

WANT TO HAVE FUN
AND HELP OUR POLLINATORS?

EXPLODING MILKWEED SEED BALLS!

*Make your own exploding balls of seeds- fun to throw
and an easy way to grow native wildflowers!*

Here's what you need:

- **milkweed seeds (or any native plant seeds)**
- **dry potting soil**
- **air dry clay**
- **water**

**Your exploding milkweed seed balls will provide food
for the Monarch Butterfly caterpillars in our community!**



Exploding Milkweed Seed Balls!

HERE'S HOW TO MAKE THEM- GET READY TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!

1. Make a pancake in your hand with some air-dry clay.
2. Mix the seeds and potting soil together. Add them to the air-dry clay and mash together. Slowly add water while still mixing the seeds, potting soil, and water into a well-blended paste. Add additional soil if needed.
3. When you are able to form a large ball of the blended material without it falling apart, you are ready to stop mixing.
4. Roll the mixture into a tube or "snake" (~1 inch diameter), then cut into smaller pieces that can be rolled into marble sized balls.
5. Allow the balls to dry in the sun for at least one day.

Now that you have made your seed balls, what do you do with them?

All you have to do is throw them at a patch of dirt and watch it explode! Once it rains (or you water them), they have everything they need to grow. They also make great gifts! Just put them in a bag and give to all your friends.

Why Milkweed?

Monarch butterflies need milkweeds! They have developed a unique adaptation that allows their caterpillars to feed on a plant that many other insects cannot. The sticky sap produced by milkweed plants contain toxic compounds called cardenolides. Most other insects can't digest these toxins-- it kills them or they avoid it altogether due to its bad taste. But monarch caterpillars actually absorb these toxins as they feed on milkweed leaves, rendering the caterpillars themselves toxic to potential predators!