

RECIPE FOR SEED BALLS

Spring has sprung, let's have some fun! Sowing seeds in your garden doesn't have to be dry, with this recipe for seed balls. Throw them in your garden on a rainy day and voila! You'll have flowers and plants pushing up through the soil in no time, which will help support your local bees, butterflies and insects.

Seed ball tips and tricks

- Make sure your seeds aren't weeds. Buy Australian Native seeds from a reputable supplier.
- Using hardy plants will help ensure they survive on their own or with minimal maintenance.
- Consider the season when picking your seeds. You can mix multiple seed types in one ball but make sure they will germinate at the same time.
- Make sure your seeds won't turn into plants that are too big for the area! It's best to stick to smaller plants given that you won't know for sure where they will pop up.
- Smaller seeds will roll into a clay ball more easily than big seeds.
- Don't throw them onto other people's properties or in protected bushland!

You will need:



Method:

Step 1: Warm up your clay by crushing and rolling it in your hands.



Step 2: Pour some of the potting mix or compost into your bowl and mix it with your clay, so that it's a ratio of 1part compost/potting mix and 3 parts clay.



Step 3: Add a little bit of water to moisten the clay and turn the mixture into a dough. Don't compact the clay too much as this will make it hard to release the seeds when the balls eventually break apart.



Step 4: Combine your seeds of choice with your clay ball. The seeds pictured here are of the *Rodanthe* genus, otherwise known as Australian native Paper Daisies.



Step 5: Divide your clay ball into smaller balls. The size of the balls may depend on the size of your seeds. The ones pictured here are around the size of an Australian twenty cent coin.



Step 6: Leave your seed balls out to dry and they're all finished. Have fun throwing your seed balls!
Note: best time to throw them is just before it rains or on a rainy day so that the clay will break down and the seeds can take advantage of the wet conditions to germinate.

Pictured below are some full-grown paper daisies to get you feeling inspired!

