



The Life of a Seed

The Importance of Seeds

Over time, plants have evolved many ways to create the next generation of plants. One of these ways is the seed. Seeds allow plants a greater opportunity expand into new areas and allow for more genetic diversity (differences in the characteristics of two individuals that are the same type of plant). This increased difference between plants helps them survive harsh climates and fight off diseases.



Life-cycle of a Seed

Plants rely on insects, birds, and other animals to move pollen from flower to flower. This pollination allows the plant to grow seeds and continue the life-cycle:

- Dispersal - plant releases seeds with the intent to spread them across a wide area
- Germination - process of a seed growing into a sprout
- Sprouting - when a young plant begins to grow roots, stems, and leaves
- Flowering - once the plant is mature, it produces flowers to attract pollinators so that it can start the process all over again



Animal Helpers

Another common method of seed dispersal is to use animals to do the work. Plants can grow their seeds within a fruit so that animals will eat them. Others will cover their seeds with hooks that can attach to an animal's fur or feathers and travel with them.



Seed Dispersal

For some plants, the goal is to get their seeds as far way from the original plant a possible. Plants have adapted many different methods of seed transportation including:

- wind transportation (floating or slowly falling through the air)
- water (floating across the surface)
- explosion (dry seed pods will burst open to disperse seeds)



Seed Collection

One fun activity you can do is to harvest (collect) seeds from the plants that grow near where you live! Seeds are ready for harvest once the seedpods have changed from green to brown. You can then use scissors to open the pod and collect the seeds. Allow the seeds to dry at room temperature for a week and store them in paper bags/envelopes in a cool, dark area. Don't forget to label them!

View upcoming events!

<https://rockledgegardens.com/little-bugs-club/>

Take a look below for a fun DIY seed project!



Nature Crafts

DIY Wildflower Seed Bombs

Wildflower seed bombs are a great way to create a natural space for pollinators and add beauty and color to any landscape. Some native seed options that work best for seed bombs include: bright lights cosmos, native milkweed, purple coneflower, black-eyed susan, and lance leaved coreopsis. You can buy most of these at Rockledge Gardens or collect them from plants you find in nature.

Materials Needed:

- Flower seeds
- Potter's clay powder (can be found in most craft shops)
- Peat-free compost
- Water
- Mixing bowl
- Baking Tray

Instructions:

- Mix seeds, clay powder, and compost together in a 1:3:5 ratio (1 handful of seeds to 3 handfuls of clay powder, to 5 handfuls of compost)
- Slowly add water until you reach a consistency that allows you to form golf ball-sized balls
- Place these on the baking tray and allow them to dry in the sun for at least 3 hours
- Toss the finished seed bomb into your yard or unused garden bed and watch as your seeds grow! (as it rains, the seed bomb will break down and the flowers will start to germinate)

