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RECIPES INSPIRED BY:

**Navajo Native Dyes, Their preparation and use*

-recipes formulated by:

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**The art and craft of Natural dyeing:*

Traditional recipes for modern use

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**Vegetable dying*

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**Craft of the dyer*

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**Cover Image: Collecting Cochineal with a Deer Tail by*

José Antonio de Alzate y Ramírez (1777)

DYE

NATURAL PIGMENTS



YELTSIN ANTHONY PENADO

AVOCADO



Supplies:

- A pot to simmer ingredients
- Alum(pickling salt): 1/2 cup and table salt: 1/2 cup
- 3-5 fresh avocado pits and their skins, for each half-pound of fabric.
- Natural Fibers: cotton, linen, wool, or silk

Dye Recipe:

Woad

Color:

Blue: dye vat and pigments

A *Woad* vat:

Vats are nuts; I can't believe its here in this publication. Its cool and more advanced. Use a studio pot! Don't use items you would eat out of. Do this in a well ventilated area.

Wear gloves!

Prepare extraction: Fill a stainless-steel pot half way with filtered water. Bring to a boil and add a "splash" of vinegar to raise pH.

Extract dye: the main indigo precursor in woad, Isatin A, is highly unstable and begin degrading after the leaves are plucked. Fresh leaves are imperative.

After color starts extracting from the leaves begin to cool the pot and remove from heat source.

Forming indigo: oxygen, pH, Time: its now time to add Soda ash to the vat changing the pH to alkaline, pH 10.

Now Aerate the vat. The foam that starts forming will go from yellow, to green, to blue.

Techniques: From here you may dip fabric directly into the vat. You can also reduce the vat by boiling extract dry pigments. You may also scoop the foam off and set it aside to dry, this can later be used as a dry

ISATIS TINCTORIA



Supplies:

- Woad: with a focus on sustainability, Only harvest the leaves for this recipe.
- Colander
- vinegar
- Deep stainless-steel pot
- Soda Ash

Dye recipe:

Ahuacatl

Color:

Pink, Salmon pink, peachy-pink, and pink-orange

Steps:

Mordanting: Mordants are used to “fix” the color to your fabric. This dye recipe calls for a half pound of fabric. This pre-dye brine bath will attract more color to the fibers, protect against UV light and increase durability.

1: wash your fabric.

2: find a pot big enough for your fabric to float, add water and begin to simmer. Mix in 1/2 cup of Alum and 1/2 cup of table salt.

3: add your fabric, still wet from the initial wash to the mordant bath.

(Let it sit for about an hour, occasionally stir the mixture of brine and fabric.)

4: add avocado pits and skins directly into bath (you may brew a separate avocado bath to dip your fabric into)

5: It's very important to keep the dye pot at a simmering temperature, too much heat will destroy or weaken pigmentation.

6: when the process is done, wash thoroughly with cold water and hang to dry.

YARROW



Supplies:

- 1 pound of yarrow for 1/2 pound of fabric.
- Alum only: 1 full cup
- Baking soda to lower pH
- Colander for straining plant material
- Work outside or very well ventilated

Dye Recipe:

Yarrow

Color:

Yellow, green (copper mordant), golden, and orange.

Steps:

1: Gathering Yarrow is complicated. Its a weed that grows in North America on rocky uneven soil. Its roots really love the Santa Monica Mountains. DO NOT pick from natural habitats or state parks! If this weed happens to grow on your property, cut the tops off just above the leaves. It should be able to harvest in a year.

2: pre-mordant your fibers like mentioned earlier, this time with a full cup of Alum.

3: steep the Yarrow flowers in simmering water for an hour.

3.5: filter the flowers out through a colander into a separate pot.

4: ...without any plant material, dip the fabric and let it soak for an hour at a lower temperature.

5: add a table spoon of baking soda

6: rinse, hang to dry.