

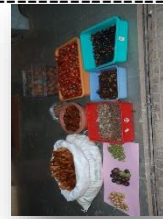


Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's

D. P. Bhosale College, Koregaon

Department of Botany

2022-23



Wallpaper on

Story of Seed Balls

15th August, 2022

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Story of Seed Balls

What is seedballs

A seed ball (or seed bomb) is a seed that is wrapped in a mixture of clay and cow dung or compost. The cow dung or compost helps protect the seed from predators such as birds and other insects. Seed balls are an easy way to grow trees with a longer germination time span.

- ❖ Seed balls, also known as ‘*Earth balls*’ consist of a variety of different [seeds](#) rolled within a ball of [clay](#), preferably [volcanic](#) pyroclastic red clay.
- ❖ Various additives may be included, such as [humus](#) or [compost](#). These are placed around the seeds, at the centre of the ball, to provide [microbial inoculants](#).
- ❖ Cotton-fibres or liquefied paper are sometimes mixed into the clay in order to strengthen it, or liquefied paper mash coated on the outside to further protect the clay ball.

Fukuoka Technique Seed Ball Planting



Seed ball planting method was developed by a Japanese farmer and philosopher Masanobu Fukuoka in southern Japan. The technique is considered as a natural method of farming that requires no machines, no chemicals and very little weeding. By using seed balls, lands are cultivated without any preparation of soil. This kind of cultivation is highly useful for re-vegetation of decertified lands, and protects soil from erosion and climate risks such as landslides.

Fukuoka technique uses minimal human interventions allowing ecosystems to determine the yield of the land for nurturing more resilient trees, healthier soil, plant diversity and a smaller work load for farmers.

Materials required for making Seed balls



1. One bucket Clay

Red or white clay – A good clay sticks well together with other soil types when it gets wet, but becomes firm air tight when it dries.

2. One Organic Dark Soil / Compost

It is decomposed animals' manure, leaves, straws or other mixtures of organic materials. It should be slightly moist, soft and has a dark black colour.

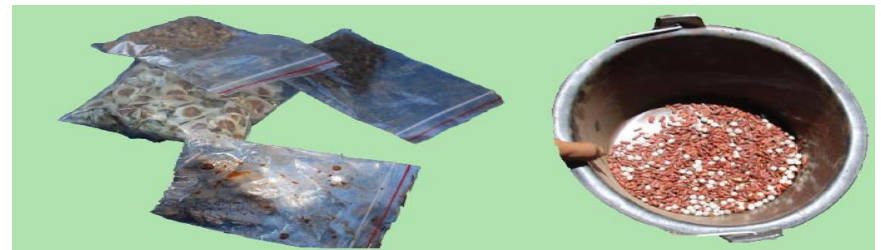


3. One bucket Water

Amount of water may vary depending on the soil type. If the soil is wet, you may require less water, and vice versa.

4. Half bucket Seeds

Of trees or vegetables for two buckets of clay and organic soil



How to make Seed balls



STEP 1

In a bowl, mix 1 part clay with 4 to 5 parts compost.



STEP 2

Stir while slowly mixing in water until you have dough.
TIP: If the dough is too goeey add equal amounts of clay and compost.



STEP 3

Form your dough into balls, about the size of a quarter.



STEP 4

Press a hole into each ball and place 3 or 4 seeds into it. Close up the hole.



STEP 5

Lay the balls on plates or baking trays to air dry.



STEP 6

When Spring arrives, scatter the seed bombs on open ground. The shell will protect seeds from birds while providing needed moisture for them to sprout.



On an average, seedlings will sprout within 2 – 3 weeks.

Advantages:

- Areas that are inaccessible, have steep slopes, are fragmented or disconnected with no forest routes, making conventional plantation difficult, can be targeted with aerial seeding.
- The process of the seed's germination and growth is such that it requires no attention after it is dispersed.
- They eliminate the need for ploughing and digging holes in the soil and the seeds do not need to be planted, since they are already surrounded by soil, nutrients, and microorganisms.
- The clay shell of these pellets along with the other items in the mixture also protects them from birds, ants and rats.

Seed Bombing:

- Seed bombing is the practice of introducing vegetation to land by throwing or dropping seed balls. It is used in modern aerial seeding as a way to deter seed predation.



Koregaon, Maharashtra, India

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Lat 17.68966°

Long 74.171154°

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GPS Map Camera





**Seed Ball Preparation and Plantation Program organized by
D. P. Bhosale College, Koregoan, District Satara
at Jarandeshwar hill on 30th July, 2022.**

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