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PLANT BASED PIGMENTS & DYES-II

Plant-based dyes are natural dyes often called as vegetable dyes. These dyes or pigments are extracted from various parts of plants like flowers, woods, nuts, seeds, berries, barks, roots. They are the best alternative to synthetic colors and an easy approach towards sustainable life.

There are many more plants and other **natural sources for the sustainable dying** of fabrics. We discussed about extracting natural bright colors- Red, Blue, Yellow, in our post- **Plant Based Pigments and Dyes**.

In this post we limit our topic to Plant based sources of **Earthy shades and Neutral colors**.

EARTHY COLOR-KHAKI



1. MAZARI PALM (*Nannorrhops ritchiana*):

The color *khaki* (from the Persian **کـاخ** - earthen, or earth-coloured), originally produced in India until medieval times is **extracted from a species of palm shrubs**. The color was adopted by the British army for its camouflage properties.



EARTHY COLOR KHAKI



EARTHY COLOR KHAKI

EARTHY-COLOR-KHAKI-NATURAL-PLANT-BASED-DYE

GREEN COLOR PIGMENTS

1. GREEN LETTUCE :

Different varieties of **lettuce** imparts different colors and their leaves can create hues ranging from **pale apple green to olive**.



GREEN LETTUCE

Leafy greens like spinach, chard, purslane, dandelion greens, or sorrel for different variations in hues.



LEAFY GREEN VEGETABLES PLANT BASED DYE

BROWN COLOR PIGMENTS

1. CUTCH (*Acacia catechu*) :

Cutch is an ancient **brown dye derived from the wood of acacia trees**, particularly *Acacia Catechu*, used in India for **dyeing particularly cotton**.



Godawari Botanical Garden



<https://en.wikipedia.org/>

Cutch gives **wool, silk and cotton a yellowish-brown tone** but impart **gray-brown** color with an iron mordant and **olive-browns** with copper.

2. SUMAC (*Rhus coriaria*) :

Sumac is a **subtropical shrub** found especially in East Asia, Africa and North America. Excellent **Burgundy Dye** is obtained from the red colored sumac **leaves and berries** when soaked and boiled.

Leather tanned with Sumac is flexible, light in weight, and light in color. One type of leather made with sumac tannin is **morocco leather**.



NEUTRAL COLORS DERIVED FROM PLANTS





NEUTRAL COLORS DERIVED FROM PLANTS

SUMAC PLANT NATURAL SHRUB

Sumac dye works best with un-mordant cotton fabric. Using different mordants produce different colors depending upon the fabric chosen.



NEUTRAL COLORS DERIVED FROM PLANTS






Sumac tree foliage autumn leaves

3. **NATURAL COFFEE** :

Natural coffee beans are great sources of color extraction for dyeing fabrics. Coffee color brings out **rich and complex color combination and warmth to the fabric**. Brewed coffee beans gives varying colors according to the fabric and mordant.

Type of fabrics	Non-mordant (control)	Type of mordants (5wt.%, o.w.f)		
		Alum	Copper	Iron
Cotton				
Flax (linen)				
Silk				
Rayon				
Polyester				

Notes. o.w.f. = on the weight of fabric; alum = aluminum potassium sulfate; copper = copper [II] sulfate; iron = ferrous sulfate.

COFFEE AS NATURAL DYE <https://phys.org/>

GREY / BLACK DYES

1. **BLACKBERRY** :

Autumnal blackberry leaves are used since ancient times to create a **beautiful gray dye with iron as a mordant**.



NEUTRAL COLORS DERIVED FROM PLANTS



<http://craftykatiegates.blogspot.com/>

The colors are rich when used with **white fabrics of cotton, linen, wool**, etc. The hues we get will vary greatly depending on the base color of the fabric.



2. **OAK LEAVES** :

Using **Oak leaves and galls** for obtaining Black dye is an ancient method. The tannins within them act as a natural mordant. **Adding iron can vary the shade** and the black looks pretty good even after rinsing.





Natural dye- Oak leaves

The list is ongoing.... You see there are so many plants that **yields natural colors** which we can use to dye fabric. It's such a beauty that nature has given us to admire. The key is to explore the **natural alternatives** and find happiness in what is sustainable.

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