

# Paper plant pot maker

## Overview:

This forms a part of the wildflower seed planting activity. Children and adults can make their very own paper plant pot using this quick and easy paper plant pot maker. Using an old newspaper create your own biodegradable pot for your wild flower seeds.



## Main stories

At least 1/3 of all agricultural produce relies on pollination. This include everyday food such as fruits, nuts, beans and coffee. Pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths etc. rely on a range of flowers for their food source. As agricultural demands become ever increasing and mono cultures of plants increase, the diversity of the wild flowers that pollinators require to survive is decreasing. To help mitigate these effects wild flowers seeds can be planted in gardens to provide a food source for our pollinators.

## How it works?

1. Cut a piece of old newspaper approximately 14cm wide by 36cm long.
2. Wrap the newspaper around the wooden handle so that the top of the paper matches the top of the flat part of the handle. There should be about 6cm of newspaper hanging free at the base.
3. Fold the loose paper at the bottom into the base of the handle starting with the joint of the paper.
4. Place the base of the handle into the stand and slowly push down.

5. Carefully remove the handle from the paper and folder the top 1cm of the plant pot inwards to create a sturdy edge of the top of your planet pot.
6. Carefully fill with compost and add a mixture of wild flower seed.
7. DO NOT water... Only when the person gets home and places their plant pot on a plate or waterproof base should the pot be watered, and only sparingly. Over watering will cause the paper to dissolve.

## Experiments to try:

Keep a diary of your plants as they grow. You could include the following:

- When are they watered.
- How long did it take for them to start to grow?
- How quick do they grow?
- When did they flower?
- What insects feed off them? (The plants will need to be outside by the time they flower).



### Key take home messages:

- Biodiversity is required to maintain a balance within the ecosystem.
- We can help pollinators by providing plants on which they feed.
- Pollinators are a key species, without them a lot of our food would not grow.

### Health and safety

**Activity** - Making the plant pot and Planting seeds.

#### Hazard | Precaution

**Pinch from wooden block** - Always provide supervision.

**Eating poisonous seeds** - Do not include native species that are poisonous.

**Risk** - Low.

### Maintenance and troubleshooting:

#### Problem

Plant pots falling apart.

#### Possible Causes

Not enough paper folded onto the base / too much pressure used when compressing the base.

#### Possible Solutions

Ensure more of an overlap of the paper at the base. Use less force when compressing the base to stop paper ripping.

