

use soft water for dyeing. Rain water is best of all.

As with mordanting, the wool must enter the dye damp. Keep it well covered with liquor and stir it gently from time to time, but not enough to cause felting. The wool is lifted and stirred by means of the wooden sticks, but care must be taken that dye which has soaked into these does not come out again and spoil some light wool with dark stains. That is why glass rods, such as those sold for towel rails, are so much better. They do not absorb the dye. Prolonged boiling will spoil some shades, e.g., reds and yellows.

After dyeing rinse well in running water and dry. Of course when dry the final shade will be lighter than it appears when the wool is wet.

Materials to Use

A great many vegetable substances will dye wool, and a few others such as cochineal, which, while not of vegetable origin, comes under the heading of a natural dye, being made from minute insects. I cannot do better than quote a very useful little table put out by the W.E.A. under one of their box lecture schemes at Massey College, which gives a useful summary of the more common sources of material and the mordant to use with each, but I would emphasise again that natural dyes in most instances will not produce very brilliant colours, but rather pleasing soft, warm tones.

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Miss L. Harper and Mrs. P. R. McMahon for helpful sug-

gestions and criticisms during the preparation of this article.

Useful Books

"Complete Guide to Hand Spinning," by K. Grasett. Published by the London School of Weaving, 13 Brynston Street, Marble Arch, London, W.1. Price 2s. 6d.

"Scouring and Dyeing," by K. Grasett. Same publishers and price as above.

"The Use of Vegetable Dyes for Beginners," by Violetta Thurston. Published by the Dryad Press, Leicester, England.

"Spinning Wool," Dryad Leaflet No. 83. By the same publishers as the above.

All photographs and illustrations by the author.

Table for Using Mordants

Colour.	Source.	Mordant.
Black (blue)	Maire bark (<i>Eugenia maire</i>)	Alum
..	Hinau bark	Alum
..	Mako Mako (<i>Aristolalia racemosa</i>)	Alum
..	Dock root	Alum
..	Blackberry shoots	Iron sulphate
Blue	Indigo	Alum
..	Privet berries	Bichromate of potash
Blue (grey)	Blackberries, privet berries	Iron sulphate
Blue (lilac)	Elderberries	Alum and salt
Brick	<i>Coprosma grandiflora</i>	Bichromate of potash
Brown (yellowish)	Lichen	None required
Brown	Walnuts (green)	Alum
..	Manuka bark	Alum
..	Rimu bark	Alum
..	Bracken tips	Bichromate of potash
Brown (red)	Tanekaha bark (celery-leaved pine)	Alum
Brown (tan)	Flax (root and base of leaves)	Alum
Brown	Bluegum bark	Alum
..	Wattle bark	Alum
Crimson	Rock lichen	Alum
Grey	Walnut husks	Alum
..	Coal soot	Alum
Grey (warm)	Lichen	No mordant
Green	Lichen	No mordant
..	Moss (birch)	Alum
..	Elder leaves	Alum
..	Bidi-bidi	Alum
..	Spinach	Alum
..	Sorrel	Alum
..	Ivy leaves	Alum
..	Gum leaves	Alum
Magenta	Dandelion	Bichromate of potash
..	Sundew
Old gold	<i>Coprosma robusta</i> (karamu)	Alum
Orange	Onion skins	Bichromate of potash
..	French marigolds	Bichromate of potash
..	Wallflowers	Bichromate of potash
Pink (fawn)	Flax flowers (unopened tips)	Bichromate of potash
Pink	Peach leaves	Alum
Petunia	<i>Coprosma (areolata)</i>	Stannous chloride and cream of tartar
Red	Cochineal	Alum, pepper and cream of tartar
..	Lichen (limestone)	No mordant
..	Sorrel (roots)	Alum
Purple	Wild cress	Alum
Violet	Wild cress	Alum
..	Lichen	Alum
Wine	Passion-fruit skins	Alum
Yellow	Dock leaves	Alum
..	Heather	No mordant
..	<i>Reseda Luteola</i> (wild mignonette)	Alum
..	Barberry bark	Alum
..	Mulberry bark (fustic)	Alum
..	Bracken roots	Alum
..	Lichen (tree and fence)	No mordant
..	Kowhai (flowers)	Alum and ammonia
..	Wallflower	Alum and ammonia
..	Fennel	Alum
Khaki	Walnut husk and gum leaves	Alum
..	Broom twigs	Alum



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