

Making a Prayer Flag using Natural Dyes

By Laurel Anderson

Supply List:

Small silk squares from Dharma Trading Company

Garden plants for dyeing

Mordant

Tubs for soaking

Tongs

Directions:

1. Put your silk squares in a mordant bath using alum (which is the least toxic) before garden class.
2. Get a dye bath going first thing in the morning or the day before.
3. Working with small groups, harvest plants from the garden and add a bit to different dye color baths.
4. Each student can take turns stirring the baths.
5. Put two silk squares in each color bath - taking one square out after 10 minutes, and the other leave in over night.
6. The next day have students compare the colors.
7. You can then make a silken prayer flag for the class with all the different shades you have created!