

Seed Bombs for Greening the Planet



Image Source: <http://www.seedfreedom.net>

We live in the times when plants on the planet are scarce. Whether to build artificial structures or the acts of natural calamities, trees and plants are often the silent victims of modernization. In such times, the green enthusiasts across the globe are taking actions to greening their environments with an innovative idea of *Seed Bombing!*

Though this idea has found global fans in recent years, historical records suggest that seed bombing existed even in ancient Egypt. Its popularity is attributed to Japanese farmer Masanobu Fukuoka, who repurposed the technique for boosting food production in his farms. Since then, seed bombing—also known as *aerial reforestation*, *seed balling* and *seed grenades*—have been employed in many countries including India.

A technique of planting trees by embedding organic seed balls in the ground, seed bombing is gaining popularity in many Indian cities. Seed balls are balls made of seeds mixed with mud and cow dung (Mud: cow dung ratio is 3:1). Cow dung can be replaced with other forms of organic compost. Once they are air dried, they are ready for bombing! Make a small cup-shaped hole in the ground. Plant the ball so that it's partly in the ground and partly above. With rain, the plants will start germinating and growing into trees.

Though cow dung can prevent pests and animals from munching down the budding trees, try and choose free spaces for best results. Forest areas are ideal for seed bombing of bigger trees like banyan, but you can also use the technique for fruit trees and smaller plants in public spaces and small patches of land in your neighborhood.

Seed Bombs are enabling Indians to grow plants anywhere.

Moisture is mandatory for seed bombs to germinate. So this rainy season is the best time to do seed bombing!

Latest Initiatives across India:

The students of Goel Ganga International School participated in the *Palkhi* procession with the aim of generating awareness and spreading the message of Hygiene and Cleanliness. The students distributed seed bombs to pilgrims so that they can throw it on their route to *Pandharpur* which will help grow greener cover. Groups of students staged street plays along the route and generated awareness among devotees about the significance of maintaining the environment and surroundings clean by not resorting to littering on the roads. The students guided and helped devotees to throw garbage in the dustbins provided.

The students were stationed at important points, along the route, guiding the pilgrims and requesting them to keep the entire route of the procession clean. With the support from the Municipal Corporation, arrangements of dustbins and mobile toilets were made available along the route this time.

On the other hand, IISc Bangalore scientists are experimenting with drone seed-bombing, and hope to plant a forest by seed bombing in 10,000 acres forest area by doing this every year, for three consecutive years. The advantage with drones is that they have the image before dropping the seeds, and can geotag the path. Subsequently, once every three months they can fly over that area and see the impact of dropping the seeds.

The 10,000-acre patch of land is spread around the Doddaballapur hill range, north of Bangalore. The initiative is spearheaded by a committee that's building a 200-acre science center in Gauribidanur. It's a dry area, so their interest is to bring back the rains. While doing all this, they take the grassroots level people into confidence.

The planet needs more plants and the practice seed bombing is a positive step in the right direction. May many such initiatives come up and make the maximum planet greener this monsoon.



Sources:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/students-distribute-seed-bombs-to-pilgrims/articleshow/59254331.cms>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/what-are-seed-bombs-actor-vasishta-tells-us-in-detail/articleshow/59165592.cms>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seed_ball
<https://theseceetyumiverse.wonderhowto.com>