

INSPIRED BY LITERATURE: WILDFLOWER SEED PODS



These humble little pods are made from recycled egg cartons and scrap paper. But dropped in just the right place, they can add a spot of color and unexpected beauty to an otherwise ordinary place.

The inspiration for these seed pods came from a recent rereading of the classic picture book *Miss Rumphius*, by Barbara Cooney. *Miss Rumphius* is a beautifully crafted story about a retired librarian who travels the world before returning home to focus on the task given to her by her grandfather when she was just a girl; she needs to “make the world a more beautiful place.” But Alice Rumphius isn’t quite sure how to accomplish this goal just at first. Eventually she realizes what it is that she can do, and she spends a busy spring and summer scattering lupine seeds all around the countryside where she lives. The fields of lupine surrounding her town grow, flower, reseed and return each year, becoming her legacy.

These seed pods were created in the spirit of *Miss Rumphius*. They can be dropped in empty lots, woodland fields or roadside ditches to provide surprise blooms after the spring rains have come. The newspaper and egg carton material will break down when they get wet, revealing the wildflower seeds and soil inside the pod. Think of it as a tiny, instant garden. Just add water!

For more information about finding appropriate wildflowers for your area (and to avoid sowing potentially invasive species), visit a local nursery and inquire about native flower seeds.

MAKING THE SEED PODS

materials:

an empty egg carton
potting soil or backyard dirt
wildflower seeds
newspaper or scratch paper
flour
water
paintbrush
scissors



Use scissors to cut apart the individual egg compartments from the carton. Trim the top edge of an egg cup so that you have a relatively even, round top. Fill the egg cup with potting soil or other dirt (wildflowers love terrible soil!) and sprinkle wildflower seeds on top of the soil.



Make a basic flour paste by combining 1/4 cup flour with 1/3 cup water and whisking until smooth. Cut a piece of newsprint or newspaper big enough to cover the egg cup and about half of the sides. Apply a good layer of paste to the edges of the paper.

Lay the paper over the top of the egg cup and smooth the edges down around the sides of the cup so that the middle portion of the paper covers the soil and the edges of the paper lie flat and are securely pasted down. Allow to dry.

Now your seed pod is ready to throw, sow and grow!

