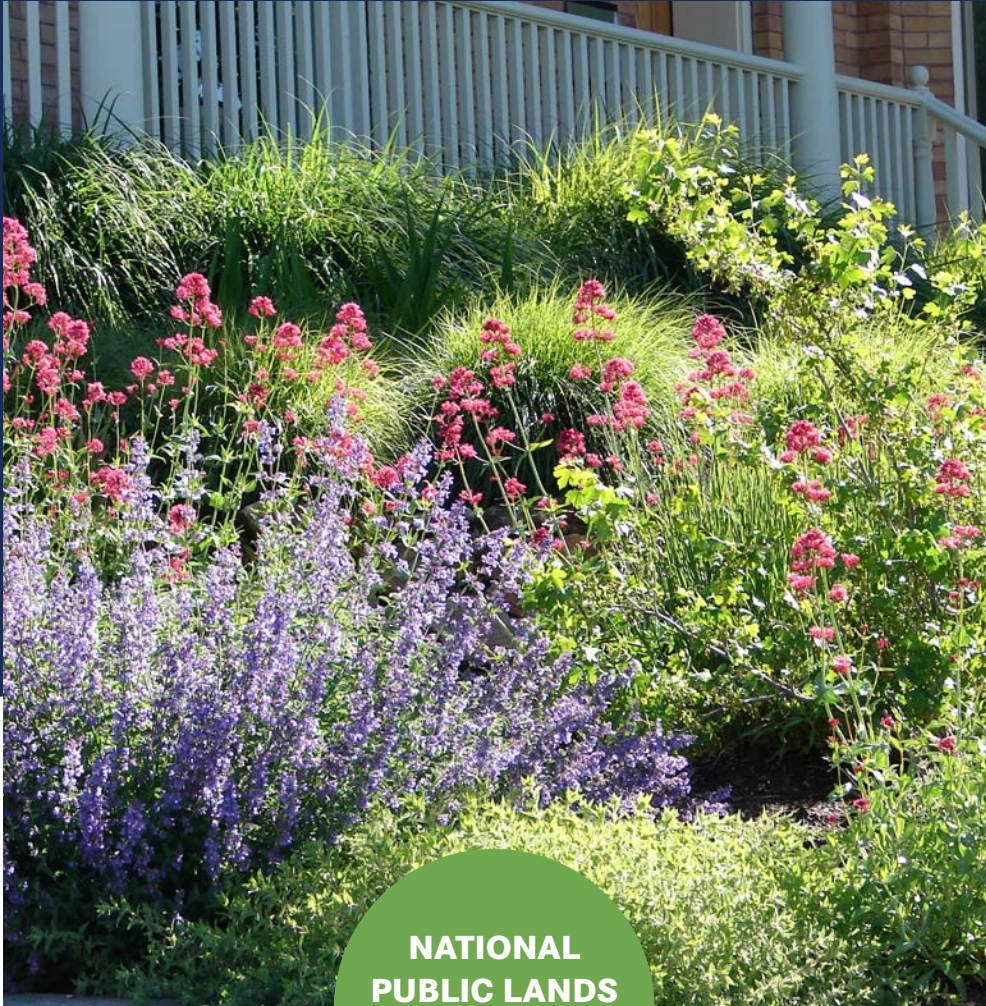


Make Seed Balls



NATIONAL
PUBLIC LANDS
DAY HANDS ON
ACTIVITY



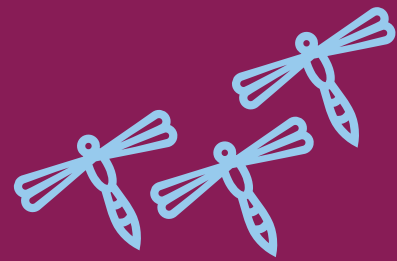
National Coordinator
NEEF

National Sponsor
TOYOTA

The Important Role of Pollinators

If you've taken a bite of apple, enjoyed a piece of chocolate, sat in the shade of a tree, or stopped to smell the flowers, you've benefited from pollination!

Between 75–95% of all flowering plants depend on pollinators—hummingbirds, bats, beetles, bees, ants, wasps, moths, butterflies, and other small animals that help plants reproduce by transporting pollen within a flower or between flowers, resulting in healthy fruits and fertile seeds. Despite this important work, many pollinator populations are



in decline due to loss of habitat for feeding and nesting. Pesticides, disease, and climate change can also harm pollinator populations or force them to move to different areas.

The good news is that YOU can help by creating a pollinator-friendly habitat. Use this activity guide to make seed balls that will help pollinator-friendly plants grow.



Toyota's Pollinator Habitat Commitment

Toyota has pledged to enhance 26,000 acres of pollinator habitat across North America over the next five years. Through [partnerships with NEEF and the Pollinator Partnership](#), Toyota is supporting the creation and enhancement of pollinator habitat through investment in local communities and projects.

In addition to these investments, 17 Toyota sites across North America have planted pollinator gardens for monarch butterflies and other pollinator species.

Toyota has also worked with the Suppliers Partnership for the Environment to launch the Pollinator Project Challenge. Participating automakers and suppliers across North America planted more than 200 pollinator gardens from 2020–2021.



What's a Seed Ball?

It's simple — a seed ball is native wildflower or plant seeds wrapped up in a ball of soil. The ball makes it easy and fun to distribute the seeds.

Supplies

- 1 cup of compost or potting soil/compost mixture
- ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp native wildflower or plant seeds
 - Be sure to choose seeds that are native to your area. Ask your local garden or home improvement store for help, or check out the Pollinator Partnership's [regional planting guides](#) and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's [recommended plant lists by state](#).
- Water
- Tray or baking sheet

Instructions

1. Mix the compost and flour together.
2. Add the seeds and mix thoroughly.
3. Add water to your mixture. Add 1 Tbs at a time until the mixture sticks together like dough. If your mixture gets too wet, add more compost or soil.
4. Roll small bits of the mixture into marble-sized balls.
5. Let your seed balls dry on the tray or baking sheet for 24 hours.

Sources

Activities and information for this activity were sourced from the following resources:

[Chicago Community Gardeners Association](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

[Student Conservation Association](#)



Disperse your seed balls.

Drop your seed balls (or toss them!) in areas where they will land on bare ground, **not grass or other plants**. Disperse them before there is rain in the forecast — rain will break them down. Don't worry about watering or tending to your seed balls. Once you've dispersed them, just wait and watch for flowers to bloom.



Toyota 2050 Challenges

In October 2015, Toyota announced the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050. Since then Toyota has been striving to reduce the environmental burden attributed to automobiles to as close to zero as possible, while developing measures to contribute positively to the earth and its societies with the aim of achieving a sustainable society. This activity directly aligns with one of Toyota's 2050 Challenges:

Challenge 6 Establishing a Future Society in Harmony with Nature

It is critical for humans to conserve forests and other natural environments in all regions for coexistence in harmony with nature. However, deforestation is progressing across the world, resulting in the fragmentation of diverse living creature habitats, as well as the continuing loss of biodiversity. This entails a number of issues including the loss of biological resources that are essential for society, causing natural disasters, and spurring global warming, and we believe that it poses a risk to the potential for the sustainability of the entire society.

TOYOTA ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE 2050

CHALLENGE 1	CHALLENGE 2	CHALLENGE 3	CHALLENGE 4	CHALLENGE 5	CHALLENGE 6
New vehicle Zero CO ₂ Emissions Challenge	Life Cycle Zero CO ₂ Emissions Challenge	Plant Zero CO ₂ Emissions Challenge	Challenge of Minimizing and Optimizing Water Usage	Challenge of Establishing a Recycling-based Society and Systems	Challenge of Establishing a Future Society in Harmony with Nature



National Environmental Education Foundation

4301 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 160
Washington, DC 20008-2326

202-833-2933

NEEFusa.org