

Natural Colors to Dye for



How to use natural dyes
from plants and fungi

Frann Leach

This ebook is copyright ©2012 Frann Leach.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[A 19th Century Craft Brought Up To Date](#)

[Equipment Needed for Dying](#)

[Basic Dying Method](#)

Dye Recipes:

[Blacks and Grays](#)

[Blues](#)

[Browns and Tans](#)

[Greens](#)

[Oranges and Rusts](#)

[Purples](#)

[Reds and Pinks](#)

[Yellows](#)

[Dye Plants Catalog](#)

A 19th Century Craft Brought Up To Date

Up till around 1850, all dyes were plant based. Whilst it is rare to use plant dyes commercially today, home dyeing using plant materials is becoming more popular.

Apart from indigo and dyes based on mushrooms, most herbal dyes are not 'fast', that is the colors will fade quite quickly. To avoid this, and to produce different colors, an additional ingredient called a mordant is often included. There are a number of these, including the following, listed by the name used in dyers' catalogues:

Acetic acid (or vinegar)

Alum (potassium aluminium sulphate)

Ammonia (ammonium hydroxide)

Blue vitriol (copper sulphate)

Caustic soda (sodium hydroxide)

Chrome (either potassium dichromate or sodium dichromate)

Copperas or Green vitriol (ferrous sulphate)

Cream of tartar (potassium bitartrate)

Lime (calcium oxide)

Potash (potassium carbonate)

Tannic acid

Tartaric acid

Tin (stannous chloride)

As you can see, many of these can be bought in your local supermarket. The others are probably available online, although the one you will need most often is alum. This may be available at chemists, craft stores, some outdoor specialists (for purifying water) and large department stores in the section where they sell men's shaving kits — alum is sometimes sold for use as a "styptic" to staunch bleeding.

Equipment Needed for Dying

A large set of kitchen scales (big enough to get the material to be dyed into the pan)

A 5 gallon pot made of copper, stainless steel or enamelware (iron is ok for dark colors)

A measuring jug

A cooking thermometer

One thick piece of wood for each color, for stirring

A set of plastic measuring spoons

A supply of soft water

Several buckets for rinsing

Rubber gloves

Laundry tongs

Basic Dying Method

1. Wash the material to be dyed so as to remove any natural oils or dressing with mild soap and rinse well. Raw wool may need to be washed repeatedly to remove all the lanolin.
2. If you are using a mordant, the material then needs to be processed with the mordant solution.

The method is different for each type of material:

- cotton and linen are boiled in the solution
- wool is simmered
- silk is simply soaked in hot liquid.

3. When mordanting is complete, the material is rinsed and allowed to dry (except when using chrome mordant).
4. To prepare the dye bath, chop or crush the plant material, soak in water for 12-24 hours and then boil for 2 hours.
5. Strain out the plant material and add enough water to make up to about 4 gallons.
6. The material to be dyed must be wet when it is put into the dye bath, so dip it in water and wring out beforehand.
7. Heat the dye bath containing the material to no more than 70°C (160°F) for silk, and to a simmer for wool, cotton and linen. Continue heating for 20 minutes, then stir in 4 tablespoons of tartaric acid and half a cup of Sodium sulfate (Glauber's salt). Simmer for another 20 minutes and remove fabric or yarn.
8. Rinse repeatedly, starting with water just a little cooler than the dye bath liquid, and gradually progressing through a series of rinses, each a bit cooler than the previous one, until the rinse water remains clear.
9. The material can then be dried and is ready for use.

Following is a table showing the colors obtained. In most cases, wool takes color better than cotton or linen, which will end up lighter in color from the same dye mixture. Silk generally gives similar results to wool.



Blacks and Grays

Color: Black for wool

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: Chrome

1lb wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Black for all materials

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

8 ounces wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown black for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray - brown for wool, cotton, linen

Plant: Red Sumac (*Rhus sp.*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons berries, twigs or leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray - black for wool, cotton, linen

Plant: Sassafras (*Sassafras sp.*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons twigs and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray for silk

Plant: Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

2lb seeds to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue-gray for wool

Plant: Alkanet (*Alkanna tinctoria*)

Mordant: None

8 ounces roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray blue for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Blues

Color: Light blue for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue or green for wool

Plant: Chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus sp.*)

Mordant: various

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue or green for wool

Plant: Chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus sp.*)

Mordant: various

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue-gray for all materials

Plant: Common elder (*Sambucus nigra*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Greeny blue for wool, silk

Plant: Common elder (*Sambucus nigra*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue for all materials

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: None

1lb wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue for all materials

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: None

1lb wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark blue for silk

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: Chrome

1lb wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark blue-gray for all materials

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: Copperas (3 ounces)

8 ounces wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue-gray for wool, cotton

Plant: Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

2lb seeds to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue for wool

Plant: Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)

Mordant: Alum, potash

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Browns and Tans

Color: Reddish tan for all materials

Plant: Alkanet (*Alkanna tinctoria*)

Mordant: Alum

8 ounces roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for all materials

Plant: Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool, silk

Plant: Beet (*Beta vulgaris*)

Mordant: Alum

10lb roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool

Plant: Black Bulgar (*Bulgaria inquinans*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Chocolate brown for wool

Plant: Black Bulgar (*Bulgaria inquinans*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray brown for wool

Plant: Black Bulgar (*Bulgaria inquinans*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red brown/golden brown for wool

Plant: Black Bulgar (*Bulgaria inquinans*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Reddish tan for wool, silk

Plant: Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons stems and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Deep fox-red/cinnamon for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige for wool

Plant: Brown roll-rim/Poison pax (*Paxillus involutus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige for wool

Plant: Brown roll-rim/Poison pax (*Paxillus involutus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Brown roll-rim/Poison pax (*Paxillus involutus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray brown for wool

Plant: Cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius cinnamomeus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons dried mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red brown/cinnamon for wool

Plant: Cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius cinnamomeus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons dried mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rich brown for all materials

Plant: Common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons fruits to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Cinnamon for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brown for linen, cotton

Plant: Day lily (*Hemerocallis sp.*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige for wool

Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material



Color: Beige brown/mustard for wool
Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Mordant: Alum
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray brown/tan for wool
Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow brown for wool
Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Mordant: Chrome
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow brown/light brown for wool
Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Mordant: Blue vitriol
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow brown/mustard for wool
Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)
Mordant: Tin
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige for wool
Plant: Devil's Tooth (*Hydnellum peckii*)
Mordant: None
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool
Plant: Dyer's polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*)
Mordant: Blue vitriol
4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold brown for wool
Plant: Hairy bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray green/greenish brown for wool

Plant: Hairy bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for all materials

Plant: Hickory (*Carya sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons twigs to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool

Plant: Juniper (*Juniperus sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool, silk

Plant: Oak (*Quercus sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

3 gallons acorns and hulls to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholompsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholompsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark brown for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholompsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brown for wool, silk

Plant: Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Mordant: Alum

2lb dried berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - light brown for all materials

Plant: Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons fresh clippings to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - light brown for all materials

Plant: Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons whole fresh flowering plants to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red-brown for wool

Plant: Red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons berries and twigs to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red-brown for all materials

Plant: Red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons berries and twigs to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brown for cotton, linen

Plant: Red onion (*Allium cepa*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons skins to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brown for all materials

Plant: Red onion (*Allium cepa*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons skins to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray - brown for wool, cotton, linen

Plant: Red Sumac (*Rhus sp.*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons berries, twigs or leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for all materials

Plant: Red Sumac (*Rhus sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons berries, twigs or leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Reddish tan for wool, silk

Plant: Sassafras (*Sassafras sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons twigs and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brown for cotton, linen

Plant: Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons fresh or dried flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brass for all materials

Plant: Sedge (*various*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Greenish tan for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Cinnamon for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow olive/yellow brown for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellowish tan for wool

Plant: Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Mordant: Alum

2lb seeds to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Cinnamon for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushroom caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Purple/tan for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray/red brown/orange for wool
Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray/red brown/orange for wool
Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray/red brown/orange for wool
Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material



Greens

Color: Dark green for wool, cotton, linen

Plant: Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for all materials

Plant: Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for wool

Plant: Blewit (*Clitocybe nuda and C. saeva*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brownish green for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray green for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for wool

Plant: Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow - green for wool

Plant: Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark green for wool
Plant: Common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons fruits to each pound dry weight of material

Color: orange for wool
Plant: Dyer's polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*)
Mordant: Ammonia
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark green for wool, silk
Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark green for wool, cotton, linen
Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons whole plants to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Olive green for all materials
Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)
Mordant: Tin
4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gray green/greenish brown for wool
Plant: Hairy bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*)
Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellowish green for wool
Plant: Horse mushroom (*Agaricus arvensis*)
Mordant: Salt
4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for wool
Plant: Lady's mantle (*Alchemilla mollis*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons green parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Blue-green for wool

Plant: Lobster mushroom (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms parasite (red) to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellowish green for wool

Plant: Meadow/field mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*)

Mordant: Salt

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for all materials

Plant: Old Fustic/Dyer's mulberry (*Maclura tinctoria*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

1lb heartwood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Moss green for wool

Plant: Oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright green for all materials

Plant: Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons fresh clippings to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark green for wool

Plant: Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)

Mordant: Copperas (3 ounces)

4 gallons fresh clippings to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for all materials

Plant: Red Sumac (*Rhus sp.*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons berries, twigs or leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark gray-green for all materials

Plant: Sedge (*various*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Grayish green for wool

Plant: Shaggy mane (*Coprinus comatus*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Grayish-green for wool

Plant: Shingled hedgehog mushroom (*Sarcodon imbricatus*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Olive green for wool

Plant: Stinking earthfan (*Thelephora palmata*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark forest green for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow olive/yellow brown for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for wool

Plant: Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

2lb seeds to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow-green for wool

Plant: Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green for all materials

Plant: Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

8 ounces powdered roots to each pound dry weight of material

Oranges and rusts

Color: Rust for wool

Plant: Artist's conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange, rust for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red/red-orange for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange for all materials

Plant: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Mordant: none

1lb fresh or dried roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust - orange for wool, silk, cotton

Plant: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Mordant: Alum

1lb fresh or dried roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange for wool

Plant: Brown roll-rim/Poison pax (*Paxillus involutus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Muddy orange for wool

Plant: Cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius cinnamomeus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons dried mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange for wool

Plant: Cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius cinnamomeus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons dried mushroom to each pound dry weight of material



Color: Orange for wool

Plant: Cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius cinnamomeus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons dried mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange - rust for wool

Plant: Hollyhock (*Alcea sp.*)

Mordant: Chrome

3 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust for wool

Plant: Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons stems and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange — rust for all materials

Plant: Madder (*Rubia tinctoria*)

Mordant: Chrome

1lb roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange for all materials

Plant: Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons berries on stems to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust for all materials

Plant: Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons berries on stems to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust for wool

Plant: Reishi (*Ganoderma lucidum* and *G. tsugae*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust - dark gold for all materials

Plant: Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange red/apricot for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange/rust/apricot for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Peach for wool

Plant: Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons all parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Pale orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Purples

Color: Reddish purple for wool

Plant: Alkanet (*Alkanna tinctoria*)

Mordant: Acetic acid

8 ounces roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright purple for all materials

Plant: Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)

Mordant: Tin

2 gallons berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brownish purple for all materials

Plant: Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)

Mordant: Alum

2 gallons berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Purple for wool

Plant: Common elder (*Sambucus nigra*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons berries to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark purple for all materials

Plant: Logwood (*Haematoxylum campechianum*)

Mordant: Alum

1lb wood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Purple for wool

Plant: Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

1lb inner bark to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Purple/tan for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Reds and Pinks

Color: Pinky red for wool

Plant: Black Bulgar (*Bulgaria inquinans*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Deep fox-red/cinnamon for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red/red-orange for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Scarlet for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red for wool

Plant: Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Mordant: Tin

1lb fresh or dried roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Pink for wool, silk

Plant: Crabapple (*Malus sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons ripe red fruit to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark red for wool

Plant: Giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red for wool

Plant: Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)

Mordant: Alum

1lb roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red for all materials

Plant: Madder (*Rubia tinctoria*)

Mordant: Alum

1lb roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red for wool

Plant: Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Red for all materials

Plant: Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons berries on stems to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dusky rose for wool, silk

Plant: Scarlet sage (*Salvia coccinea*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons fresh or dried flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange red/apricot for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Yellows

Color: Orange yellow/salmon pink for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Bloodred webcap (*Cortinarius sanguineus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Greenish yellow for wool

Plant: Blue spine/Blue tooth (*Hydnellum caeruleum*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Green gold for wool

Plant: Brown roll-rim/Poison pax (*Paxillus involutus*)

Mordant: Copperas (4 ounces)

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for wool

Plant: Chameleon plant (*Houttuynia cordata*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons whole plants to each pound dry weight of material



Calvatia gigantea (Giant puffball), Cocklebur, French Marigold and Lily of the Valley

Color: Dull yellow for wool

Plant: Chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow - green for wool

Plant: Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brass for wool, silk, cotton

Plant: Common cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons fruits to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Lemon yellow for wool

Plant: Common elder (*Sambucus nigra*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold/yellow for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Mustard for wool

Plant: Common rustgill (*Gymnopilus penetrans*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool, silk, cotton

Plant: Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Mordant: Alum

3 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Mordant: Tin

3 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright yellow for all materials

Plant: Day lily (*Hemerocallis sp.*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold - brass for wool, silk

Plant: Day lily (*Hemerocallis sp.*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Day lily (*Hemerocallis sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige brown/mustard for wool

Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow brown/mustard for wool

Plant: Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Beige/yellow for wool

Plant: Dyer's polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright yellow for wool

Plant: Dyer's polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool

Plant: Dyer's polypore (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool, silk

Plant: French marigold (*Acer rubrum*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for all materials

Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold - bright yellow for all materials

Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Soft yellow for all materials

Plant: Goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool

Plant: Hairy bracket (*Inonotus hispidus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Reddish yellow for wool

Plant: King bolete (*Boletus edulis*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool

Plant: Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Greeny yellow for wool, silk

Plant: Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons stems and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow - gold for all materials

Plant: Lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons stems and leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Light yellow for wool

Plant: Maitake (*Grifola frondosa*)

Mordant: Ammonia

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright yellow for all materials

Plant: Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons above ground parts, fresh or dried to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for all materials

Plant: Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons above ground parts, fresh or dried to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts, fresh or dried to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Greenish yellow for wool

Plant: Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright yellow for wool, silk, cotton

Plant: Old Fustic/Dyer's mulberry (*Maclura tinctoria*)

Mordant: Alum

1lb heartwood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for all materials

Plant: Old Fustic/Dyer's mulberry (*Maclura tinctoria*)

Mordant: Chrome

1lb heartwood chips to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Bright yellow for all materials

Plant: Peach (*Prunus persica*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Peach (*Prunus persica*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons leaves to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Mustard for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholompsis rutilans*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Mustard for wool

Plant: Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric (*Tricholompsis rutilans*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons whole fresh flowering plants to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for wool

Plant: Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers, leaves and stem to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Dark gold for wool, silk

Plant: Red onion (*Allium cepa*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons skins to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brass for all materials

Plant: Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)

Mordant: Copperas (3 ounces)

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Rust - dark gold for all materials

Plant: Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow - tan for wool, silk, leather

Plant: Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold for all materials

Plant: Sedge (*various*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Tan - brass for all materials

Plant: Sedge (*various*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons above ground parts to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool

Plant: St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons tops to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold/yellow for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Ochre yellow/gold for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Tin

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellowish beige/gold for wool

Plant: Sulphur tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange yellow/salmon pink for wool

Plant: Surprise webcap (*Cortinarius semisanguineus*)

Mordant: Blue vitriol

4 gallons mushrooms caps or stalks to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Gold - brass for all materials

Plant: Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)

Mordant: Chrome

8 ounces powdered roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for all materials

Plant: Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)

Mordant: Alum

8 ounces powdered roots to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Brass - greeny brass for wool

Plant: Yellow coneflower (*Echinacea paradoxa*)

Mordant: Chrome

4 gallons flowerheads to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool, silk

Plant: Yellow onion (*Allium cepa*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons skins to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)

Mordant: Alum

4 gallons mushroom to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Pale orange/yellow for wool

Plant: Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap (*Cortinarius croceus*)

Mordant: None

4 gallons mushrooms to each pound dry weight of material

Color: Yellow for wool, silk

Plant: Zinnia (*Zinnia sp.*)

Mordant: Alum

3 gallons flowers to each pound dry weight of material

Dye Plants Catalog

Alkanet (Alkanna, Dyer's Alkanet, Dyer's Bugloss, Orchanet or Spanish Bugloss)

Alkanna tinctoria



Hardy biennial. 10-30cm (4-12") x 20-30cm (8-12"), Full sun or partial shade, well drained alkaline or sandy soil, tolerates dry soil well.

Sow in Spring under cover, prick out into individual pots to grow on. Plant out in Summer. Can also be propagated by division in Spring. Due to the long taproot, this plant is difficult to remove once grown.

Lift roots in Fall.

Check local laws, restricted in certain countries.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
None	Blue-gray	wool
Alum	Reddish tan	all materials
Acetic acid	Reddish purple	wool

Barberry (Common Barberry, European Barberry, Holy Thorn, Jaundice Berry, Pepperidge Bush, Piprage or Sowberry)

Berberis vulgaris



Hardy shrub. 3m (9 feet) x 2m (6 feet) wide, Full sun or partial shade, any soil.

Propagated by seed sown in Spring, ripe cuttings taken in Fall and planted in a cold frame in sandy soil, or by suckers — which are prolific and should be removed regularly if not required, or the plant may become invasive.

Attracts wildlife. However in rural areas near wheat fields, it may make you unpopular with farmers, as it is the alternate host for wheat rust.

Cut whole plants.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Tan	all materials
Copperas	Dark green	wool, cotton, linen
Blue vitriol	Green	all materials

Beet (Beetroot)

Beta vulgaris



Hardy biennial treated as annual. Height and spread varies according to variety, Full sun, rich soil not recently manured.

"Wash" seed in flour and sow in late Spring. Thin to 3"x3". Water sufficiently to stop soil drying out, but don't overdo it or you will produce leaves at the expense of roots.

Lift roots in October. To avoid bleeding, do not remove leaves until you wish to use the roots.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Tan	wool, silk

Blackberry

Rubus plicatus syn. *R. fruticosus*



Photo: Llez

Hardy shrub/climber. Full sun or partial shade, any soil.

Prepare a piece of ground 60cm (2') x 60cm a month before planting, digging out all weeds, removing the top spit of soil and forking in 3" garden compost before returning it. Top dress with Growmore.

Berries are produced on wood one year old, so it is conventional to train all the current year's canes in the opposite direction to last year's.

Collect berries June-September, depending on variety. Cut stems and leaves after harvesting fruit.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Reddish tan	wool, silk
Tin	Bright purple	all materials
Alum	Browny purple	all materials

Bloodroot (Red Puccoon or Tetterwort)

Sanguinaria canadensis



Hardy perennial. 30cm (1') x 20cm (8"), Sun or dappled shade, light to medium well drained soil, preferably moist. Tolerates very acid soil.

Can be propagated by division in August, cuttings taken in Spring or by sowing seed when ripe in a cold frame when ripe, potting on and planting out in final position in the second year.

Lift roots in Fall.

Note: Toxic. Wear gloves. Do not eat.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
none	Orange	all materials
Alum	Rust - orange	wool, silk, cotton

Tin

Red

wool

Butterfly Weed or Pleurisy Root

Asclepias tuberosa syn. *A. decumbens*



Hardy perennial. 75cm (30") x 50cm (20"), Sun or dappled shade, well drained light to medium soil.

Propagate by division in Spring, basal cuttings in late Spring or seed. Pot on until growing away well, then plant in final position in Summer or the following Spring. Seed should be sown when ripe or stratified seed under cover at 18°C (65°F) in early Spring. Germination may take up to 3 months. Plant out the following Spring into final position.

Protect young plants from slugs.

Collect flowers July to September.

Note: poisonous if eaten.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	all materials

Red Cedar (Giant Arborvitae, Giant Cedar, Pacific or Western Red Cedar)

Thuja plicata syn. *T. gigantea*



Hardy (to -23°C/-10°F) evergreen tree. 60m (196ft) x 12m (39ft), Sun to dappled shade, moist or wet soil. Tolerates very alkaline soil.

Can be propagated in a cold frame from semi-ripe cuttings from July-September, planted out the following Spring or Autumn. Also from seed.

Collect berries and twigs September-October.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Red-brown	wool
Chrome	Red-brown	all materials

Chameleon Plant (Houttuynia, Ji Cai or Tsi)

Houttuynia cordata



Hardy perennial. 60cm (2ft) x 1m (3ft), Full shade or semi-shade, moist or wet soil.

Invasive, particularly in moist or wet soil.

Prefers very wet soil, and will even grow in water, but may survive in dry shade. Propagate by division in Spring or from seed sown under cover, potted on and planted out in Spring. Plant about 45cm (18") apart each way.

Cut whole plants as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Gold	wool

Red Clover or Purple Clover

Trifolium pratense



Hardy perennial. 60cm (2ft) x 60cm, Full sun, any well drained soil. Tolerates strong wind.

Do not grow near gooseberries or camellias.

Easy to grow from seed, which should be soaked for 12 hours beforehand in warm water.

The plant is a popular green manure because the roots fix nitrogen in the soil.

Cut flowers, leaves and stems as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Gold	wool

Common Cocklebur

Xanthium strumarium



Hardy annual. 80cm (31") x 40cm (15"), Full sun, any soil.

Invasive.

Sow seed in Spring or Fall and keep moist until germination occurs.

Collect fruits from August to October.

Banned in several US states as a noxious weed.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Rich brown	all materials
Copperas	Dark green	wool

Alum

Brass

wool, silk, cotton

European Coltsfoot or **Kuan Dong**

Tussilago farfara



Hardy perennial. 25cm (10") x 1m (3'), Full sun or partial shade, moist, neutral to alkaline soil.

Invasive. Keep restricted or it will overtake your garden.

Propagate by seed sown in Spring or by division in Spring or Fall.

Cut whole above ground plants as required.

Banned in some countries and restricted in several US states as a noxious weed.

Dye quick reference

Mordant Color

Material

Copperas	Green	wool
Alum	Yellow - green	wool
Alum	Yellow - green	wool

Yellow Coneflower or Ozark Coneflower

Echinacea paradoxa



Hardy perennial. 90-120cm (3-4') x 38-45cm (15-18"), Full sun or semi-shade, well drained humus-rich soil.

Can be propagated by division in Spring or Fall, but usually by surface sowing seed direct or if under cover, pricking out, potting on, hardening off and planting out after the last Spring frost date.

Cut flowerheads as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Brass - greeny brass	wool

Crabapple

Malus sp.



Hardy tree. 10-20' x 12-20', Full sun, well prepared rich soil.

Usually grown as an ornamental, crabapple trees require little attention beyond watering in dry spells and a good feed every year or so.

Collect ripe red fruits when available in Fall.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Pink	wool, silk

Dandelion

Taraxacum officinale



Photo: David Monniaux

Hardy perennial. 30cm (1') x 45cm (18"), Sun or shade, moist rich soil, neutral to alkaline, but will grow almost anywhere.

Sow seed in Spring or "adopt" self-sown plants. Once established, the plants will regrow and can be cut back whenever the mood takes you.

Cut flowers as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	wool, silk, cotton
Tin	Yellow	all materials

Common Day Lily or Xuan Cao

Hemerocallis fulva



Hardy perennial. 1m (39") x 1m, Full sun or partial shade, any soil. Tolerates heavy clay.

Can become invasive.

Can be propagated by division in Spring or sow seed under cover mid-Spring, grow on under cover until the following Spring, then plant out in final position after hardening off.

Protect from slugs.

Pick flowers from June to August.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Tan - brown	linen, cotton
Tin	Bright yellow	all materials
Chrome	Gold - brass	wool, silk

Alum

Yellow

all materials

Common Elder (Black Elder or European Elder[berry])

Sambucus nigra



Hardy shrub/tree. 4.5-10m (15-30') x 3.5-4.5m (11-15)', Sun or partial shade (golden leaved varieties in cool moist shade), rich moist soil, neutral to alkaline.

Propagate by seed or cuttings. May be difficult to eradicate once established.

Pick leaves as required. Collect berries from August to September.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Tin	Blue-gray	all materials
Chrome	Greeny blue	wool, silk

Alum	Purple	wool
Alum	Lemon yellow	wool

European Goldenrod

Solidago virgaurea



Hardy perennial. 80cm (32") x 45-60cm (18-24"), Full sun or partial shade, well drained, moisture retaining soil. Grows well in heavy clay.

Invasive.

Propagate by seed sown in Spring or by division in Spring or Fall. Topdress every Spring with fish, blood and bone or organic Growmore, working the dressing into the top layer of soil.

Harvest flowers from July to October. Pull up whole plants as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Dark green	wool, silk
Copperas	Dark green	wool, cotton, linen
Tin	Olive green	all materials
Chrome	Gold	all materials
Tin	Gold - bright yellow	all materials
Alum	Soft yellow	all materials

Hickory

Carya sp.



Hardy tree. 30m (100'), Full sun, rich moist or wet soil.

Often found on the banks of rivers or in swamps.

Cut twigs as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Tan	all materials

Hollyhock or Shu Kui

Alcea rosea syn. *Althaea rosea*



Photo: Jazz-face

Hardy biennial.

120-250cm (4-8') x 38-60cm (15-24"), Full sun, well drained soil.

Available in many different colors and styles of flower. This one is a cultivar called 'Nigra', and in my opinion is absolutely beautiful. Sow seed in situ in Spring or late Summer. You may need to provide support, particularly if it is growing in a windy position. Self-sows, but if you want a continuous supply, you will need to sow two years in a row to start the cycle off.

Pick flowers when open.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Orange - rust	wool

Common Juniper and Dwarf Juniper

Juniperus communis



Hardy tree. 2-4m (6-12') x 6-12m (20-40'), Full sun or partial shade, most soil types.

There are male and female plants, so buy a plant with berries on if you intend using it for herbal medicine. Sow seed under cover in Spring or Fall or propagate by heel cuttings in Fall.

Collect ripe berries by laying a sheet under the tree and shaking the branches until they fall.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
---------	-------	----------

Alum	Brown	wool
------	-------	------

Lady's Bedstraw or Yellow Bedstraw

Galium verum



Hardy Perennial. 60cm (2') x 1m (3'), Full sun, moist well drained neutral to alkaline soil.

Invasive.

Sow ripe seed in Summer or divide existing stock in Spring or Fall.

Collect whole plants and divide into top parts for yellow and roots for red dye.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Red	wool

Alum Yellow wool

Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla mollis



Hardy Perennial. 60cm (2') x 75cm (30"), Semi-shade, fertile soil.

Sow seed in Spring or divide existing stock in Spring or Fall. Seedlings will need regular watering for the first season, but established plants are drought-tolerant. Divide every 2-3 years after flowering. Cut flowers back to base before seeding, to prevent excessive self-sowing.

Cut green parts as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Blue vitriol	Green	wool

Lily of the Valley (Ling Lan or Our Lady's Tears)

Convallaria majalis



Hardy Perennial. 23-30cm (9-12"), Semi-shade to deep shade, rich moist soil.

Though it prefers some shade and rich moist soil, I have grown this plant in full sun on chalk with excellent results. It does not like boggy areas or pure clay soils. Sow fresh seed when ready (or stored seed in late Winter), thinly in pots in a cold frame. Germination can take up to a year. Allow to grow on for the first year, feeding during the growing season. When dormant, divide into individual pots and grow on for a further year, planting in their final position when dormant. Existing stocks can be divided in September.

Cut stems and leaves as required.

Subject to legal restrictions in certain countries.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Rust	wool
Alum	Greeny yellow	wool, silk
Tin	Yellow - gold	all materials

Logwood

Haematoxylum campechianum



Small tree. A native of South America, cultivation details unknown.

The chips of heartwood used for dyeing require felling all or part of the tree. Wood chips are usually purchased from specialist suppliers.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
None	Blue	all materials
Alum	Dark purple	all materials
Chrome	Dark blue	silk
Chrome	Black	wool
Copperas	Black, Dark blue-gray	all materials

Madder (Dyer's Madder or Indian Madder)

Rubia tinctorum



Hardy evergreen perennial creeper. 30cm (12") x 1m (3'), Full sun or semi-shade, rich well-limed soil. Tolerates maritime exposure.

Propagate by sowing seed as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame, prick out and pot on, growing in a shady part of the greenhouse for the first year. Plant out in early Summer.

Dig roots from 2-3 year old plants in Spring or Fall. Roots can be dried for later use.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Orange - rust	all materials

Alum

Red

all materials

Red Maple

Acer rubrum



Hardy tree. 30m (100'), Full sun or semi-shade, moist, well drained, neutral to acid soil. Tolerates heavy clay and atmospheric pollution.

Requires little attention apart from watering during dry spells and feeding once a year.

When collecting bark, ensure that you take it in one or two unconnected areas, and that you do not "ring" the tree, as this will kill it.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Purple	wool

French Marigold (*Tagetes*)

Tagetes patula



Photo: EugeneZelenko

Half hardy annual. 30cm (1') x 30cm (1'), Full sun, well drained fertile soil.

Sow direct April-May or indoors Feb-April, transplant June 15-20cm (6-8") apart or buy in as bedding plants. Deadhead to prolong flowering.

Pick flowers as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	wool, silk

Great Mullein (Mao Rui Hua, Torches or Wild Tobacco)

Verbascum thapsus



Hardy perennial. 2m (6') x 1m (3'), Full sun, light, well drained to dry soil.

Propagate by sowing seed in Fall or by root cuttings in Winter. Self-seeds freely.

Collect above ground parts when flowering. Plants for use in dying may be dried for later use.

Irritant. Wear gloves when handling.

Cultivation is banned in some US states and certain other countries.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Tin	Bright yellow	all materials
Chrome	Gold	all materials
Alum	Yellow	all materials

Mushrooms and other fungi



Agaricus arvensis (Horse mushroom), *Agaricus campestris* (Meadow/field mushroom), *Boletus edulis* (King bolete) and *Bulgaria inquinans* (Black Bulgar)



Calvatia gigantea (Giant puffball), *Cantharellus cibarius* (Chanterelle), *Clitocybe nuda* (Blewit) and *Clitocybe saeva* (Blewit)



Coprinus comatus (Shaggy mane), *Cortinarius cinnamomeus* (Cinnamon webcap), *Cortinarius croceus* (Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap) and

Cortinarius sanguineus (Bloodred webcap)



Cortinarius semisanguineus (Surprise webcap), *Fomes fomentarius* (Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus), *Ganoderma applanatum* (Artist's conk) and *Ganoderma lucidum* (Reishi)



Ganoderma tsugae (Reishi), *Grifola frondosa* (Maitake), *Gymnopilus penetrans* (Common rustgill) and *Hydnellum caeruleum* (Blue spine/Blue tooth)



Hydnellum peckii (Devil's Tooth), *Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur tuft),

Hypomyces lactifluorum (Lobster mushroom) and *Inonotus hispidus* (Hairy bracket)



Laetiporus sp. (Chicken of the woods), *Paxillus involutus* (Brown roll-rim/Poison pax), *Phaeolus schweinitzii* (Dyer's polypore) and *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster mushroom)



Sarcodon imbricatus (Shingled hedgehog mushroom), *Thelephora palmata* (Stinking earthfan) and *Tricholomopsis rutilans* (Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric)

Most types of fungus are not cultivated, so cultivation information is not readily available. In most cases the part used is the fruiting body (mushroom), which should be collected as it becomes available. Fungus may be dried by stringing and hanging up in an airy place.

Dye quick reference:

Artist's conk

Mordant	Color	Material
Ammonia	Rust	wool

Black Bulgar

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Blue vitriol	Brown	wool
Tin	Chocolate brown	wool
Alum	Gray brown	wool
None	Red brown/golden brown	wool
Ammonia	Pinky red	wool

Blewit

Mordant Color Material

Ammonia Green wool

Bloodred webcap

Mordant Color Material

Blue vitriol	Deep fox-red/cinnamon	wool
None	Orange, rust	wool
Tin	Scarlet/Orange/yellow	wool
Alum	Red/red-orange	wool

Blue spine/Blue tooth

Mordant Color Material

Alum	Gray blue	wool
Tin	Light blue	wool
None	Tan	wool
Blue vitriol	Browny green	wool
Chrome	Gray green	wool
Copperas	Greenish yellow	wool

Brown roll-rim/Poison pax

Mordant Color Material

None	Beige	wool
Alum	Beige	wool
Blue vitriol	Tan	wool
Tin	Orange	wool
Copperas	Green gold	wool

Chanterelle

Mordant	Color	Material
Ammonia	Dull yellow	wool

Chicken of the woods

Mordant	Color	Material
various	Blue or green	wool

Cinnamon webcap

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Gray brown	wool
Blue vitriol	Red brown/cinnamon	wool
Tin	Muddy orange	wool
None	Orange	wool
Alum	Orange	wool

Common rustgill

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Brown	wool
Blue vitriol	Cinnamon	wool
None	Gold	wool
Alum	Gold	wool
Tin	Gold/yellow	wool
Chrome	Mustard	wool

Devil's hoofnail/Touchwood fungus

Mordant	Color	Material
None	Beige	wool
Alum	Beige brown/mustard	wool
Copperas	Gray brown/tan	wool
Chrome	Yellow brown	wool
Blue vitriol	Yellow brown/light brown	wool
Tin	Yellow brown/mustard	wool

Devil's Tooth

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

None	Beige	wool
------	-------	------

Dyer's polypore

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Blue vitriol	Brown	wool
--------------	-------	------

Ammonia	Orange	wool
---------	--------	------

None	Beige/yellow	wool
------	--------------	------

Tin	Bright yellow	wool
-----	---------------	------

Alum	Yellow	wool
------	--------	------

Giant puffball

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Dark red	wool
---------	----------	------

Hairy bracket

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Blue vitriol	Gold brown	wool
--------------	------------	------

Copperas	Gray green/greenish brown	wool
----------	---------------------------	------

Alum	Yellow	wool
------	--------	------

Horse mushroom

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

None	Yellowish green	wool
------	-----------------	------

King bolete

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Reddish yellow	wool
---------	----------------	------

Lobster mushroom

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Blue-green	wool
---------	------------	------

Maitake

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Light yellow	wool
---------	--------------	------

Meadow/field mushroom

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

None	Yellowish green	wool
------	-----------------	------

Oyster mushroom

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Copperas	Moss green	wool
----------	------------	------

Plums and custard/Red-haired agaric

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Copperas	Brown black/tan	wool
----------	-----------------	------

Alum	Brown	wool
------	-------	------

Chrome	Brown	wool
--------	-------	------

Blue vitriol	Dark brown	wool
--------------	------------	------

None	Mustard	wool
------	---------	------

Tin	Mustard	wool
-----	---------	------

Reishi

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Rust	wool
---------	------	------

Shaggy mane

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Grayish green	wool
---------	---------------	------

Shingled hedgehog mushroom

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Ammonia	Grayish-green	wool
---------	---------------	------

Stinking earthfan

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Greenish tan	wool
None	Tan	wool
Alum	Tan	wool
Chrome	Tan	wool
Blue vitriol	Tan	wool
Tin	Olive green	wool

Sulphur tuft

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Cinnamon	wool
Copperas	Dark forest green	wool
Blue vitriol	Yellow olive/yellow brown	wool
None	Gold/yellow	wool
Tin	Ochre yellow/gold	wool
Alum	Yellowish beige/gold	wool

Surprise webcap

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Cinnamon	wool
Copperas	Purple/tan	wool
Alum	Orange red/apricot	wool
None	Orange/rust/apricot	wool
Blue vitriol	Orange yellow/salmon pink	wool

Yellow-gilled cinnamon webcap

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Gray/red brown/orange	wool
Alum	Orange/yellow	wool
None	Pale orange/yellow	wool

Stinging Nettle

Urtica dioica



Photo: Rasbak

Hardy perennial. 1.5m (5'), Full sun or semi-shade, moist, nitrogen-rich soil.

Invasive.

You should have no trouble growing this plant, only in keeping it in check. It likes rich soil, and is used as an indicator for good growing land. Sow direct somewhere out of sight (as it is not generally considered attractive), or divide existing stock in Spring. Cut to the ground in Summer for a second crop. Control the spread to prevent invasion by pulling up dormant rhizomes.

Cut whole plants as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Greenish yellow	wool

Oak

Quercus sp.



Hardy tree. 25m (85'), Full sun or partial shade, any moist, medium-heavy soil. Tolerates strong winds.

Requires little attention apart from watering during dry spells and feeding once a year.

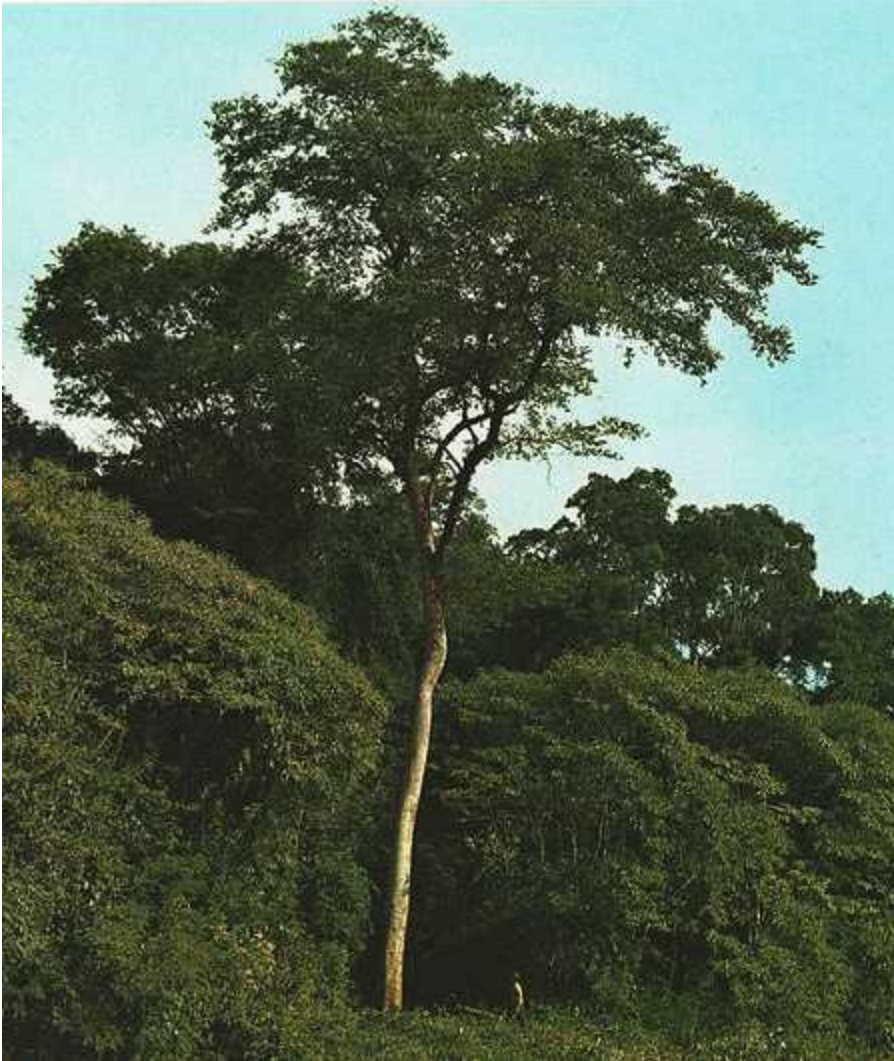
Gather acorns and hulls when available.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Tan	wool, silk

Old Fustic (Cubanwood or Dyer's Mulberry)

Maclura tinctoria



Medium-large tree. A native of South America, cultivation details unknown.

The chips of heartwood used for dyeing require felling all or part of the tree. Wood chips are usually purchased from specialist suppliers.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Blue vitriol	Green	all materials

Alum	Bright yellow	wool, silk, cotton
Chrome	Gold	all materials

Red Onion and Yellow Onion

Allium cepa



Photo: Jebulon

Hardy bulb treated as annual. 38cm (15") x 15cm (6"), Full sun, rich well cultivated soil.

Onions are grown either from seed sown in Spring or Fall or sets planted at the same times. They are usually spaced about 10-15cm (4-6") apart, depending on the size of onion required. and kept weed free and well watered.

The part used for dyeing is the skins. You may get a higher volume of skins by sowing broadcast and thinning to 2-8cm (1-3") each way. This will also give you smaller onions useful for pickling.

Onions are normally harvested after the leaves have died down for storage, but if you are using them straight away you can harvest as required.

Dye quick reference:

Red onion

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Tan - brown	cotton, linen
Tin	Tan - brown	all materials
Chrome	Dark gold	wool, silk

Yellow onion

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	wool, silk

Oregano (Wild Marjoram or Wintersweet)

Origanum vulgare



Hardy perennial. 45cm (18") x 45cm (18"), Full sun or semi-shade, well drained soil.

Sow indoors Feb-April ½cm (¼") deep, transplant May 20cm (8") apart. Remove flowers to prolong picking.

Cut above ground parts as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
----------------	--------------	-----------------

Alum	Red	wool
------	-----	------

Peach (Nectarine or Ping Tzu-T' Ao)

Prunus persica



Hardy tree. 5-7.5m (15-25'), Full sun, well drained rich soil.

If not grown for fruit, this requires little attention apart from watering during dry spells and feeding once a year.

Collect leaves as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Tin	Bright yellow	all materials
Alum	Yellow	all materials

Pokeweed or Chui Xu Shang Lu

Phytolacca americana



Hardy annual. 2m (6') x 1.5m (5'), Full sun or semi-shade, any moist soil.

Can be propagated by division in March or October, also by seed sown in a cold frame in Spring or Fall. Seedlings should be potted on and overwintered in the frame, planting out the following Spring. Pokeweed prefers woodland conditions and grows well under trees.

Collect stems complete with berries for most dyeing purposes. Some dye recipes require dried berries.

Most parts of the plant are toxic. Do not eat. Toxins may enter through the skin. Always wear gloves when handling.

***If a child eats a single berry, treat for poisoning*.**

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Brown	wool, silk
Alum	Red	all other materials
Tin	Orange	all materials
Chrome	Rust	all materials

Common Privet (European Privet or Wild Privet)

Ligustrum vulgare



Hardy evergreen shrub. 3m (10') x 3m, Full sun or semi-shade, any soil. Tolerates drought, maritime exposure, atmospheric pollution, heavy clay soil and very alkaline soil.

Often grown as a hedge. Plant 20cm (8") apart in a staggered row for fast hedge creation from scratch. Clip at the beginning and end of Summer, making a ^ shape at the top of the hedge to avoid collapse if snow accumulates.

Collect clippings when available.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
---------	-------	----------

Alum	Tan - light brown	all materials
Blue vitriol	Bright green	all materials
Copperas	Dark green	wool

Queen Anne's Lace (Hu Luo Bo or Wild Carrot)

Daucus carota



Hardy biennial treated as annual. 1m (3') x 30cm (1'), Full sun, rich soil fertilized for the previous crop.

Carrots are usually sown very thinly in v-shaped trenches any time from early Spring to mid-Fall. An alternative method is station sowing (sowing 2 or 3 seeds at the desired final spacing). Final spacing is 10cm (4") x 15cm (6"). Keep well weeded and thin to a single carrot per station (or thin to final spacing). Foliar feed twice a week with half-strength seaweed fertilizer.

Pull up whole plants 4-5 months after sowing.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Chrome	Tan - light brown	all materials

Alum

Yellow

all materials

Safflower (Dyer's Saffron, Hong Hua or Saffron Thistle)

Carthamus tinctorius



Hardy Annual. 1m (3') x 30-38cm (12-15"), Full sun, well drained soil.

Sow seed in Spring under cover, pot on and plant out in late Spring/early Summer. **Do not grow on the same site in successive years.** Susceptible to mosaic virus, keep away from food crops, especially *Solanaceae* and *Cucurbitaceae*. Keep well watered and weed free.

Pick whole flower heads in Summer.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Tin	Rust - dark gold	all materials
Copperas	Brass	all materials
Tin	Rust - dark gold	all materials

Alum Yellow - tan wool, silk, leather

Scarlet Sage (Texas Sage or Zhu Chun)

Salvia coccinea



Photo: Forest and Kim Starr

Half hardy perennial. 60-120cm (2-4') x 75cm (2'6"), Full sun, neutral to acid, well drained soil.

Sow ripe seed under cover in early Spring, pot on and overwinter. Plant out in early Summer. Keep well watered.

Collect flowers late Summer to early Fall.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Tan - brown	cotton, linen
Alum	Dusky rose	wool, silk

St. John's Wort (Hypericum or Guan Ye Lian Qiao)

Hypericum perforatum



Hardy Perennial. 30-60cm (1-2') x 15-45cm (6-18"), Full sun or semi-shade, light dry soil.

Sow freshly ripened seed under cover in Fall, prick out into individual pots and grow on under cover. Plant out in Summer into dry light soil. Can also be propagated by division in Spring or Fall.

Cut top parts as required.

Cultivation restricted in certain countries.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	wool

Sassafras (Silky Sassafras, White Sassafras)

Sassafras albidum



Hardy tree. 25m (80') x 15m (50'), Full sun or semi-shade, well drained, moist, neutral to acid soil.

Requires little attention apart from watering during dry spells and feeding once a year.

Collect twigs and leaves as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Gray - black	wool, cotton, linen
Alum	Reddish tan	wool, silk

Sedge

Carex sp.



Photo: Derjst

Hardy and semi-hardy perennials. 80cm (30"), Full sun or semi-shade, light to medium, moist or wet soil.

Can be grown from seed or plugs in wet soil kept moist until well established.

Cut at ground level as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Tan - brass	all materials
Copperas	Dark gray-green	all materials
Chrome	Gold	all materials

Red Sumac or Smooth Sumach

Rhus glabra



Hardy shrub. 3m (9') x 3m, Full sun, any well drained soil.

To grow from seed, pre-soak fresh or stored seed in water for 24 hours, starting at a temperature of 80-90°C (175-195°F). Sow in a cold frame when ripe or in early Spring. Prick out, pot on and grow on in a greenhouse or cold frame until the following Spring, when they can be planted out. Can also be propagated by cuttings in December, suckers in dormant period or semi-ripe cuttings from July-August, potted up and overwintered under cover and planted out in Spring.

Collect berries, twigs and leaves as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Copperas	Gray - brown	wool, cotton, linen
Alum	Tan	all materials
Blue vitriol	Green	all materials

Sunflower

Helianthus annuus and *H. giganteus*



Photo: FishSpeaker

Hardy Annual. 1-3m (3-10') x 30-45cm (12-18"), Full sun, rich soil of pH 6-8.

Sow March to early June, 1cm (½") deep in rows 45cm (18") apart. Thin to 15cm (6") apart in the rows and provide support. Or sow seeds individually in 3" pots from February on, gradually pot on to large buckets or transplant late May at same distances.

Collect flowers when they have faded and hang up by the stem in an airy place for a few days to loosen seeds for collection.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Blue vitriol	Gray	silk
Blue vitriol	Green	wool
Copperas	Blue-gray	wool, cotton
Alum	Yellowish tan	wool

Common Tansy (Golden Buttons or Ju Hao)

Tanacetum vulgare



Photo: Wsiegmund

Hardy Perennial. 60-120cm (2-4'), Full sun, well drained to dry soil.

Invasive. Sow seed under cover in Spring or Fall and transplant in Summer, or increase stock by division in Spring or Fall.

Collect leaves as required.

Extremely toxic. Wear gloves when handling.

Restricted in certain countries.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
---------	-------	----------

Blue vitriol Yellow-green wool

Turmeric (Indian Saffron or Haldi)

Curcuma longa



Tender perennial (tropical), requires temperatures of 20-30°C (68-86°F). Grow out of direct sunlight and keep moist. Very well drained compost.

To grow outside the tropics plant juicy rhizomes, bud upwards in gritty compost, water and enclose in a plastic bag until shoots emerge. Remove bag and keep well watered, never allowing the compost to dry out

completely. Stand on a gravel tray topped up with water to keep the atmosphere moist.

Processing ripe rhizomes to produce turmeric powder is probably impractical at home, it's a long process involving boiling them for several hours, drying them in an oven, and then grinding to a powder. Turmeric is cheap enough (especially in Asian stores) to make all this effort seem a bit of a waste. It's an attractive plant, though, and worth growing just as a conversation piece.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Blue vitriol	Green	all materials
Chrome	Gold - brass	all materials
Alum	Yellow	all materials

Virginia Creeper (American Ivy or Woodbine)

Parthenocissus quinquefolia



Hardy climber. Up to 30m (100'), Full sun or semi-shade, any moist, well drained soil. Tolerates atmospheric pollution.

Can be propagated with semi-ripe cuttings from July-August or hardwood basal cuttings of current year's growth. Strike cuttings in cold frame, grow on and overwinter, then plant out after last Spring frost date. Can also be grown from seed sown as soon as it is ripe in a cold frame, pricked out, potted on and overwintered, planted out after last Spring frost date.

All parts are used for dyeing, cut as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant Color Material

Alum Peach wool

Woad (Dyer's Woad or Song Lan)

Isatis tinctoria



Hardy biennial. 50-120cm (20-48") x 60cm (2'), Full sun, rich well drained neutral to alkaline soil.

Sow seed direct in Spring. As a brassica, it should be included in a rotation, and not grown on a site on which other brassicas (eg. cabbages, radishes) have been grown in the previous three years. Do not grow on the same site for more than 2 years in succession.

Pick leaves in Summer and macerate to obtain the blue pigment.

Dye quick reference

Mordant Color Material

Alum Blue wool

Zinnia

Zinnia sp.



Photo: Pan krzyżówka

Half hardy annual. 45-50cm (18-20") x 25-30cm (10-12"), Full sun, rich well drained soil.

Sow under cover in early Spring, prick out, pot on and harden off before planting out after the last Spring frost date.

Collect flowers as required.

Dye quick reference

Mordant	Color	Material
Alum	Yellow	wool, silk

If you liked this book, please let others know by [posting a review](#).

To be first to hear about my new books sign up to my [New Releases](#) mailing list.

If you're interested in herbs for healing you may also enjoy:

Herbal Medicine From Your Garden series

Volume 1: [Home Remedies and How to Make Them](#)

Volume 2: [Home Remedies from Culinary Herbs and Spices](#)

Volume 3: [Healing Herbs in Pots and Containers](#)

Volume 4: [Natural Remedies from Salad Herbs](#)

Volume 5: [Healing Herbs for the Ornamental Garden](#)

Volume 6: [Unusual Medicinal Herbs](#)

Volume 7: [Home Remedies from Weeds and Wild Flowers](#)

Volume 8: [Sacred Herbs for Healing](#)

Volume 9: [Herbs from Native American Medicine](#)

Table of Contents

[copyright](#)

[A 19th Century Craft Brought Up To Date](#)

[Equipment Needed for Dying](#)

[Basic Dying Method](#)

[Blacks and Grays](#)

[Blues](#)

[Browns and Tans](#)

[Greens](#)

[Oranges and Rusts](#)

[Purples](#)

[Reds and Pinks](#)

[Yellows](#)

[Dye Plants Catalog](#)

[Barberry \(Common Barberry, European Barberry, Holy Thorn, Jaundice Berry, Pepperidge Bush, Piplage or Sowberry\)](#)

[Beet \(Beetroot\)](#)

[Blackberry](#)

[Bloodroot \(Red Puccoon or Tetterwort\)](#)

[Butterfly Weed or Pleurisy Root](#)

[Red Cedar \(Giant Arborvitae, Giant Cedar, Pacific or Western Red Cedar\)](#)

[Chameleon Plant \(Houttuynia, Ji Cai or Tsi\)](#)

[Red Clover or Purple Clover](#)

[Common Cocklebur](#)

[European Coltsfoot or Kuan Dong](#)

[Yellow Coneflower or Ozark Coneflower](#)

[Crabapple](#)

[Dandelion](#)

[Common Day Lily or Xuan Cao](#)

[Common Elder \(Black Elder or European Elder\[berry.\]](#)

[European Goldenrod](#)

[Hickory](#)

[Hollyhock or Shu Kui](#)

[Common Juniper and Dwarf Juniper](#)

[Lady's Bedstraw or Yellow Bedstraw](#)
[Lady's Mantle](#)
[Lily of the Valley \(Ling Lan or Our Lady's Tears\)](#)
[Logwood](#)
[Madder \(Dyer's Madder or Indian Madder\)](#)
[Red Maple](#)
[French Marigold \(Tagetes\)](#)
[Great Mullein \(Mao Rui Hua, Torches or Wild Tobacco\)](#)
[Mushrooms and other fungi](#)
[Stinging Nettle](#)
[Oak](#)
[Old Fustic \(Cubanwood or Dyer's Mulberry\)](#)
[Red Onion and Yellow Onion](#)
[Oregano \(Wild Marjoram or Wintersweet\)](#)
[Peach \(Nectarine or Ping Tzu-T' Ao\)](#)
[Pokeweed or Chui Xu Shang Lu](#)
[Common Privet \(European Privet or Wild Privet\)](#)
[Queen Anne's Lace \(Hu Luo Bo or Wild Carrot\)](#)
[Safflower \(Dyer's Saffron, Hong Hua or Saffron Thistle\)](#)
[Scarlet Sage \(Texas Sage or Zhu Chun\)](#)
[St. John's Wort \(Hypericum or Guan Ye Lian Qiao\)](#)
[Sassafras \(Silky Sassafras, White Sassafras\)](#)
[Sedge](#)
[Red Sumac or Smooth Sumach](#)
[Sunflower](#)
[Common Tansy \(Golden Buttons or Ju Hao\)](#)
[Turmeric \(Indian Saffron or Haldi\)](#)
[Virginia Creeper \(American Ivy or Woodbine\)](#)
[Woad \(Dyer's Woad or Song Lan\)](#)
[Zinnia](#)

zlibrary

Your gateway to knowledge and culture. Accessible for everyone.



z-library.se

singlelogin.re

go-to-zlibrary.se

single-login.ru



[Official Telegram channel](#)



[Z-Access](#)



<https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Z-Library>