

SCIENCE FROM HOME



Beneficial Bug Boosters

While many people think of insects as pests or problems, they are actually very important and useful animals that help the environment and humans. Here are a few ways you can help local pollinators and other helpful insects.

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find, substitute or modify
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space for this activity

Materials

- Seed Balls:
 - Dirt
 - Clay
 - Seeds of local wildflowers such as goldenrod, common milkweed, eastern purple coneflower, or aster (many of these can be bought online and sometimes are given away for free)

Instructions

- Seed Balls:
 - Place 3-5 seeds on a thin, flat pancake of clay.
 - Wrap clay around the seeds and roll in a ball.
 - Roll the clay ball in dirt. Keep cool and dry until use.
 - Place in a garden or other greenspace you have permission to plant. Rain and time will take over from there.
- Other Bug Booster Tips:
 - Avoid pesticides, artificial fertilizers, or other harmful chemicals outside.
 - Let leaves or other natural ground coverings stay in parts of your yard.
 - Do not use bug zappers.
 - Make a pollinator box. See the pollinator box craft to make your own!

