

We've decided to depart a bit from our normal review format for this issue. In keeping with the theme of color and dyeing that runs through this issue, we've asked dyeing expert Dagmar Klos to compile a resource list of dyeing books, both old and new.

Adrosko, Rita J. *Natural Dyes and Home Dyeing*. New York: Dover, 1971

A classic dye book that should be in every dyer's library, this book includes basic dye information and fifty-plus recipes, some with variations, for common dyestuffs.

Bemiss, Elijah. *The Dyer's Companion*. New York: Dover, 1973 (reprint from 1815)

This unabridged and unaltered reprint includes over 100 recipes and is of historical interest.

Bessette, Arleen Rainis, and Alan E. Bessette. *The Rainbow Beneath My Feet: A Mushroom Dyer's Field Guide*. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2001

A comprehensive guide, including detailed descriptions (scientific name, macroscopic and microscopic features, spore print, macrochemical tests, fruiting), what colors are yielded with what mordants, color photographs of mushrooms, general information (parts of a mushroom, collecting and preserving, when and where to collect), and general dyeing information.



Blumenthal, Betsy, and Kathryn Kreider. *Hands On Dyeing*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1988

Basic dye information with a focus on fiber-reactive, acid, premetallized, and union dyes. A variety of dye applications are presented.



Bliss, Anne. *A Handbook of Dyes from Natural Materials*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981

Features a collection of recipes from dyers across North America, including basic dye information and techniques. The colors yielded are coded, and the fastness of each is given.

Bliss, Anne, and Jean Hurley. *Weeds: A Guide for Dyers and Herbalists*. Boulder, Colorado: Juniper House, 1978

Fifty plants are tested in this book, each with various mordants as well as without. Lightfastness results and basic dye information are included, and each plant is illustrated.

Böhmer, Harald. *Koekboya: Natural Dyes and Textiles; A Colour Journey from Turkey to India and Beyond*. Ganderkesee, Germany: Remhoeb Publications, 2002

Dr. Böhmer's scientific background and in-depth study of natural dyes goes beyond basics, presenting about one hundred dye plants. In addition to fastness of dye, suitability of the dye is also described. Countless color illustrations are provided along with molecular models.

Brito, Karren K. *Shibori: Creating Color and Texture on Silk*. New York: Watson-Guption, 2002

Although the main focus of the book is shibori—which deals with fabric, not yarn and fiber—there is excellent information on synthetic dyes.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record. *Dye Plants and Dyeing: Plants and Gardens*. Brooklyn, New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1964

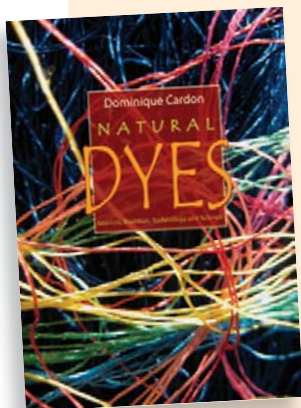
Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record. *Natural Plant Dyeing: Plants and Gardens*. Brooklyn, New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1973

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record. *Dyes from Nature: Plants and Gardens*. New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1990

These are handbooks that were special printings of various volumes of *Plants and Gardens*. Topics included in the collections of articles range from basic information to dyeing around the world.

Buchanan, Rita. *A Dyer's Garden*. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1995

Provides basic dye information plus information for the dyer who wants to grow her own dyestuff. The book includes examples of what colors are yielded from what plants along with variations of mordants, bases, and acids.



Cardon, Dominique. **Natural Dyes: Sources, Tradition, Technology, and Science.** English Translation. London: Archetype Publications Ltd., 2007

This is a large tome (the list of references alone numbers thirty-three pages). For the natural dyer interested in extensive knowledge, this book covers everything from basic dye information to historical importance to other uses and possible future developments.



experienced dyers alike. Included are historical information, the three basic dye processes and which lichens to use for which method, and much more.

Clark, Nancy, Thomas Cutter, and Jean-Ann McGrane. **Ventilation.** New York: Nick Lyons Books, 1984  
An important safety book.

Crook, Jackie, and Geraldine Christy. **Natural Dyeing.** New York: Potter Craft, 2008  
This book of basic dye information is good for beginners. It contains many visuals, including a convenient color chart.

Davidson, Mary Frances. **The Dye-Pot.** Gatlinburg, Tennessee: Shuttlecraft Shop, 1950  
Provides basic dye information and recipes for common local dyestuffs plus madder, cochineal, and indigo. Includes a color key for dye plants.

Delamare, Francois, and Bernard Guineau. **Colors: The Story of Dyes and Pigments.** English Translation. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2000  
A delightful read about dyes and pigments and their historical importance. For example, an interesting bit of information is that the fortune of the Medici family of Florence came from alum—a mordant for natural dyes.

Epp, Dianne N. **The Chemistry of Vat Dyes.** Middletown, Ohio: Terrific Science Press, 1995  
First in a series of monographs geared toward high school chemistry, providing information for teachers and for the classroom.

Epp, Dianne N. **The Chemistry of Natural Dyes.** Middletown, Ohio: Terrific Science Press, 1995  
Second in a series of monographs geared toward high school chemistry, providing information for teachers and for the classroom.

Fereday, Gwen. **Natural Dyes.** London: The British Museum Press, 2003  
Provides basic dye information with a focus on cochineal, cutch, indigo, madder, and weld. Over 500 formulas using various mordants are included, accompanied by color photographs.

Gerber, Frederick H. **Cochineal and the Insect Dyes.** Orlando, Florida: Frederick Ger-

Cannon, John, and Margaret Cannon. **Dye Plants and Dyeing.** London: Herbert Press, 1994

Forty-eight dye plants are presented, each with a color illustration, concise and pertinent general information, and optimum ways to work with each particular dyestuff.

Casselman, Karen Leigh. **Craft of the Dyer: Colour from Plants and Lichens.** New York: Dover, 1993

(Revised edition of **Craft of the Dyer: Colour from Plants and Lichens of the Northeast**, first published by University of Toronto Press, Toronto, in 1980. The section on lichens has been substantially rewritten and the list of suppliers updated.)

Provides basic dye information plus many natural dye plants, including flowers, trees, shrubs, lichens, and mushrooms.

Casselman, Karen Diadick. **Lichen Dyes: The New Source Book.** Mineola, New York: Dover, 2001

A comprehensive guide to lichen dyeing for beginners and experi-

Dean, Jenny (Karen Diadick Cas- selman, consultant). **Wild Color.** New York: Watson-Guption, 1999

A practical guide covering all the basics of natural dyes (with clear step-by-step instructions), including descriptions of more than sixty-five dye plants and countless color photographs.



ber, 1978

A scholarly approach, but also includes a series of studies with various mordants and acids.

Gerber, Frederick H. ***Indigo and the Antiquity of Dyeing***. Ormond Beach, Florida: Frederick Gerber, 1977

A scholarly approach to the various aspects of indigo—historical as well as practical.

Gerber, Frederick H. ***The Investigative Method of Natural Dyeing***. Orlando Beach, Florida: Frederick Gerber, 1978

These are reprints from *Handweaver and Craftsman*, *Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record*, and *Shuttle, Spindle, and Dyepot* from 1968 to 1975.

Grae, Ida. ***Nature's Colors: Dyes from Plants***. New York: Macmillan, 1974

Includes basic dye information along with countless recipes and a good appendices section. When it was published, this book was considered to be the leading American authority on natural dyeing.

Grierson, Su. ***The Colour Cauldron***. Perth, Scotland: Mill Books, 1986 (distributed by Interweave).

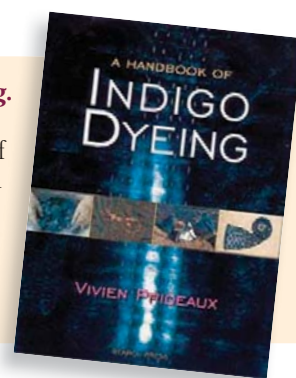
Extensive information from a historical background about the use of natural dyes in Scotland.

Heath, Laurice. ***Beautiful Wool: A Hand-Dyer's Guide***. Fredericksburg, Texas: Cabin Ridge Press, 2002

Includes basic dye information along with formulas for using Cushing Perfection acid dyes and ProChem WashFast acid dyes. Formulas are given in teaspoon measurements and are accompanied by photographs depicting four values of each color.

Prideaux, Vivien. ***A Handbook of Indigo Dyeing***. Kent, United Kingdom: Search Press, 2003

Covers indigo dyeing basics, including use of chemical and bacterial vats as well as making an indigo stock solution. Recipes for protein and cellulose fibers are included.



Liles, J. N. ***The Art and Craft of Natural Dyeing: Traditional Recipes for Modern Use***. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1990

Includes practical, basic dye information along with historical notes. Recipes are categorized by color with detailed instructions. Also included are detailed instructions for mordants, whether for protein or cellulose fibers.



Klos, Dagmar. ***The Dyer's Companion***. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2004

Provides basic dye information covering both natural and synthetic dyes. Immersion dyeing, direct application, and discharge dyeing are also included.

Knutson, Linda. ***Synthetic Dyes for Natural Fibers***. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1986

A practical guide covering all the basics for synthetic dyes. The book also includes an understandable explanation of fiber and dye chemistry, plus explanations of the different types of synthetic dyes and which to use for which fibers.

La Belle, Linda. ***The Yarn Lover's Guide to Hand Dyeing: Beautiful Color and Simple Knits***. New York: Potter Craft, 2007

Although the projects in this book (which include knit and crochet patterns) are geared toward commercial yarn, handspun yarns can be easily substituted. Contains basic dye information, and includes unsweetened Kool-aid dye, food dyes, some natural dyes, Ashford wool dyes, Kiton acid dyes, Jacquard acid dyes, Procion MX fiber-reactive dyes, ProChem WashFast acid dyes, and PRO One Shot dyes.

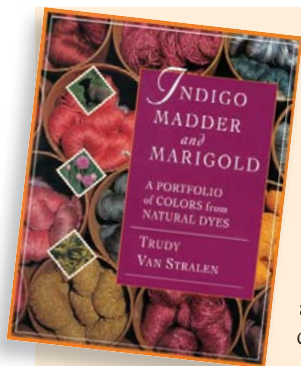
McCann, Michael. ***Health Hazards Manual for Artists***. New York: Lyons and Burford, 1994

An excellent book on safety.

Menz, Deb. ***Color in Spinning***. Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1998

The dyeing part of this book provides detailed instructions on working with acid and fiber-reactive dyes.

It includes immersion dyeing and direct application (painting rovings) plus blending colors and fibers by card-



Van Stralen, Trudy. **Indigo, Madder, and Marigold.** Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1993

Includes basic dye information. More than a dozen dye plants are presented, each with a color illustration, concise and pertinent general information, and optimum ways to work with dyestuffs.



ing and combing, spinning, and plying.

Miller, Dorothy. **Indigo: From Seed to Dye.** Aptos, California: Indigo Press, 1978/1984

An excellent monograph covering topics from growing plants to making the vat. This book includes information on use of bacterial or chemical vats for indigo powder, paste, or fresh leaves.

Rice, Miriam C. **Mushrooms for Color.** Eureka, California: Mad River Press, 1980

This is the original book on mushroom dyeing by the mushroom dye queen. Contains general information on mushrooms and dyeing, a color index with color plates and color charts, information on identifying and classifying mushrooms for color, and descriptions and drawings of mushrooms, including what colors are yielded with what mordants.

Richards, Lynne, and Ronald J. Tyrl. **Dyes from American Native Plants: A Practical Guide.** Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, 2005

A practical guide with basic dye information. Dye plants are categorized by color using the Munsell notation system. Dye plants used to obtain the various colors are then alphabetized by scientific name with a brief description of each plant. The index cross-references common names with scientific names.

Sandberg, Gösta. **Indigo Textiles: Technique and History.** London: A&C Black; Asheville, North Carolina: Lark Books, 1989

Provides historical information along with dyeing techniques for both vat dyeing and direct application.

Sandberg, Gösta. **The Red Dyes: Cochineal, Madder, and Murex Purple.** Asheville, North Carolina: Lark Books, 1994

Provides historical information along with dyeing techniques for cochineal, madder, and mushrooms to achieve red colors.

Storey, Joyce. **The Thames and Hudson Manual of Dyes and Fabrics.** London: Thames and Hudson, 1978

A good reference book with valuable information on natural and synthetic dyes.

Taylor, Kathleen. **Yarns to Dye For: Creating Self-Patterning Yarns for Knitting.** Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 2005

Although this book is devoted to projects, the first part details how to create self-patterning yarns. The dyes used are Rit, Country Classics, and Gaywool.

Wipplinger, Michele. **Natural Dye Instruction Booklet.** Seattle, Washington: Earthues, 2002

This book presents basic dye information focusing on natural dye extracts for immersion dyeing (with percentage measurements and measuring spoon equivalents) and direct application (painting) instructions.

Vinroot, Sally, and Jennie Crowder. **The New Dyer.** Loveland, Colorado: Interweave, 1981

A comprehensive guide for synthetic dyes. Basic dye information is included with a good explanation of various synthetic dyes (acid, fiber-reactive, disperse) and how to work with them, each with its own chapter.

## Rare books

Some of the books on this list are old or rare. Here are a few online resources for rare books:

[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)  
[www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)  
[www.barnesandnoble.com/used](http://www.barnesandnoble.com/used)  
[www.biblio.com](http://www.biblio.com)  
[www.bookmine.com](http://www.bookmine.com)