

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VERY OWN

BEE HAPPY SEED BALLS!

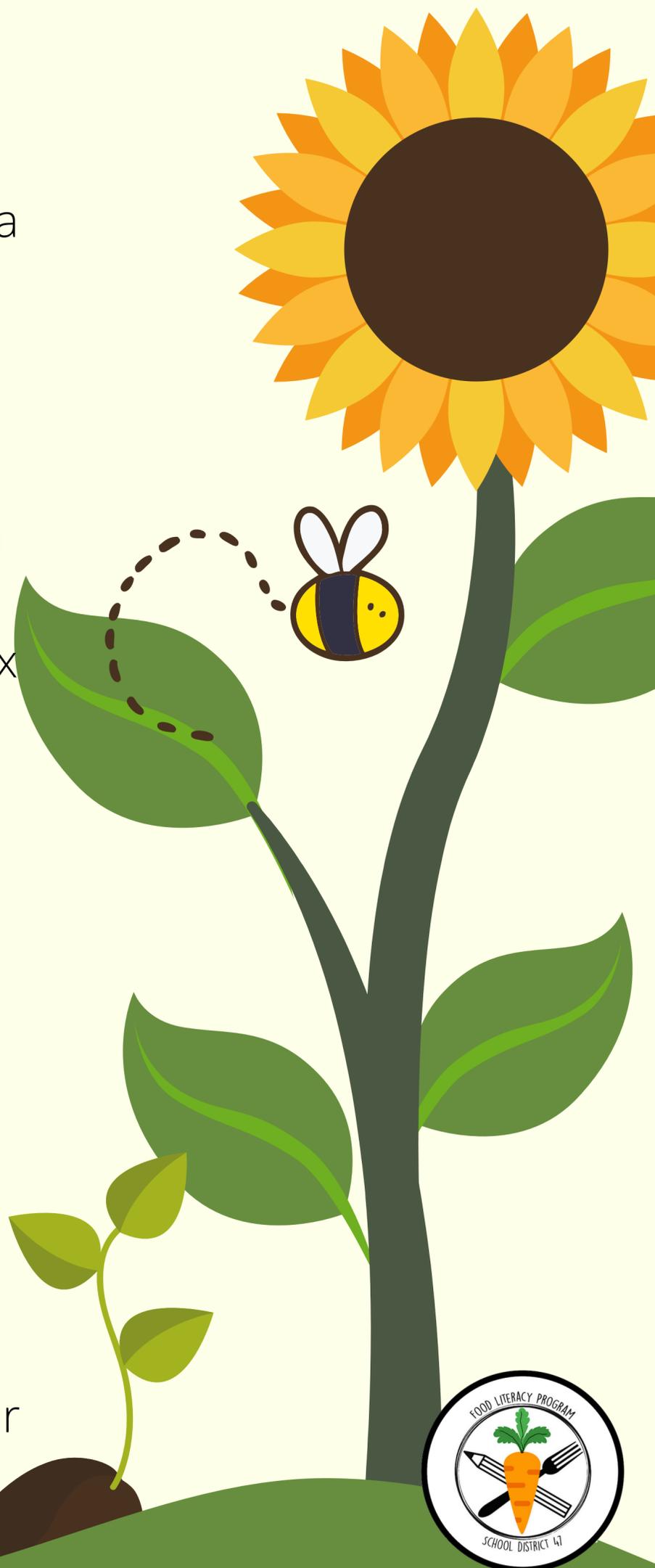
Flower seed balls are a great way to attract and nourish important pollinators, and beautify our environment. Here's how to make your own - and be sure to read the tips on the back!

Ingredients (for 25 balls)

- 3 cups compost
- ½ cup red clay powder
- ½ cup water (to start, you can add a little more if needed to shape balls but try to keep it as dry as possible!)

Steps

1. Mix ingredients – dry first and then add water little by little and mix
2. Pinch off about a tablespoon of mix and shape roughly into a ball
3. Make a shallow hole with your thumb and place no more than 3 seeds in the hole
4. Roll to form ball
5. Balls should sit perfectly in a teaspoon - any bigger is too big!
6. Place somewhere to dry - egg cartons work well
7. Once they are fully dry you can plant them when the time is right - see the bottom of the next page for where to find planting guidelines!



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Tips for success

- Planting the seeds in balls gives them a head start of good soil, and they are less likely to be eaten by birds before they sprout! Be sure to use the best quality, screened compost you can find
- You don't want too many seeds in a ball, as that creates competition for seedlings - no more than 2 or 3
- Large seeds like sunflowers can be deep inside the seed balls but small seeds should be near the surface and spaced apart, or they may not be able to germinate and grow
- Be careful with clay powder – it is very dusty and you don't want to inhale it! (if you can't find red clay powder, you can use wet clay, but make sure it is real clay and not polymer)
- Be sure to follow the guidelines on the **How to Plant and Care for Seed Balls**, also available on the SD47 Food Literacy website at sd47foodliteracy.com

