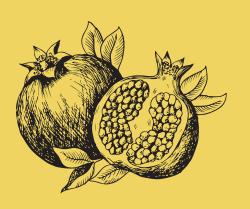
DYEING WITH POMEGRANATE



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ALL ABOUT POMEGRANATE DYE

Did you know that pomegranate **skins** (not the brightly colored seeds) are the most dye-potent parts of the fruit?

That's partly because of something called a **tannin** in the skins. Tannins make some parts of plants taste bitter, and they can also indicate the presence of long-lasting natural dyes.

Pomegranate skins are a zero-waste food dye! Eat the yummy seeds inside, then save the skins for dyeing before composting them.

Pomegranate skin dye produces a range of yellow colors, from sunshine to mustard yellow, depending on the plant's age and health, the soil and climate where it grows, and a number of other factors.

People have been making dye with pomegranate skins for thousands of years, particularly in the Middle East and Mediterranean regions, where the pomegranate is native.

In a couple steps, you can create dye with them in your kitchen at home!

PREPARING YOUR FABRIC

The first step to working with many natural dyes is **mordanting**. Treating your fabric with a **mordant** before dyeing ensures that a permanent bond is formed between dye and fabric, resulting in longer lasting and more vivid color.

Mordanting with alum before dyeing with pomegranate skins will
yield a sunshiney to mustard yellow,
while without a mordant, the dye
will yield a subtle beige to soft
yellow color.

Typically, mordanting is done using a metal salt called **alum**. Alum powder can be found on botanicalcolors.com.

BASIC MORDANT RECIPE:

- Measure alum powder at approx. 10%
 of the weight of your fiber, and dissolve
 in very hot tap water in a bucket or
 non-reactive pot (reserved only for
 natural dyes).
- Soak your fabric in the alum solution, stirring often to ensure even uptake of the mordant, for one hour.
- Rinse & proceed to dyeing.

For more detailed instructions, visit berbostudio.com/resources.

HOW TO MAKE DYE

- 1. Save your pomegranate skins! Eat the yummy seeds, then freeze, dry, or work with fresh skins in the dye pot.
- 2. When you have enough skins to dye with (at least 20% of the weight of your fiber), brew them like a tea.

I like to tie mine up in cheesecloth, submerge in hot water, and hold at an active simmer for at least 1 hour. You can repeat this process again and again with fresh water, collecting each batch in a bucket or bigger pot*, until no more color is released.

3. Submerge your mordanted fabric in hot (180°) dye, stirring often for even color. There is no rule for how long to leave it in the dye pot: 5 minutes, overnight, or anywhere in between.

Most fibers will dry a couple shades lighter than they appear when wet. Take your fabric out when it looks a shade or two darker than you'd like.

4. Once out of the dye pot*, let your fabric cool to room temperature, then rinse. Wash in cold water with gentle liquid laundry detergent and air dry in the shade.

*Always use a pot reserved only for dyeing.

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Plant Dyed Goods Natural Dye Workshops Plant Walks + more

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