Seed balls are an excellent way to disperse wildflower seeds in challenging growing conditions. Rather than scattering the seeds, you can launch your ball into an unused lot, by a roadside, or anywhere that would otherwise be hard to reach or cultivate. The seeds are enclosed in a nourishing mix of clay and soil, which protects them and gives them a successful start at life. Then you can let nature do the rest of the work, returning habitat to the insects and birds, and turning vacant lots to vibrant ones!

There are two tried and tested ways to make seed balls: the “multi-layered” method or the “cake mix” method. Both ways work well, but one uses clay powder and the other fresh clay, so choose according to what you have on hand.

### The ‘Cake Mix’ Method:

**Materials:**

- 3 parts dry clay powder (red clay is best)
- 2 parts soil or compost
- 1 part water
- ½ part seeds
- Optional:
  - 1 part straw bits or finely shredded paper (to add strength)

**Process:**

1. Mix the clay and soil together in a bowl. If using straw or paper add that as well.
2. Mix in seeds.
3. Slowly add water, continuing to mix until it becomes a well-blended paste. If it becomes too wet, add more compost or soil.
4. Shape into ping-pong size balls.
5. Let dry 24- 48 hrs. before launching and let mother nature do the rest!
The “Multi-Layered” Method:

Materials:
Block of air dry clay
Soil or compost
Seeds
Water

Process:

1) Cut a piece of clay and work in hands to flatten into a circle about ½ inch thick and 2 inches across.
2) Sprinkle soil or compost with a spoon until the top of the clay is covered with a good layer.
3) Sprinkle a few seeds onto the soil.
4) Spray some water onto the soil, but don’t let it get too water logged.
5) Gently cup the the edges of the clay in toward the center until the edges meet. Try not to spill the inner layer of soil. Once the contents are enclosed, roll it around in the hands until it forms a ball.
6) Roll the ball into one last layer of soil.
7) Let dry 24- 48 hrs. before launching and let mother nature do the rest!

Or put seed balls in a paper bag or decorated egg carton and share as a gift!