



MAKE SEED PAPER

We all love watching seeds sprout into tiny little plants - better yet, recycle some used paper to make your own seed paper that can be planted in your yard or garden, or to share with friends and family! When seed paper is placed on top of soil and watered, it will germinate and begin sprouting seedlings! Soon, the paper will decompose and leave the seedlings to grow into mature plants. This craft is fun, and results in beautiful paper that you can use for birthday or Mother's Day cards, or other crafts with a gardening or flower theme.

What You Need

- A large pile of recyclable paper. Think: newspaper, egg cartons, tissue paper, and colorful construction paper.
- Shredder or scissors
- Blender
- Warm water
- Flower seeds (about 1 tsp. of wildflower seeds works best!)
- Strainer
- Spoon or spatula
- Microfiber towel or terrycloth
- Sponge

What You Do

1. Tear and shred your paper pieces into very small pieces. You'll want enough torn paper to fill your blender half-full (lightly packed) with torn pieces of paper. It's fun to use a mixture of colorful papers to see what color the final paper turns out to be!



2. Pour some warm water into the blender until it is full to the top line. Let the paper sit and soak for about 30 minutes. Now, turn on the blender to a low speed for about 10 seconds to turn the paper into a fine pulp. After the first 10 seconds, increase the speed and blend for about 30 seconds more. After this, there shouldn't be any visible paper flakes remaining.

3. Sprinkle about a teaspoon of flower seeds (wildflower varieties work great!) into the mixture and STIR them in (DO NOT BLEND!). Then, pour the mixture into a fine strainer to get rid of as much water as possible. You can use a spatula to press the mixture against the strainer to help squeeze the water out.

4. Lay out a piece of terry cloth or microfiber towel (something very absorbent), and dump the pulp onto the fabric. You can spread the pulp into any shape you want, but spread it fairly thin so that it dries more quickly. Use a sponge to flatten the pulp and remove even more water. Allow to dry on one side, and then flip it over to dry completely. It can take 24 hours for the paper to dry. If it doesn't lie flat, place a heavy object (like a book) on top for a few hours to flatten it.

5. Your seed paper is ready to cut up and use as cards, love notes, etc! When you're ready to plant it, simply place it on the surface of the soil and sprinkle about one-quarter inch thick 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!