Volunteer Leaders Symposium

Early Registration closes July 13, 2018!!!

This year’s goal is to have over 100 adults attend the 8th annual Volunteer Leaders Symposium. We have taken your comments into consideration by adding more workshops, more time in and between workshops, and included the recommended workshop topics! Adults that have attended the symposium in the past have reported that it was a good networking experience and made them more passionate about working with youth. Lunch, workshop materials, volunteer handbook, and more are provided!!! This symposium is for new and veteran volunteers!

Register HERE

Upcoming Statewide Programs:

- Junior Beef Round-Up
  - August 3-5, 2018
  - Youth beef cattle contest open to the southeast region (for all age divisions)
  - Register by August 10th

- Volunteer Leaders Symposium
  - Saturday, August 11, 2018
  - Training for all volunteers across the state to network and learn (for adults)
  - Register early by July 13th

- Ambassador Training
  - Saturday, August 11, 2018
  - Hands-on leadership training for youth, same time/place as vol.(for ages 14-18)
  - Registration TBA

- Wildlife Food Plot Project
  - Runs September 2018 – January 2019
  - Attract wildlife with this independent-study record book contest (for all ages)
  - Register by August 10th

- WHEP Educators Training
  - Friday, August 24, 2018
  - Learn how to develop a Wildlife Habitat Education Program (for adults)
  - Register by August 15th

“To make the best better!” 4-H Motto

Need 4-H merchandise?!

For anyone looking to make purchases on Shop 4-H (previously known as the 4-H Mall), we now have a way that you can earn cash back for our state! Using the state-specific link below to shop for and purchase items will automatically give 5% cash back to South Carolina!!!

https://shop4-h.org?rfsn=911011.754a75

You don’t have to do anything else special...just click this link to navigate to Shop 4-H and help us raise money for 4-H! Be sure to share it with friends and family, as well as bookmark it on your internet browser. Thank you!

CLEMSON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

T. Ashley Burns, Ph.D. • 4-H Assistant Director & Volunteer Specialist • 2057 Barre Hall, Clemson, SC, 29634 • taberp@clemson.edu
Wildflower Seed Bombs

Objective: To create pollinator habitat by spreading seed bombs

Age Range: All ages

Handson Activity: Measure out seed bomb ingredients, mix, and roll out wildflower seed bombs

Life Skills: HEAD – learning to learn, service learning;
HEART – cooperation, sharing;
HANDS – responsible citizenship, contribution to group effort, community service volunteering;
HEALTH – character, stress management;

Introduction

Is there a roadside ditch that needs beautification, or perhaps a section of your yard that needs some color? Wildflower seed bombs might be the perfect solution to your problem. Wildflower seed bombs are a fun way to create new pollinator habitat in your own backyard. The seed bombs are very easy to make. They are a mixture of potting soil, air dry potting clay, water, and wildflower seeds. Once the ingredients are mixed, you can start making your seed bombs! Some kids enjoyed making round spheres and others expressed their creativity by forming their bombs into different shapes like hearts and squares. You can pick any type of wildflower seeds to mix into your seed bombs. We suggest that you pick a flower that is native to your region or an annual flower, like cosmos. There are also great wildflower or pollinator variety mixes that work great. Not only are the seed bombs fun to make, but children (and adults) get the opportunity to get their hands dirty and give back to the environment. After the seed bombs dry, simply place or throw your bombs into your yard, and watch them grow, no need to water them!

Top right: Native butterfly species attracted to a pollinator garden. Image credit: Ashley Burns, Assistant 4-H Director.

Bottom right: Youth creating wildflower seed bombs at the Jr. Beekeeping 4-H Camp in Oconee County. Image credit: Mallory Dailey, Oconee County 4-H Agent

Continued on page 3
Materials (makes about 12 seed bombs)

- 2 cups potting soil
- 5 cups air dry clay mix from your local craft store (about 1 container)
- 1-2 cups water
- 1-2 cups seeds of your choice
- Plastic tub to mix ingredients
- Cardboard box to dry and store seed balls

Instructions

1. Mix the soil, clay and 1 cup water thoroughly—be careful with the water, too much water may cause the mix to become too liquid.

2. Slowly add more water until the mixture is the consistency of the toy store molding clay that comes in the container.

3. Add seeds.

4. Keep kneading the dough until the seeds are well mixed.

5. Add more water if necessary—if the mixture is too liquid, you may add more potting soil or seeds, until the dough is the right consistency.

6. Take small bits of the clay mixture and roll into ball about one inch in diameter. The balls should hold together easily. If they're crumbly, add more water. You can also create other shapes!

7. Dry seed balls for 24-48 hours in a shady place before sowing or storing. They store best in a cardboard box. Do not use plastic bags.

8. Let your seed bombs grow!! Place them carefully over the area to be planted or you can gently toss them one at a time, which is a lot more fun. Don’t bury them and don’t water them.

Reflective Questions

- What was most fun in this activity?
- Share one thing that you learned through this activity
- What important decisions did you make to help ensure that your plants will grow?

Conclusion

Youth can enrich the diversity of plant life to benefit native pollinators and their community through this simple project. Sharing this concept with others expands the message and impact of their work.

Additional Resources:

https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/wildflowers/

https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/gardening/a20705759/how-to-make-seed-bombs/

Rhoades, J. 2018. Seed Ball Recipe – How To Make Seed Balls With Kids.  