



SEED BALLS

TEVA TABLING provides quick and easy hands-on interactions with Jewishly rich content from Hazon's outdoor, food, farming and environmental education portfolio. Learn more at hazon.org/teva.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Green the world through guerilla gardening! Bring beauty into the world with your own seed balls. Roll up some fertile soil with a little clay and some seeds to throw anywhere you want. Each seed ball contains a mixture of wildflower seeds native to the area. Toss your seeds to help restore beauty and ecological vibrancy to an area.

JEWISH FRAMING

As partners in creation we can bring more beauty and life into the world by seeding areas with more wild flowers. We have inherited a world full of beauty and we know that there are places that could use more wildlife. By making seed balls we can take small steps toward that more colorful future.

// *For now the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The blossoms have appeared in the land. The time of the singing* has come; the song of the turtledove is heard in our land. The green figs form on the fig tree, the blossoming vines give off fragrance.* — Song of Songs 2:11-13

ECOLOGY BACKGROUND

Seed balls are a method for distributing seeds by encasing them in a mixture of clay and compost. This protects the seeds by preventing them from drying out in the sun, getting eaten by birds, or from blowing away. In fact, the seed ball method has been working for centuries. Some North American First Nations' tribes used seed balls and more recently natural farming pioneer Masanobu Fukuoka has experimented with them. In New York City, seed bombs were used in 1973's revitalization of the Bowery neighborhood and the development of the city's first community garden.



Teva works to fundamentally transform Jewish education through experiential learning that fosters Jewish, ecological, and food sustainability. Teva is a program of Hazon. Learn more at hazon.org/teva.

MATERIALS (Supplies for 1 batch)

- Clay (5 spoons)
- Potting soil (2 spoons)
- Wildflower (or other) seeds (1/4-1/2 spoon)
- Water (Just enough to clump together)

EQUIPMENT

- Bowls and spoons
- Paper towels
- Bucket (for rinsing hands)

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Combine the clay and soil. Add a little water if your mixture is dry. The mixture should be moist but not dripping wet.

2 Add the seeds to the clay and soil. Thoroughly work the materials together with your hands.

3 Shape the mixture into a ball the size of a golf ball.

4 You can either plant your seed bomb while it is still moist or allow it to dry.

5 For a cleaner method, stir the ingredients together with a spoon before making the balls with your hands.



WHAT DO I DO WITH MY SEED BALL?

Seed balls are scattered directly on the ground, not planted. Seed balls are useful for seeding dry, thin and compacted soils and for reclaiming derelict ground (which is why they are often used in guerilla gardening). They're easy to chuck over fences into empty lots. You can "sow" your seed balls on a sunny day – and just leave them. When sufficient rain has permeated the clay, the seeds inside sprout and are aided by the nutrients and beneficial soil microbes surrounding them.