Seed Bombs with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
Seed Bombs
(upbeat, inspirational music) - Liana from creativebug and it's raining in San Francisco. It's been raining for days and days and days, and I know all over the country and the world, probably the weather is a lot worse, but boy, are we ready for spring, and I bet that you guys are, too. So we thought we'd take a minute today to dream of spring and talk about seeds. So making seed bombs, and I also am going to be taking a little plantling and upgrading it later in the class. So why seed bombs? You guys might be wondering, "What the heck is she talking about?" These are not bath bombs. You don't put these in the bathtub. They are not edible. They are just these funny little lumps that are packed full of seeds and I used to get these all the time, like my mom would give them to us as gifts when we were kids and you would just kind of chuck em out in the yard and see what happens. Sometimes you can even crumple them up. But it's basically just a really fun way to get wildflowers into your yard or wherever you want them. In fact one thing, one kind of fun fact that I found in researching how to make these is that what they're really useful for is throwing. So if you live in a place, maybe there's an empty lot near your house or something, and you think, gosh, that sure would be a whole lot prettier if it had a bunch of wildflowers growing in it, so you can make a whole bunch of these seed bombs and chuck em into the yard, and they will sit there and propagate right in the little ball and create a whole new garden. In fact, I wanted to show you guys something before we get started. This is a book that Courtney, who you see a lot on our Facebook Live shoots, gave to me. It's called Wildflowering LA, and it's all about people who have used seeds in these abandoned areas and the wildflowers that have grown there, so, I don't know if you guys can see this very well, but you can see, they have all these great before and after shots, and it's so amazing how flowers can transform a landscape. So if you want to make a seed bomb of your own, let's get started and get into it. What you're going to need is air dry clay. So there are lots of ways you can do it. Basically a seed bomb is a combination of some sort of clay, some sort of fertilizer, or organic matter, and seeds! So I'm gonna start with this clay. This package comes in 16 ounces. I think it's good to work in kind of reasonably-sized chunks. You don't wanna use the whole thing at once, so I'm using about a quarter of it, so about four ounces, and you don't have to... This isn't baking, there's no exact science to it. What I like to do is just kinda roll it out so that a little bit of surface area is exposed here. But again, no need to be too precious about it. And so I'm using four ounces of clay and you probably want about a quarter of that amount of the organic matter, so I have some soil here I'm gonna dump on, again I'm just eyeballing this, I'm not really measuring it. So I'm just gonna kinda make a little pile here. That looks pretty good to me. And then you want your seeds. Okay, so I'm going to be using a seed mix today because that is really the easiest way to do this, is just to go out and get a pre-mixed seed mix. But what is really, really fun, and what is super important for you when you're picking the seeds, because I know you guys are watching from all over the world, is to make sure that you're using seeds that work well in your area. So look around at what grows or thing back, okay, what do I remember seeing in the springtime. Here, for instance, we get a lot of California poppies, lupins, nasturtium, Allie, what were some of the other ones that we were talking about earlier. - [Allie] Lilac. - Lilac, iris. - [Allie] Iris. - Yeah, sage. - [Allie] Sage. - So if you wanna do a custom mix, you can go buy a whole bunch of different seed packets and combine them all into one big bowl, and you're gonna wanna have... So I'm gonna be using this

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whole packet. So this is 11 grams, so just a good handful is what you really need. So once they're in there, another fun thing that I really like to do, just gonna fold these in a little bit. You're just gonna mix them in, and it's gonna feel kind of crazy, like the grossest dough you've ever made. But one thing that I really like to do, and it's simply for aesthetics is to add in, I like to just gather plants from around my neighborhood and I don't even really care if these have seeds in them or not, it's just that it makes it kind of pretty, so I've just got these little bits here, which I'll start to add in towards the end so that they'll be closer to the surface. And just a reminder, we are here live today, so if you have any questions that you wanna ask me, feel free to write in and Allie will ask the questions. Okay, so it's looking kind of crazy, and it's smelling very earthy in here. Okay, and I want you to know, this is definitely an apron-on project, cause you're gonna get a little bit dirty, and I am in fact, wearing the apron, my classic denim apron, and if you are looking to make your own apron, cause I know many of you crafty types are out there, we have a new class on creativebug today, and it is sewing a classic denim apron with simplicity pattern, so, go check it out, make your own. Michelle Musket of Simplicity teaches it, and she's so great. You know you all want a denim apron. Okay, so we're mixing it all in now, those seeds are in there really well. And I'm gonna go ahead and add in... Let's see, I like this purple stuff. And again, it's just for color. And some of these little seeds are fun. See if we can get those in there. A few of these yellow guys, I don't even remember what these are anymore, I've just been walking around town like a crazy person, just grabbing little bits of things off of the trees. - [Allie] We have our first question. - [Liana] Yes! - [Allie] Lisa wants to know, she's just joining us. - [Liana] Okay. - [Allie] She wants to know what you are mixing the seeds in. - [Liana] What I'm mixing them in? - [Allie] Yeah. - Oh, so the tray? - [Allie] Yes. The clay, too. - (gasping) Oh, okay. So what I am doing, Lisa, hi! Welcome! Is I am, so I've taken about four ounces of a paper clay, so this is a modeling air-dry clay, so this means that you don't have to bake it. You leave it out in the sun and it dries, and what you're gonna wind up with is this little ball, like it gets very light in color like this, so it turns almost white, and it's super air-dry, I mean like, bone dry, it's very lightweight, perfect for throwing. So to that, I have added some basic potting soil and a packet of seeds, of mixed wildflower seeds, and now I'm mushing it all up together, I have it all on this enamel tray, and you could definitely do this on any surface that you want, I just didn't wanna mess up our beautiful blue table, because we're actually in the middle of shooting this week. And Courtney would kill me if I got her table messy. (laughing) I hope that answered your question. Feel free to let Allie know if I didn't answer it. Okay, so we've got it pretty well mixed up. I love those pops of color that are happening in there. You know, creativebug, where aesthetics are everything. We don't care if it's functional, we just want it to be pretty, right? Okay, so I'm gonna kind of squeeze this into a little bit of a log shape. And then cut it, I mean, this is just like cinnamon rolls, into about one-inch pieces, you could also make em smaller, and do like half-inch pieces. Kinda depends on your purpose. You know, like I said, a lot of people are gonna wanna take these and turn them into things that they throw, whether you're throwing it into your own garden or into an empty lot or a field that just hasn't seen any love is up to you. I actually love to give them as gifts. Alright, so just rolling them into a ball. Look how cute that is. And so if I were to give them as gifts, I would probably put them in a drawstring bag, preferably one that you've made yourself. I actually have some drawstring bags here. I should probably wipe off my hands a little bit before I show you this. But it makes such a cute little gift to give to your neighbors. Maybe it's like a little welcome gift for your neighbors that have just moved in. Love that idea. So you could take a handful of these and just pop em into a drawstring bag like so or look at this tiny little drawstring bag. I don't even remember where I got this. And that's like the perfect size for fitting three little minis. - [Allie] We have our next question. -

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[Liana] Mm hmm! - [Allie] Brie wants to know if you can damage the seeds and if you should be delicate. - No, so the seeds, hi, Brie, by the way. The seeds themselves are pretty hardy, and in fact, one thing that I have learned from what I've read about seed bombs, a benefit of putting them into this format is that it actually protects them, because if you were to take, you might be wondering, like I could just take this pack of seeds, and just whoosh, and throw it all over the yard, and wouldn't that do the exact same thing. Conceivably, maybe, but if you have wind, or if you have a lot of birds in the area, then they're all gonna be gone, and so once a big windstorm comes in, those seeds are gonna get blown away. If seeds are left out, like right on the surface of soil, the birds are gonna come along and eat em right up. So what this does is it gives the seed an opportunity to start its little life before the elements get to it. So what is going to happen is that this is gonna sit on the ground. Hopefully, you'll get a little bit of rain, it's gonna start to activate the seeds. The air-dry clay actually... It can get saturated and wet, and it starts to decompose just a little bit. So within this little clay shell, the seed is gonna start to germinate, and that it has the organic matter in there, a little bit of soil, is gonna help with that activation, so it's gonna give it that nutrient that it needs in order to germinate, and the ideal situation is that then, as the air dry clay starts to decompose and fall away, the plant will have just enough of a little sprouter happening, that it will just start to sink into the ground and become its own independent plant, so really, it's creating a little safe haven for it, and it gives it a better chance of surviving. Yes, we have another question? - [Allie] Yes, my question, actually. - [Liana] Oh! Allie has a question. - [Allie] If you wanted to, could you dig a small hole and put these in? - [Liana] Oh, yes. - [Allie] Okay. - So like a lovingly placed, so rather than chucking it into a field... I think I could totally see myself doing that. So yeah, I think that that would be a great way to control what's gonna happen with your little seeds is to carve out just a little bit of soil and set it in there, so that way it won't go rolling around and it's gonna have a really nice connection to the earth. You don't have to worry about it sitting on top of pine needles, or something like that that's not ideal situation for the plants sending their roots down. So, very good question. - [Allie] Thank you. - I would definitely do that. So I think you all kind of get an idea. If you know how to make a meatball, then you can definitely figure out how to make a seed bomb. And then while I have you all here, I was gonna show you one other thing. For those that tune in frequently, I wanted to show you my little plant that I planted actually, I think it was January 24th on our live shoot. You were all here for the birth of this little tomato plant. So I showed how to get started with seeds. This episode is really all about what the heck do you do with seeds, I think. So I just took five little seeds, tomato seeds, and put them in this cup that has some holes poked in the bottom of it. I'm gonna turn it upside-down so you can see. And I've just been watering it every few days and left it in a sunny spot, and now it's officially outgrowing its cup. And so I'm ready to transplant it. So I was gonna show you guys while I have you here talking about plants, how you would go about upgrading. So I have another cup here, it's a plastic cup. I think it's actually a compostable cup, and so I'm gonna need some more holes in the bottom, so I have a knife here, and I'm just gonna slowly twist some holes into the bottom. Okay, whoa. Everybody's cringing while I do this. Okay. Couple-a drainage holes. Gonna do... That one didn't go all the way through. Be so careful when you do this, guys. Just a little bit of pressure, little twisting. Okay, so now I'm gonna fill it up with some soil. Just about... A little less than halfway. I'm gauging how much I'm gonna need. Okay, so here is the thing about plants like vegetable plants, like tomato plants, is that I have five shoots here, but they all can't live in the same cup. And some won't live at all. It's very sad. So don't cry, but we're gonna have to choose which ones live and die. First thing's first, I'm going to go ahead and turn it out, so I just give it a nice little squeeze on the bottom, whoa. You can see there's some nice roots already

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starting to grow here. Okay, and now, I'm just gonna pop it right into the cup. Don't panic, don't squeeze too hard. But really, you're gonna be fine, and you have five options to choose from, so if you mess up one of the plants, it's okay! You made that decision a little bit easier for you. I'm a little disappointed right now, I didn't just crush one of them. Okay, so now I'm just gonna fill up the sides so that it's a little bit more stable, and all I'm doing is I'm giving this plant an opportunity to get more nutrients. That's what it wants. It wants to eat. Okay, so they're all in the cup now. Now I have to make my choices. Okay, I'm thinking... Alright, this guy's a little shrimp. He's never gonna make it. So he gets lifted out. (gasping) Okay, and this guy's pretty little, too. So away he comes. I like to hold down the others. I don't wanna pull and bring out the whole kit and caboodle when I do this. You need at least one to stay. Okay this one is not centered, and I think it's gonna be a little bit wonky. It also has the best opportunity of survival if I do decide to replant this, so that is one option, is you can kinda dig down a little bit, give it a pull, and see, the roots came out with it, so I'm gonna actually stick this in another cup, and see if I can get it to keep growing. So I'm going to very gently rest it right here. And now, I have to choose between these two. Oh gosh. They both look really, really good. What do you think, Allie? This one or this one? (gasping) - [Allie] I would take the left one, my left. - Your left? - [Allie] Yes, that one. - This one? Okay, yeah, you wanna look for the really healthy plant, so the one, this one... You know, maybe one is taller, but it might be a little bit thinner, a little leggier, and taller doesn't always mean better in the tomato world. You want the one that really looks the healthiest. So this one has some nice leaves on it. They already smell like tomatoes. They're gonna be great, so I'm gonna go ahead and pull this one. And again, I'm gonna plant it and see if maybe it'll continue to grow. Then I'll have three tomato plants. Okay, but for now, this is my guy. And we'll check in again in a couple months. Maybe in one month, and let you know how he's doing. Okay, I think that's it for now. Unless we have any more questions? We're good. Thank you for joining us, everybody. We do this every Tuesday and Thursday, and on this coming Thursday, we're actually going to have Benjamin Mock from Mood here doing some live draping demos. So come back then and we can't wait to see you. Bye! (upbeat creative music)

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