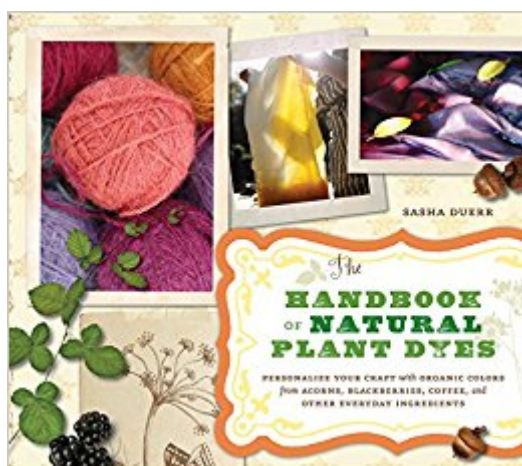


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# The Handbook Of Natural Plant Dyes: Personalize Your Craft With Organic Colors From Acorns, Blackberries, Coffee, And Other Everyday Ingredients



## Synopsis

Artist and designer Sasha Duerr takes the do-it-yourself movement to the next level in her new book, *The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes*. Duerr demonstrates how to create complex and complimentary colors by using plants grown or resources found in the garden or collected from sidewalks and vacant lots. Simple and sustainable, her methods will work on fabrics, paper, shoes, lamp shades, wood beads, leather, and even hair. This is a book for any gardener, sewer, fabric lover, or do-it-yourselfer interested in adding safe and spectacular colors from everyday ingredients.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Natural dyesâ™ unique qualities can make magical color vibrate and glow with hints of comingled, naturally occurring tints, and the richness of these living colors from plantsâ”renewable, nontoxic, and biodegradable sourcesâ”is an ecologically friendly alternative to synthetic dyes. As Duerr provides background information on both natural and chemically produced dyes, she also discusses the growing Slow Movement in reaction to the speed and thoughtlessness of modern life. There are slow approaches not only to food but also to fashion and textiles, and Duerr emphasizes the similarities between cooking and the dye-extraction process. She covers the basics of equipment and safety measures, shares recipes using everything from sour grass to olive leaves, offers instructions for keeping a recipe and swatch book, and lists lots of projects, including tablecloths, scarves, and beads. With eye-catching line drawings, 190 color photos, and a plant palette of sample plants and dye colors, this attractive, user-friendly guide will delight many a do-it-yourselfer.

--Whitney Scott

• "This attractive, user-friendly guide will delight many a do-it-yourselfer." • "Booklist • Ideal for those who love the artful side of both gardening and crafting." • "American Reference Books Annual • A true cornucopia of slow fashion goodness and 'soil to studio'™ guidance." • "Eco Salon • Sasha has the background knowledge and experience to make this book one you will refer to repeatedly. Experienced dyers will find what [Dyer] has to say informative." • "The Hartford Examiner • The only book you would ever need to spend weeks or months or years exploring the latent possibilities of the plants you find in your own environment as sources of rich and wondrous color. What a gift!" • "Plant Whatever Brings You Joy • An absolute must have for fashion and textile artists, designers, students and educators." • "Social Alterations • For anyone interested in exploring natural dyes, The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes is a must-have." • "Curbly.com • An expertly written and beautifully photographed book." • "Oklahoman •

Hi, a lovely book, easy read, precise and to the point, simple with tons of helpful information. This was one of a few that I purchased because now I am interested in natural dyes. This lovely lady came up in online conversation a lot, with how easy it is to understand what you are doing, as she explains it. She is very safety oriented and explains why. She is detailed, very educated in this field, and this is a book for the reference shelf to go back to again and again. A lot of fun saving your plant and food scraps to try and dye a piece. You should see my freezer! Onion skins, avocado pieces. I don't have the plants she has because of where I live, but fun to see which plants she uses. Lovely pictures of pieces she has dyed. Nice size book, quality paper, I am a book lover from way back when and have a personal Library. I hope this review is helpful, I encourage you to read all the reviews, I read lots of reviews before I make my purchases here. Have fun, and oh, would be fun for the kids to join in, but ensure supervision and always, always, ALWAYS label your jars of dye, also date them. That way no one is confused! Good luck and have fun!

Pros: 1) She uses non-toxic mordants 2) Has some easy to use plants I've not seen mentioned (avocado peels and pits, horsetail) 3) Has about 15 plants in back with a color chip illustrating what (wool I assume) would look like if dyed with that plant and 1) no mordant 2) alum mordant 3) iron mordant and 4) both mordants. 4) some lovely project ideas with instructions 5) Very cool instructions given for 4 shades from St Johnswort. Cons: 1) The paint chips are lighter than what I was getting. 2) There were many plants mentioned in the text that weren't included with the paint chips. 3) Some

times a beautiful ball of yarn would be shown but no mordant info given.

I bought this book because I wanted to learn more about natural dyeing and explore doing textile arts more sustainably. I wanted to be able to use salvaged fabric via clothing from the Goodwill, dye them naturally, and then sew them into useful items. I haven't had this book for long, and I'm currently slowly working towards my goal, but I love what I've read in this book so far. It's very easy to follow and the information is just great. The author very thoroughly talks about what is needed to dye textiles naturally---from textile preparation, plant preparation, mordants, etc. and how to do this sustainably in each step of dying. I've read parts of older natural dye books, and I find this one to be a particularly up to date account of natural dying. She talks about how natural dying doesn't equal sustainable dying, that many old methods of natural dying were sustainable and many were not. For each step in the dying process she gives a range of options for different situations. For example, you'll need a fair amount of water for dying. She talks about using rainwater, water from local bodies of water ( the most sustainable choices) to using tap water and how this can be done eco-consciously as well if it's your only option. So all in all I find this book to be very thorough and an absolutely wonderful resource for those wishing to experiment with natural dying in a sustainable fashion. It's a very "eco-forward" natural dye book.

Beautifully written and displayed. For a beginner like me I was looking for more straight forward info. I had to supplement from other sources. I had to sift through the environmental instruction to get to the actual dyeing instruction. The former I am aware of, the latter zilch. I would have appreciated more info on fugitive vs colorfast and listings of both. It may be the perfect book for someone else, not so for me.

This is one of the most user friendly books on Natural plant dyes that I've found. It is well written - easily followed directions and helpful photos. I now look at every plant as a source of dye . From plants in the garden to vegetables from the market, I see things differently. Sasha Duerr has also included a few projects to do with newly dyed yarns and fabrics that are easily followed . I would recommend this book to anyone that is interested in exploring making their own natural dyes , as well as , the recycling aspect of using everyday ingredients .

An incredibly lovely, useful book with a wealth of information. This is absolutely the information needed to set about dyeing one's own plant or animal based fibers and I'm so pleased I purchased

the book. The only reason I don't give it five stars is that for me the layout is frequently quite distracting, as one might guess by the cover. I found the book on after watching a YouTube interview with the author in her dye garden. Thank you, Sasha, for writing this book and sharing your art!

I purchased this not sure if it was what I wanted. The word CRAFT in the title put me off but I was keeping my fingers crossed. What a very pleasant surprise. Sasha goes way beyond what most of the other natural dye books give you. Many other authors seem to like to keep their own little secrets that make you guess if it is going to work. Yes, natural dyeing is part experimental since there are many factors that affect the end result. However, Sasha addresses plant based fibers so much better than any of the other natural dye gurus. Most only address animal fibers in depth. I'm a fan and would highly recommend her books to others.

This is one of the books that I can read in bed instead of a novel. I really love it . The book teaches you to dye fibres and fabric, even is you are hesitant to try it. Poor your morning coffee bag in a cookpot with your white t-shirt, salt and vinegar, and watch the result! Use teabags, stalewine and fresh beetroot on 3 different parts of cotton yarn, and you get a beautiful variagated crochet or tatting yarn. It is that simple. Mordant is not always necessary,...etc,...The author writes about herself, her family, her life, recycling, and the beauty of nature. very enjoyable.

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