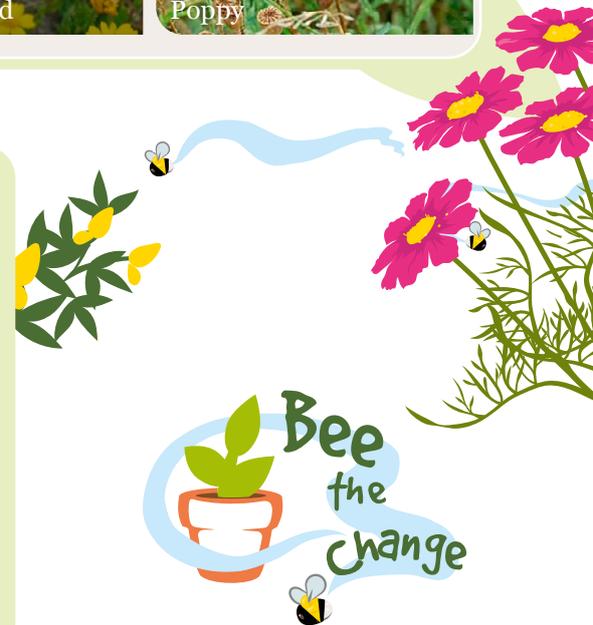
Poppy

Top tips...

- Try to buy **organic, pesticide-free seeds** from your local garden centre, or even better, collect from your own garden.
- To collect seeds, snip off the seed heads and upend them into paper bags. Store the seeds for two weeks in a dry, cool spot. Once they've dried, funnel the seeds into **labelled paper envelopes** ready for use.
- Our bee-friendly seed lists are just for ideas – it's fun to experiment with whatever flowers you've got available. **As long as they're full of easy-to-access nectar and pollen for our bumbles, why not give it a go!**
- Only plant your seed balls in bare soil in your own garden, window box or plant pot – not into overgrown areas, public spaces or the countryside.



Caution: We recommend making your seed balls outdoors, as things get messy. It's also best to have good ventilation if using powdered clay.



For lots more information on gardening for bumblebees, visit bumblebeeconservation.org

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