

Seed Bombs! - Paper

ORANGUTAN SAFE EDUCATION

Just like how orangutans disperse seeds, let's create some seed bombs to plant some flowers that are pollinator friendly.

Introduction

Orangutans play a crucial role in the rainforest ecosystem by spreading seeds across their habitats. Taking inspiration from them, let's create seed bombs together. Join forces to cultivate a pollinator paradise filled with vibrant zinnias, which attract butterflies and bees. Although zinnias are not native, they are beneficial to many native insects and easy to nurture.

Through this simple yet impactful initiative, you can enhance your environment and support pollinators' essential needs!

Remember to plant seed bombs only in areas you own, such as community gardens, backyards, or patio beds. Avoid dispersing seed bombs in natural spaces, as this could disturb the existing habitat.

Materials

- Silicone ice cube mold/shape mold
- Colorful paper
- Zinnia seeds
- Blender

Directions

- Tear the colored paper into small pieces.
- Place the paper in a bowl and cover with water. Soak for 15 minutes.
- Squeeze out most of the water from the paper and add to a blender. Blend until it is a pulp-like consistency.
- Take the paper out, squeeze out any extra water.
- Fill the molds halfway with paper, pressing firmly.
- Sprinkle a small amount of seeds on top and press more pulp on top to cover.
- Let the molds dry completely (differs based on where you dry them - could be up to 2 days).
- Pop them out and plant them!

Seed Bombs! - Clay

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Materials

- Natural, non-toxic air-dry clay
- Potting soil
- Compost (optional)
- Zinnia Seeds

Directions

- Roll a small ball of clay into a ball, then press it flat.
- Add soil and compost to the clay (1 part soil to 4 parts clay approx.).
- Add in a pinch of seeds.
- Enclose the seeds/soil by pinching the edges closed to encase.
- Gently re-roll the ball if necessary.

Allow to dry (differs based on where you dry them - could be up to 2 days).

Seed Bombs!

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More Information On Orangutans

Orangutans are important for seed dispersal in the rainforest. As they travel through the dense foliage, they consume a variety of fruits and unknowingly scatter the seeds across vast areas through their droppings. This natural process helps maintain the biodiversity of the rainforest, ensuring the growth of numerous plant species. By acting as gardeners of the forest, orangutans play a crucial role in sustaining the delicate ecosystem. Their presence supports not only plant life but also countless other species that depend on these plants for food and shelter. Protecting orangutans and their habitats is, therefore, essential for the health of the entire rainforest.

More Information on Zinnias

Zinnias are excellent flowers for pollinators, as they are annual plants that come in a variety of colors and thrive in medium shade to full sun. Their striking colors attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, making them a delightful choice for gardens that support local wildlife. Zinnias are easy to care for, needing regular watering and occasional deadheading for more blooms. They can be grown in garden beds and containers, offering versatility. These long-lasting flowers not only enhance your garden's beauty but also contribute to biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Their ability to grow in various soil types and conditions makes them a resilient choice. Additionally, zinnias can serve as excellent companion plants, helping to deter pests from more delicate crops.

As you plan your garden, consider pairing zinnias with vegetables like tomatoes or cucumbers. The bright blooms will not only add a splash of color but also attract beneficial insects that can help with pollination and pest control. For those who enjoy cut flowers, zinnias make stunning bouquets that can brighten up any room with their vibrant hues and long-lasting freshness.