



TEXTILE DYEING WITH PLANT DYES AND MORDANTS

For textile, wood, paper...

DYEING ADVICES

Dye extracts from *Couleurs de Plantes*® give beautiful shades on natural fibers (silk, wool, linen, hemp, cotton, bamboo...), they can also dye some synthetic fibers (polyamide).

Dyeing with plant dyes (except for indigo) requires a mordanting step. It is a pre-dyeing treatment of the fibers with a metallic salt which allows the fixation of the dye. Our mordants, used in the recommended quantities bellow are safe for the environment. We recommend using alum first, with experience, other mordants may be tested.

The shades achieved will depend on the fiber, the extract and the mordant used as well as the quantities used. Furthermore, all extracts can be mixed together. Natural dyeing allows you to create your own recipes with an infinity of shades.

How to proceed?

Choose **stainless steel or enamel** containers which can contain a big enough volume to immerse your fibers. It is recommended to wear protective gloves during the process.

Avoid hard water. You can use tap water adding acetic acid or white vinegar (about 1,5g/L to reach a pH of 3,5). If you have demineralized water or softened water your results will be better.

1. Preparing the fiber

Weigh the dry fibers before rinsing them (this weight is the Weight Of Fibers = WOF). Determine the quantities of mordants and extracts needed using the table below.

Rinse your fibers (skein, fabric...) using a warm bath. If you are using cellulosic fibers (cotton, linen, hemp...) add soap and sodium carbonate. If you are using "ready to dye" fibers, you can simply rinse them in water and acetic acid.

2. Mordanting with mordants referred A in our catalogue

Use demineralized water or tap water acidified (see above). Dissolve the mordant A... in the lukewarm mordanting bath, about 40°C (bath ratio 1/20), then immerse the rinsed fibers

Heat up the bath gradually up to 85°C, mordant the fibers at 85°C during 45 minutes while stirring regularly. Allow the fibers to cool down **in the bath**.

Rinse thoroughly the fibers with acidified water.

3. Dyeing with extract referred C in our catalogue

Use demineralized water or tap water acidified (see above). Dissolve the dye(s) C... in the lukewarm mordanting bath, about 40°C (bath ratio 1/20), then immerse the rinsed fibers

Heat up the bath gradually up to 85°C, mordant the fibers at 85°C during 45 minutes while stirring regularly. Allow the fibers to cool down **in the bath**.

Rinse thoroughly the fibers with lukewarm water, then air dry the fibers, protected for direct sunlight.

Indicative quantities :

Fibers	Quantity of mordant (% WOF)	Quantity of dye (% WOF)	Shades
Wool, silk, polyamide	1 to 3 %	1 to 3 %	Light colors
	3 to 8%	3 to 8%	Saturated color
Cotton, linen, hemp	2 to 5 %	2 to 5 %	Light colors
	5 to 10%	5 to 10%	Saturated color

Quantities are indicated in % WOF = % weigh of fiber, for example: for 200g of dry fibers, 1% WOF of dye = 2g of dye

We advise to use the same quantity of mordant and dye

The dyes of Chlorophyll C12, Logwood C11 and Cochineal C13 are more concentrated, it is advised to use less than other dyes.

With Alum mordant only, add 10 to 20% of sodium carbonate in the alum bath.

Care of the natural dyes

Wash at 40°C maximum.

Avoid powder detergent (which contain whitening agents which will alter the color) and bleach. You can wash with natural soap, such as Savon de Marseille, with soapnut soap (without whitening agent), with laundry balls or liquid detergent.

Dry the piece protected from direct sunlight.

IMPORTANT

Our dyeing extracts and mordants are to be used for dyeing and decoration – Do not swallow – Keep away from children