

**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.



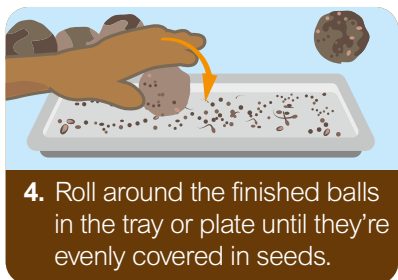
**Method C.** Torn-up scrap paper (nothing glossy) with water until the texture becomes like porridge. Leave the wet scrap paper to soak overnight before draining the next day.



**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.



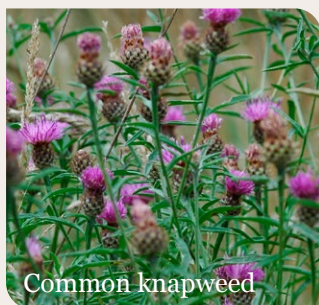
**5.** Leave the seed balls to dry for a day or two in a warm, sunny spot. Once dried, plant by slightly pushing into the surface of bare soil or peat-free compost in your garden, window box or plant pot.

## Which seeds to sow and when...

### Seeds to sow in autumn.



Bird's-foot trefoil



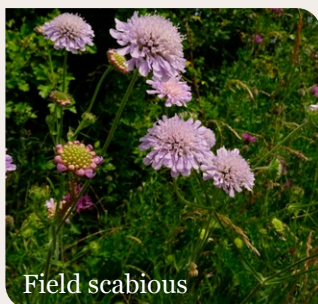
Common knapweed



Cowslips



Red clover



Field scabious

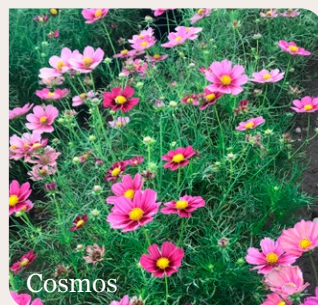


Native wildflower mix

### Seeds to sow in spring.



Borage



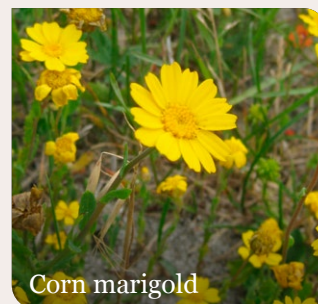
Cosmos



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](https://bumblebeeconservation.org)

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