



Natural Dyeing Online Workshop

Getting Started - What You Will Need

1. **Soymilk** for mordanting - this prepares the fabric to take the dye.
2. **Dyestuff** - this is the plant source from which the dye is extracted. Such as red cabbage, onions, black beans and blackberries (can be frozen from the supermarket) etc - whatever you have access to.
3. **Ingredients for Modifiers** - these change the colours after the fabric has been soaked in the dye.
 - Vinegar
 - Washing Soda also known as Soda Ash or Sodium Carbonate. Can be bought in the washing powder section in your supermarket - It is NOT washing powder! (I will talk to you about this in the course)
 - Copper mixture (made from copper coins) or copper sulphate from the garden centre)
 - Iron liquid, made from rusty nuts and bolts

4. Fabric

We will be using cotton and linen (cellulose fabric) and also raffia (cellulose fibres)

If you buy new fabric it will need to be washed well (twice) to remove the finishing solutions.

Repurposed fabrics could include but must be cotton or linen

- Tablecloths
- Tea towels
- Cotton clothing - pale colours work best but over dyeing is possible and can achieve some interesting results - wash before you dye.
- Curtains
- Doilies
- Scraps of fabric from your stash

5. Raffia

Raffia can be obtained from www.stringharvest.com.au & www.theraffiaconnection.com in Australia

In the UK <https://nutscene.com> if you are looking for raffia through a google search you will need to search for Quality raffia from Madagascar

6. Tools - see below



Tools you will need

Most of these items can be found easily but if you don't have certain things you could possibly find them in a charity shop - you can also improvise.

Remember not to use the same equipment for food cooking as dyeing.

Keep a selection of implements to one side just for your dyeing projects.

- Old towels
- Rubber gloves
- Wooden pegs
- Plastic teaspoons or measuring spoons
- Stainless steel pots med and large (you might find these in some charity shops)
- Glass or stainless steel bowls (1kg yoghurt pots are good to use for small dye projects)
- Jugs - various sizes
- Large old plastic jug - the type you store breakfast cereal (I bought mine very cheaply from a charity shop and it is very useful)
- A sieve or colander
- Net bags to put plant material in when dyeing
- Glass jars (I use lots of these to make jam jar dyes and to store my left over dye)
- Masking tape and felt tip pen - to label your jars and fabrics
- Tongs and wooden spoons
- Camping stove, portable hot plate or inside stove with a good fan / ventilation
- Notebook and pencil - its really important to keep notes