

Make Your Own Native Seed Paper



When is a recycled product better than the original? When it's paper that turns into flowers, helps out our native pollinators, and looks pretty too!!! Make your own artistic paper with California native wildflower seeds in it. Use non-toxic colored markers to draw a design or message and give it to someone special to plant in a pot or in the ground. Keep it wet and warm, and it will "recycle" into something far better than old, used paper.

Create your Own Wildflower Paper

Materials

- Used printer paper, cross-cut into tiny pieces by a paper shredder. Use 1-1/2 cups for each card.
- Large bowl
- Window screen material or something to use for sifting
- Warm water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Blender.
- 9 x 13-inch baking pan
- Packet of native California wildflower or vegetable/herb seeds
- Bath towels or several layers of felt squares
- Wax paper
- Non-toxic colored markers

Steps

1. Soak the **paper** pieces in the **bowl of warm water** overnight.
2. Put the soaked paper into the **blender**, then fill the blender halfway with fresh **water**.
3. Blend until the mixture is soupy.
4. Add **food coloring**, if desired, and blend some more.
5. Fill the **baking pan** $\frac{1}{4}$ full of water.
6. Place the **screen** over the baking pan.
7. Spoon some of the blended paper mixture (pulp) over the **screen**.
8. Lift the screen gently, catching the pulp mixture evenly on top and letting the water drain off.
9. Lay the screen on a **bath towel** or **felt layers** to drain.

10. Sprinkle some **seeds** on top of the wet pulp, and gently pat them into the surface of the pulp.
11. When the bath towel or felt has soaked up as much water as it can, pick up the screening and turn it over onto a sheet of **waxed paper** to dry. (Seeds will be on the bottom).
12. You might have to gently hit the screening on a table or counter surface to loosen the pulp from the screen. If the pulp does not stick together, try putting more pulp on the screen next time.
13. Let the paper dry for at least 24 hours.
14. If the paper does not lie flat, place a heavy object (like a book) on it for a few hours to flatten it.
15. Decorate it with **markers** on the un-seeded side.

Plant Your Paper

When you plant the paper, lay it on the surface of the soil and sprinkle about one quarter-inch layer of soil on top. Water the soil lightly and keep the seeds wet until they sprout and have a few days to grow roots.

Good luck and happy recycling!