

Spring flowers for Valentine's Day

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Valentine's Day is right around the corner so this month we'll make neat cards that hold the promise of spring flowers. Like all of our projects, you probably have most of the supplies you'll need. You will need to buy a package of pansy seeds. They're available at garden centers and some hardware stores. In addition to the seeds you'll need one sheet of colored construction paper, two squares of toilet tissue, white glue, scissors and a pen.

Start by folding the construction paper in half and then in half again. The side that has one fold on the left and two folds on the top is the front of your card. Use your pen to make a small mark in the center of the front so you'll know where the front is when you unfold the paper. Go ahead and unfold the paper and draw a heart or flower on the front of your card. It should be about three inches across. With your scissors, poke a hole in the center of your shape and cut it out. Refold the card and you should have a heart or flower shaped hole on the front. Set the card aside while you do the next step.

Take one square of the toilet paper and squiggle some glue over it. If you want, you can make the glue and shake off any that don't stick. Make sure you have at least four or five seeds stuck to the glue and then put the other square of toilet paper on top. If it doesn't stick, add a few drops of glue.

Now you can pick up your card again; unfold it and turn it over so you're working on the back. Put a few dots of glue on the paper just above your cutout shape. Take your seed paper and stick the top edge to the glue. When you refold the card, the seed paper should be trapped inside the folds and fill your cut-out shape. Now you can use your pen to write Happy Valentine's Day somewhere on the card and decorate it if you'd like. Be sure to sign your name on the inside and write planting directions on the back. Here are the directions:

When spring comes, plant the seed paper from this card outside under 1/4 inch of soil. Water lightly and let spring rains and sun do the rest. Think of me when the pansies bloom.

You can use this technique to make cards at any time of year using any small or flat seeds. You can even give a salad instead of flowers by using lettuce or spinach seeds. Trace around cookie cutters to get different shapes for the opening or make up your own. Using colored toilet tissue can make your cards extra pretty; look around your house for other ways to decorate your cards.