

NATURAL DYES

- Natural dyes are pigments or dyes from vegetal, mineral or other organism origins.
- Most natural dyes are from plant origins and encompass a large range of fruits and berries, seeds, roots, bark, leaves, and flowers.
- Making natural dyes and pigments with local resources has been a part of human culture since approximately 5000 years ago.
- Synthetic dyes were introduced to the textile industry in 1856.
- They seemed like a good solution to uniform, colorfast, bright colors
- They are inexpensive
- The use of these dyes, in mass production for fast fashion especially, is the cause of the most water pollution in any industry, after agriculture.
- These dyes are toxic and most of them never degrade in water.
- Others degrade and cause harmful, toxic and carcinogenic substances as they decay.
- The scum layers of this dye waste in water cause turbidity that prevents photosynthesis of water flora and promotes acidity and toxicity in water sources.
- A reassessment of these harmful practices re-discovery of the potential and importance of conscious and sustainable dyeing within the textile industry is a necessary paradigm shift for the 21st century.

NATURAL MATERIALS FOR DYES

Not all natural materials will produce a dye, and some produce colors that are nothing like the original plant it came from. Here's a list of colors and the plant material that will give you shades in that color.

- Orange: carrots, gold lichen, onion skins
- Brown: dandelion roots, oak bark, walnut hulls, tea, coffee, acorns
- Pink: berries, cherries, red and pink roses, avocado skins and seeds (really!)
- Blue: indigo, woad, red cabbage, elderberries, red mulberries, blueberries, purple grapes, dogwood bark
- Red-brown: pomegranates, beets, bamboo, hibiscus (reddish color flowers), bloodroot
- Grey-black: Blackberries, walnut hulls, iris root
- Red-purple: red sumac berries, basil leaves, day lilies, pokeweed berries, huckleberries
- Green: artichokes, sorrel roots, spinach, peppermint leaves, snapdragons, lilacs, grass, nettles, plantain, peach leaves
- Yellow: bay leaves, marigolds, sunflower petals, St John's Wort, dandelion flowers, paprika, turmeric, celery leaves, lilac twigs, Queen Anne's Lace roots, mahonia roots, barberry roots, yellowroot roots, yellow dock roots.