

All Grades

Supplies:

Cheap **Single Ply Toilet Paper** (ask custodians for remnants or full roll of the school's TP) The cheaper the better so it breaks down easier. If you get double ply, pull the plies apart.

Standard 14oz Size Food Can- cut BOTH ends OFF A large cookie cutter can be used to create shaped paper

Wider 20oz Food Can-leave bottom ON (canned tomatoes and pineapple are common in these sizes)

Or Plastic Jar like from coconut oil or peanut butter, mouth must be wider than standard can

Plastic Jars WITH tight lids like peanut butter or coconut oil size

Window Screen cut into squares about and 1" larger around than the mouth of the 20oz can. You can fold duct tape over the edges to prevent scrapes or fraying. I also added a popsicle stick under the tape on each edge when using the soft non-metal screen to add stability.

Packets of Wild Flower Seed Mix I usually dump them all into 1 large tub and mix them all up then divide them into yogurt cups to give to each group. A spoon is helpful so they don't dump too many seeds into the jar.

Sheets of Felt or Old Towels cut into pieces approx. size of felt sheets

Newspaper, magazine pages, copy paper, etc for students to collect their own seed papers on to dry.

Water

Fun additions: tiny bits of cotton yarn, eco friendly glitter, food coloring or liquid water colors, flower petals, leaf confetti (hole punch leaves), paper confetti, tiny torn pieces of construction paper/newspaper/magazines. Best if it is something that will break down.

Instructions:

Gather supplies. It is best to have at least students pair up or in groups up of 4. Each pair/group will need 1 14oz can, 1 20oz can, 1 screen, 1 lidded jar, at least 2 felt sheets/towels. Pass out newspaper (half sheets are fine), magazine pages, or copy paper to each student and have them write their name on it. This will be where they flip their seed papers to dry.

To make the seed paper:

Fill the lidded jar about half full of water.

Stack the 20oz can on the bottom, lay the screen on top of it, then place the 14oz can on top of the screen.

Add 8-10 squares of single ply toilet paper into the jar with water.

Add about ½ a plastic spoon full of seeds to the jar with the TP and water.

Add any additions like 1 or 2 drops of food coloring, a ½ spoon of paper bits etc to the jar as well if using.

Screw the lid on tight and shake vigorously to break up the TP and disperse the seeds in the slurry.

Have a partner hold the 14oz can and gently press it down on the screen over the 20oz can.

Unscrew the lid and gently but quickly pour it into the 14oz can.

Keep holding the can down until most all of the water drains out.

Remove the 14oz can and gently pat the seed paper with your fingers to help press out more of the remaining water.

Remove the screen with the seed paper and lay it onto 1 felt sheet and lay the second on top and press to remove the excess water.

Remove the top felt sheet and pick up the screen and flip it onto your paper and gently remove the seed paper from the screen to the paper to dry.

Pour the water from the 20oz can back into the lidded jar and start again. You may need more water added after making several sheets of paper.

If you have extra lidded jars, you can give each student one and have them prepare their jar (dry) with the tp squares, seeds, add-ins until it is their turn. Then they just dump the water from the can into their jar and shake.

These will take about 24 hours to dry. Leave them in a well air circulated area to dry quickly to prevent the seeds from germinating. Once dry gently remove them from the paper.

To plant them:

Tear the seed paper into small pieces, scatter in a large pot with soil or in a flower bed and cover with about an inch of soil. Keep soil moist until germination. Water as needed and enjoy your beautiful flowers!

I have added a “planting instructions” page below that you can print out, cut out, and attached with a dot of elmers to the seed papers.

If you are skilled with a hammer and pliers you can even bend/flatten/pinch the 14oz cans on one end to create hearts, squares, ovals, and triangles so you will have other shaped seed papers. Large cookie cutters can also be used for shaped paper, just pour more carefully and be sure to get the pulp into all the areas.

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into several pieces and
bury just below the soil
in a sunny spot in your
garden or flower pot.
Keep moist.**

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