

## MATERIALS

Assorted recyclable paper: newsprint, egg cartons, tissue paper, paper grocery bags, unprinted computer paper, etc.

Cross-cut paper shredder (optional)

Blender

Water

1 tsp. Flower seeds (a wildflower seed blend that is adapted to your growing region is recommended)

Mesh strainer

Spoon or spatula

Terrycloth or microfiber towel or piece of flannel

Dry dish sponge

# DIY SEED PAPER

## INSTRUCTIONS

- A cross-cut paper shredder is handy here (or let the kids have fun ripping the paper into tinier and tinier pieces). Grab your blender jar and fill it half-full with freshly-torn pieces of paper.
- Pour some warm water **over** the pieces of paper in the blender jar until it has filled the blender to the top line. Blend at low speed for about ten seconds, then increase the speed for about thirty seconds more. You are done when there are no visible paper flakes remaining.
- Sprinkle the teaspoon of flower seeds into the mixture and stir them in. **DO NOT BLEND!** Pour the mixture into a strainer and get rid of as much water as possible by using a spoon or spatula to press the pulp against the strainer.
- Lay out a terry cloth or microfiber towel or piece of flannel on a flat surface. Dump the pulp onto the fabric and use the spoon or spatula to spread the pulp over the fabric. Spread it into any shape you want, just be sure to spread it as thin as possible to ensure it dries quicker.
- After you have spread the pulp, use a dry sponge to flatten the mixture and soak up more water. After the pulp has dried on one side, turn it over and allow the other side to dry completely. Once both sides are dry, your seed paper is ready for use.
- You can cut your seed paper into shapes or decorate it with crayons & markers and turn it into cards or gift tags. When the paper is placed on top of soil and watered, it will germinate and begin sprouting seedlings. Eventually the paper will decompose and leave the seedlings to grow into mature plants.