



THE LAB

Eight pages of things to make and do



Make wildflower seed bombs

Get your hands dirty with a gloriously grubby project that will bring a burst of colour to gardens.

What you need

- Wildflower seeds
- Peat-free compost
- 200ml water
- Powdered clay (find it in craft shops)
- Jug
- Mixing bowl

Instructions

- 1** In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2 cups of clay powder (you could use clay soil instead if you have it).
- 2** Slowly pour water into the mix and work it in your hands until it all sticks together. If the mixture looks too dry, add a little more water.
- 3** Roll the mixture into lumps that are about the size of a golf ball. Leave them to dry in a warm spot.
- 4** Now for the fun part. As the weather warms up, plant your seed bombs by throwing them at bare parts of the garden, or you can plant them in a window box. Wait to see what plants pop up. You could also give your bombs as gifts, wrapped in a paper bag.



Are you ready to get mucky?

How does it work?

Wildflowers are important to insects and other animals. They provide insects with food – in the form of green leaves, nectar and pollen – as well as shelter and places to breed. In turn, the insects pollinate the flowers. Pollination is the process that allows plants to spread, making new copies of themselves by developing seeds. Without pollinating insects such as bees, wasps, beetles, flies and butterflies, many of the fruits, nuts and vegetable crops you like to eat would have difficulty growing. Some of these important minibeasts can't travel far, so it helps if there are food sources for them to visit – especially in built-up areas where there are few sources of pollen and nectar. Every little helps.

TOP TIP

You can buy pre-mixed bags of wildflower seeds or go to wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/wildflowers to find out what seeds to include in your bombs.