

# Dye Garden Plant Uses

## Dyers Chamomile



**Dyestuff:** Dried flowers soaked in hot water with alum salt.

**Dye Color:** Warm, Vibrant Yellow

## Orange Hawaii Marigold



**Dyestuff:** Dried flower heads ground into a powder, simmered in warm water.

**Dye Color:** Orange or Gold

## Dark Opal Basil



**Dyestuff:** Dried leaves in hot water, with vinegar or alum salt.

**Dye Color:** Red Purple to Grey (Depending on pH)

## Resina Marigold



**Dyestuff:** Dried flower heads ground into a powder, simmered in warm water.

**Dye Color:** Saffron Yellow

## Dyeing with Plants:

All fabric dyes came from natural sources prior to the invention of the first synthetic dyes in 1856. The plants that dyers used in the 18th century came from a variety of plants, grown around the Atlantic world. Some dyestuffs, like madder were commonly grown in English kitchen gardens. Other dyestuffs, like indigo came from large plantations on the Carolina coast of America. Beyond sourcing these dyestuffs, professional dyers knew the right combination of temperature, salinity, and pH to get their desired color consistently. Protein-based fabrics like silk and wool reacted differently to dyes than plant-based fibers like linen, cotton, or hemp. Dyers carefully used different mordants with their dyestuffs to affix their desired color to different fabrics. In a world that prized textiles, dyers closely guarded their trade secrets.

## Black Hopi Sunflower



**Dyestuff:** Seeds in boiling water, with alum salt or vinegar.

**Dye Color:** Maroon, Dark Purple, Deep Lavendar, or Black

## Japanese Indigo



**Dyestuff:** Ground leaves in warm water, with a natural sugar, and pickling lime.

**Dye Color:** Light to Dark Blue

## Preciosa Yellow Zinnia



**Dyestuff:** Dried flowers boiled with alum salt and cream of tartar.

**Dye Color:** Yellow

## Madder



**Dyestuff:** Ground dried roots, soaked in warm water with alum salt.

**Dye Color:** Pink, Red, or Burnt Orange

## Voodoo Dahlia



**Dyestuff:** Dried flowers simmered in warm water with alum salt.

**Dye Color:** Maroon or Dark Purple

## Russian Sage



**Dye Stuff:** Dried flowers only, soaked in boiling water.

**Dye Color:** Light to Dark Blue

## Dyer's Coreopsis



**Dye Stuff:** Fresh flowers soaked overnight, with soda ash.

**Heads Dye Color:** Orange or Brown