

# WestFest

SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

[go.osu.edu/westfest](http://go.osu.edu/westfest)

## Planting for Pollinators

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30-11:15

Register at <https://go.osu.edu/register4wf>



### Materials:

1 – 1.5" ball of clay	~ 2 tablespoons soil	Pinch of seeds
7 – 10" square of fabric	String or ribbon	

### Directions:

1. Roll the clay in your hands to soften it. Use your thumb to shape the clay into a small bowl.
2. Add a pinch of seeds to the center of the depression in the clay.
3. Add a spoonful of soil to depression with the seeds.
4. Carefully pinch the edges of the bowl closed, sealing in the soil and seeds.
5. Gently roll the clay into a ball then roll the ball in soil to coat the outside.
6. Place the seed ball in the middle of a square of fabric. Fold the fabric up around the seed ball and tie it closed with string or ribbon.
7. Let your seed ball dry. Do not place it in a plastic bag or container. That will hold the moisture in the clay. Store the fabric covered seed ball in a dry place.

### What Now?

It is important to 'plant' your seed ball when the weather is good for growing in the place where you live. In Ohio, that is usually in May. When you are ready to grow your seed ball simply place it outdoors where you want flowers to grow. You do not need to bury the seed ball. If it is a rainy time of year, the rain will start to break down the seed ball as the seeds begin to grow. If it is not very rainy you should water your seed ball periodically to start the growing process.

Seed balls make a great environmentally friendly gift for friends and family. If you plan to give your seed ball away, be sure to add a label with the type of seeds you used and instructions on how to 'plant' the seed ball.

### **Choosing Seeds**

It is best to choose seeds from plants that are *native* to your area. Native plants are ones that have grown naturally in an area for a very long time without human introduction. These plants are well suited to the soil and weather of the region, and often provide food and shelter to wildlife. There are lots of resources on the internet to help you find out what plants are native to the place where you live

You will also want to think about the type of pollinator you want to attract with your plants. In today's program we talked about Monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies are considered a federally endangered species. You can support Monarchs and other butterflies by growing plants they use as a food source. The seeds provided for today's activity are milkweed seeds. Monarch butterflies only lay eggs on milkweed plants.

### **Sources**

<https://u.osu.edu/beelab/native-plants-for-native-pollinators/>  
<https://carolinahoneybees.com/how-to-make-seed-bombs>

