PLANTS FOR DYES

YELLOW

goldenrod/*Solidago odora*
Mustard, orange and brown dyes can be obtained from the whole plant.
Flowers: Goldenrod dyes a beautiful warm cream to a rich sunny yellow. It can be overdyed with indigo to create a gorgeous range of vibrant greens. Goldenrod is a very powerful dye plant which creates beautiful bright shades of yellow. You don't have to use large quantities of it and it is even possible to use the solar dyeing method without any additional heating except for the sunlight. Mordant with alum. for yellow. Whole fresh plant using iron mordant yields yellow/green. Fresh flowers with chrome mordant yield gold. With tin mordant yield bright yellow.

yarrow/*Achillea millefolium*
Produces a yellow dye. Yarrow has a good colourfastness with an alum mordant. It contains luteolin the same fast compound found in weld. Extract the yellow dye compounds from the yarrow flowers using a mildly alkaline dye bath. Whole fresh plant with iron mordant yields olive green. Fresh flowers with alum mordant yield yellow and gold.

swamp hibiscus/*Hibiscus moscheutos*
Dark red flowering hibiscus are the most valuable for dyeing. Pink flowers give golds and tans. The flowers are usually chopped up and boiled in water. The fabric or material to be dyed is then soaked in the dye bath for a period of time, depending on the desired depth of color. Mordants such as alum, vinegar, or iron can be added to the dye bath to help the color adhere to the fabric and create different shades. Hibiscus can produce a range of colors, including pink, red, purple, and even blue-green when combined with certain mordants. The resulting color will depend on the type of hibiscus used, the strength of the dye bath, and the type of fabric being dyed.

agrimony/*Agrimonia gryposepala*
Common agrimony were used to dye wool golden. The entire plant is used to make dye and when gathered from spring through September, it yields a pale yellow hue. When gathered late in the year, the dye results in a deep rich yellow. Fresh leaves and stems with alum mordant yield brassy yellow.

jewel weed/*Impatiens capensis; biflora*
Whole plant used to make an orange yellow dye. Works best with alum mordanted yarn, or mordant the wool with alum

boneset/*Eupatorium perfoliatum*
Boneset as a dye, yields light yellows on cellulose yarns and fabrics. Tannin helps better attach alum to cellulose yarns and fabrics for effective results. Gives a light yellow shade on cotton with alum.

carrot, wild/*Daucus carota* (Queen Ann's Lace)
Provides lovely cream to yellow colors. Also yields a beautiful vibrant shade of yellow. Root yields brown color. Leaves provide pale green. Gives good shades on silk. Ideal for textile dyeing.

dandelion/*Taraxacum officinale*
Flowers alone produce a yellow color. Or you can combine both the flowers and the leaves to get green-yellow shades. Whole fresh plant yields magenta. Root yields red to brown. Fresh flowers with alum mordant yield soft yellow. With tin mordant yield yellow.

plantain/*Plantago major*
Whole fresh plant with alum mordant yields dull yellow. With chrome mordant yields camel.

chicory/*Cichorium Intybus*
Chicory is boiled for yellow dye.
Alum mordant produces yellows and browns.

RED

bloodroot/*Sanguinaria Canadensis*
Most widely used plant among native peoples for producing bright red and also pink. A break in the surface of the plant, especially the roots, reveals a reddish sap which can be used as a dye. (sweet flag/ Acorus calamus can be used with bloodroot as a mordant) Mordant: alum and/or iron. *When handling dyestuffs, use rubber gloves to avoid absorbing the dye into your skin. Bloodroot can be toxic if ingested, causing vomiting, dizziness, nerve damage, and even death. Bloodroot sap is a potent irritant of the moist membranes.*

coneflower, purple/*Brauneria purpurea*
Used by Native American tribes for medicinal and dyeing purposes. Whole plant with alum mordant produces pink/purple.

Joe Pye Weed/*Eupatorium purpureum L.*
Both the flowers and seeds have been used in producing pink or red dye for textiles.

sunflower/*Helianthus annus/giganteus L.*
Outer seed coatings are boiled and used as a dull, dark red dye. Blooms produce natural yellow dye Sunflowers produce a bright yellow dye in alkaline solutions that is not lightfast. In acetic acid solutions, however, sunflowers give a colorfast golden color on wool with an alum mordant.

GREEN

coneflower, cutleaf/*Rudbeckia laciniata*
A green dye is made from the flowers. While it is possible to get a reasonably strong shade, Rudbeckia, for the most part, tends to dye a more muted range of colors that is appealing in a soft, earthy, natural, and organic way.

blackeyed Susan/*Rudbeckia hirta L*
Black-eyed Susan flowers can be used for natural dyeing, and they're specifically used to achieve a pale or sage green. Browns and yellows can also be achieved. Yellow and gold from leaves and stems. Shades of green from flower heads.

comfrey/*Symphytum officinale L.*
Comfrey is the most recommended material to use for green dye. Used on fibers and in coloring soap. Alum mordant gives most brilliant green color.

nettle, stinging/*Urtica dioica*
Nettle is one of the dye plants of which it is best used in spring when the shoots are fresh and young. Then, you can receive a beautiful sage green. Whole fresh plant with alum mordant produces yellowish green.

garden onion/*Allium cepa L.*
Bulb peelings used as a green dye for wool. Yellow skin used fresh or dried with tin mordant yields bright orange. Red skin fresh or dried used with alum mordant yields reddish orange.

tansy/*Tanacetum vulgare*
Fresh tops with iron mordant produce dark green. Fresh flowers with alum mordant produce greenish yellow.

blue flag/*Iris versicolor*
The leaves are used to make a green dye, and the root to make black dye and ink.

BLUE

Blue False Indigo/ *Baptisia tinctoria (L.)* or **Wild Indigo**/ *Baptisia australis (L.)* Blue dye came from the leaves and yellow from the flowers. Known for blue dye production. A blue dye can be rendered from the leaves. Cherokee Indians and early settlers prepared a blue dye from the roots. Plant sap turns an inky blue color when exposed to the air. Can be used with several mordants, such as alum, iron, and tin. However, indigo is unique in that it does not require a mordant to bind to the fabric; instead, the dye molecules bond directly to the fibers

Butterfly pea/*Clitoria ternatea*
Produces a beautiful blue color used for dyes and food coloring. The flower contains a natural blue pigment called anthocyanin, a water-soluble pigment extracted from the blue pea petals and used as a natural dye. The petals are typically soaked in hot water or boiled to extract the pigment, and then the liquid is strained and used as a dye.

Woad/*Isatis tinctoria*
Fresh, young leaves produce pale to mid blue color depending on the type of fabric and the amount of woad used. Used since ancient times, especially in Europe. Mordant: alum.

BROWN/BLACK/NEUTRAL

cattail/*Typha latifolia*
Cattails yield a beige dye color.

black walnut tree/*Juglans nigra*
Bark, roots and husks used to make a brown dye. Leaves used to make a green dye. Roots and nuts used to make a black dye.

walnut tree, white/*Juglans cinerea*
Most popular plant for brown dye.

Wild Chives/*Allium schoenoprasum var. sibiricum*
Bulb skin used as a golden-brown dye.

elderberry bush/*Sambucus canadensis*
Twigs and fruit are employed in creating dyes for basketry. These stems are dyed a very deep black by soaking them for a week or so in a wash made from the berry stems. Berries with chrome mordant produce blue. Berries with alum mordant produce purple/black. Used by Native American tribes and later in Europe.

sumac (staghorn)/*Rhus typhina*
Sumac Bark is often used as an alternative to other tannins and its use in combination with iron will give a grey with a slightly pinkish nuance. Sumac can also be used on its own as a dye. No other tannin is needed.

sumac, smooth/*Rhus glabra L.*

Leaves, berries, bark and roots used to make a black dye.