

Wildflower Paper

Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, although he does not know how."
(Mark 4:26-27)

You will need:

- [Paper-making frame](#)* (not essential but very useful, see below)
- Scrap card/paper – eg cardboard boxes (not the shiny type), egg cartons, newspaper, loo roll inners, paper bags
- Wide bowl or deep tray – cat litter trays are ideal
- Blender
- Towels, blankets or dishcloths
- [Wildflower seeds](#)*
- Optional: Petals/leaves for decoration



Paper-making screen

You can buy one (see link above) or you can make your own from a couple of cheap photo frames. Make sure they have flat fronts.

You'll need mesh – either metal door mesh, dressmaking net, tights or muslin – and a staple gun or drawing pins.

Remove all backings and insets from the frame; we only need the surround. Stretch your mesh over *the front* of one frame, wrap around to the back and staple/pin tightly. The mesh should sit on top of the frame, not in the dip.

If you are using dressmaking net or tights, I recommend two layers.

The other frame will rest on top, face down, as a border to keep the pulp in place.

You can make paper without using a screen, but it will come out more 'hand-hewn'.



Make your pulp (do this in advance):

1. Soak your card/paper in water for a few hours or overnight.
2. Tear the card into small pieces and use a blender to make it into a thin soupy pulp. Add more water if needed.
3. Add wildflower seeds and other decorations such as food colouring or petals. (Do not blend once the seeds are added!)

What to do – frame method:

1. Pour the watery pulp to a wide bowl. It must be bigger than your frame.
2. Hold your frame with the mesh half at the bottom, mesh side up, and the loose frame on top. Hold the two halves together.
3. Dip it into your pulpy mixture with edge of the frame first and level it out horizontal once it's underwater. Swoosh it about then lift it up so that a thin, even layer of pulp forms on top of the mesh.
4. Let it drain for a while, then remove the top frame and turn the mesh half upside down. If anything falls off, go back to 3 and let it drain for longer.
5. Press the new paper onto your blanket – it should stick – and leave it somewhere warm to dry. (Dry the paper quickly – you don't want your seeds germinating!)

What to do – no frame method:

1. Make your pulp as above, but don't add extra water. You want a thick pulp, about the consistency of yoghurt. Press the pulp through a strainer to get rid of water if you need to.
2. Use a spoon (or your hand!) to scoop up some pulp and spread it on your towel/blanket/dish cloth. Spread it out as evenly as possible.
3. Alternatively, use a cookie cutter as a mould and press a thin layer of pulp into a cool shape.
4. Leave to dry as above.

Decorations:

Add extra petals or leaves to the surface of the new paper. You could cut shapes from leaves or add drops of food colouring.

Optional: Dribble thin paper pulp over the top to help the decorations bind.



You can press the paper to help it dry more quickly. Stack up the towels/dish cloths and put a board on top with heavy weights (or people). Be prepared for mess. I recommend doing this outside.

Once dry, you can trim your paper to shape or leave it with raggy edges. Make it into a card, a gift tag, a bookmark or even a flower!

To use your seed paper, simply place it on the ground and press into the soil. Give it some water and see what grows.



Extra resources at:

<https://growwild.kew.org/get-involved/resources/how-to/make-wildflower-seed-paper>

<https://www.instructables.com/Seed-Paper-From-Used-Cardboard-Boxes/>

* Links to products on Amazon may earn me a *tiny* bit of commission. None of your data is passed either way and the price you pay is the same.

Seeds: <https://amzn.to/47VJmJn>

Paper frame: <https://amzn.to/4dJx1tm>