



Growing Colour Together is a natural dyeing project for **WOVEN**, a celebration of innovation in textiles across Kirklees, exploring the techniques and processes involved in natural dyeing and how they can be applied to textile art and making.

By getting involved you can learn about growing, foraging and harvesting plants that make natural dyes, learn about natural dyeing processes, and take part in workshops where you can use natural dyes to explore colour in textile art, design and print.

The next **WOVEN** festival will take place in **June 2021** and by getting involved with Growing Colour Together now you will have opportunities to contribute to the planning and development of an event at the festival that will showcase the project and your creations.

We'd love you to document and share your growing and harvesting journey, so **please tag any photos or stories @WovenInKirklees** and **#GrowingColourTogether**

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CALENDULA - POT MARIGOLD

Hardy, easy to grow bright orange annuals. Grown indoor or directly outdoors in containers or flower bed in full sun.

PART 1: GROWING

1



Sow directly into a raked prepared flower bed or container **1cm deep** and about **15cm apart**.

2



Cover lightly with fine soil or compost. Water gently.

3



Keep moist and weed free through the summer.

4



Thin out so **30cm apart** if necessary when large enough.

5



Regularly harvest deadheads to prolong growth by cutting the stem to the nearest set of leaves.

Want to try some more flowers with similar instructions?

Try Yellow Cosmos, Zinnia, Rudbeckia, St John's Wort or Dahlias

PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

6

Flowers can be collected from **June to October** if continually deadheaded.

7

Snip dying flower heads off just above the next flowerhead bud. This encourages new growth.

8

Spread out the flowers on several layers of old paper to help prevent mould forming and allow air to circulate.

9

Put more paper between layers if stacking on top of one another.

10

Dry away from direct sunlight and not in a damp environment. (Avoid bathrooms and kitchens).

11

Once completely dry put into **paper bags or boxes**, sealed and labelled. (Do not use plastic bags).

12

Store in a **cool dry place** away from direct sunlight and raised off the ground if in a shed.

13

Keep checking from time to time for mould. If they do get mouldy do not throw away as they can still be used in a dye pot but the colours maybe a bit sludgy.

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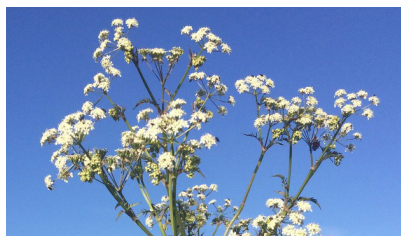
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COW PARSLEY

PART 1: HARVESTING

1

Collect using gloves and scissors.



PART 2: DRYING/STORING

2

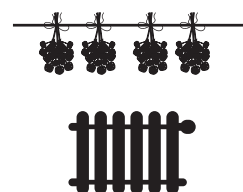
While still wearing gloves, tie string around the stem of the plant to form bunches and shake them outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.



3

Then find somewhere warm and dry to hang them, such as above a radiator.

Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.



4

Once dry, store the plants in a clean, dry, large jar to keep moisture away.

Alternatively they could be stored in paper bags or similar, in a dry location.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Cow parsley can look similar to other plants, some of which can cause an allergic reaction, so make sure to check that you have the right plant before collecting.

Wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they also contain naturally-found chemicals.

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DYER'S CHAMOMILE ANTHEMIS TINCTORIA

Dyer's chamomile is a short lived perennial, it has lovely feathery leaves and yellow daisy-like flowers.

The flowers produce bright yellows and the leaves and stalks give shades of green.

PART 1: GROWING

1

Easily grown from seed, plants started early will flower in the first year, otherwise they flower in the second year.



2

Plants prefer full sun but can tolerate some shade and need regular watering.



PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

3

Pick flower heads when they are past their prime, they can be used fresh or dried.

6

Once dry, store the flowers in paper bags or cardboard box in a dry location.

4

Cut leaves and stalks when required.

5

Find somewhere warm to dry them, such as above a radiator. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process.

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DYER'S COREOPSIS

Hardy easy to grow bright orange annuals. Grow indoor or directly outdoors in containers or flower bed in full sun. 'Sunrise' can be grown as an annual or perennial. Being both an annual and perennial, they may self seed through the garden.

PART 1: GROWING

1



If possible, prepare the flowerbed by mixing some sand into the top layer of soil.

2



Scatter the seeds on the surface of a raked, prepared flower bed or container 1cm deep and about 15cm apart.

3



Cover lightly with fine soil or compost as they need light to germinate. Water gently.

4



Keep moist and weed free through the summer.

5



Thin out so 30cm apart if necessary when large enough.

6



Regularly harvest deadheads to prolong growth by cutting the stem to the nearest set of leaves.

PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

7

Flowers can be collected from July to October if continually deadheaded.

12

Once completely dry put into paper bags or boxes, sealed and labelled. (Do not use plastic bags).

8

Snip dying flower heads off just above the next flowerhead bud. This encourages new growth.

13

Store in a cool dry place away from direct sunlight and raised off the ground if in a shed.

9

Spread out the flowers on several layers of old paper to help prevent mould forming and allow air to circulate.

14

Keep checking from time to time for mould. If they do get mouldy do not throw away as they can still be used in a dye pot but the colours may be a bit sludgy.

10

Put more paper between layers if stacking on top of one another.

11

Dry away from direct sunlight and not in a damp environment. (Avoid bathrooms and kitchens).

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FRENCH & AFRICAN MARIGOLD

Hardy, easy to grow bright orange annuals. Grown indoors or directly outdoors in containers or flower bed in full sun.

PART 1: GROWING

1



Sow directly into a raked prepared flower bed or container **1cm deep** and about **15cm apart**.

2



Cover lightly with fine soil or compost. Water gently.

3



Keep moist and weed free through the summer.

4



Thin out so **30cm apart** if necessary when large enough.

5



Regularly harvest deadheads to prolong growth by cutting the stem to the nearest set of leaves.

Want to try some more flowers with similar instructions?

Try Cosmos, Zinnia, Rudbeckia, St John's Wort or Dahlias

PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

6 Flowers can be collected from **June to October** if continually deadheaded.

7 Snip dying flower heads off just above the next flowerhead bud. This encourages new growth.

8 Spread out the flowers on several layers of old paper to help prevent mould forming and allow air to circulate.

9 Put more paper between layers if stacking on top of one another.

10 Dry away from direct sunlight and not in a damp environment. (Avoid bathrooms and kitchens).

11 Once completely dry put into paper bags or boxes, sealed and labelled. (Do not use plastic bags).

12 Store in a cool dry place away from direct sunlight and raised off the ground if in a shed.

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GOLDENROD

PART 1: HARVESTING

1

Collect the flower heads when young and just about to open using gloves and scissors.



PART 2: DRYING/STORING

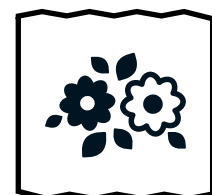
2

While still wearing gloves, shake the flower heads outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.



3

Then place them on kitchen towel or toilet paper, on a tray or table, near a heat source and allow them to dry. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.



4

Once dry, store the flower heads in a clean, dry, large jar to keep moisture away. Alternatively they could be stored in paper bags or similar, in a dry location.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they also contain naturally-found chemicals.

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HOLLYHOCK

Hollyhocks are a short lived perennial, double red Hollyhock will yield red dyes.

Growing habit: Allow 60cm per plant, Grows to 1.2 - 2.4m.

PART 1: GROWING

1

Seeds may be planted indoors early spring, if sown early enough, the Hollyhock may flower the same year, otherwise they will not flower until the following year.



2

Plants can be bought in spring and planted in a rich, heavy soil, they like plenty of water.



PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

3

Pick flowers every one or two days, separate colours, if possible use the flowers fresh to make your dye, otherwise they can be dried.

4

To dry flowers, pick when warm and dry, spread out on paper and put in a warm place away from direct sunlight like an airing cupboard or over a radiator or you can collect the whole spike and take the flowers off when dry.

5

Wear gloves, tie string around the stem of the plant to form bunches, cut and shake them outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.

6

Find somewhere warm and dry to hang them, such as above a radiator. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

7

Once dry, store the flowers in paper bags or cardboard box, in a dry location.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they may also contain harmful chemicals.

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HOPI BLACK SUNFLOWERS / HELIANTHUS ANNUS

Easy to grow annuals with bright yellow flowers with black centres. Grow indoor and transplant out or directly outdoors in containers or flower bed in full sun. Can grow from 8 – 10 feet.

PART 1: GROWING

1



Prepare the flowerbed by digging down **2 feet** to loosen soil then mix in some fertilizer or compost.

2



Make holes **2cm** deep and about **10 - 15cm apart**. Place a seed in each hole and cover over with soil.

3



Water fairly regularly, particular just before and after flowering.

4



Be careful as slugs and snails enjoy new shoots so protect them by cutting off the top of a plastic bottle and covering the seedlings.

5



Once the Sunflower is tall enough then use a cane to support the stem by loosely tying the cane to the plant with string.

PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

6

Flowers August - September. Harvest in October.

7

Once the seeds are deep black and shiny and starting to dry out, the flowerheads will start to droop.

8

Cut the head off about 4 inches below the flower.

9

Allow to thoroughly dry out by placing in a well-ventilated place.

10

Gather the seeds by breaking apart the seed heads or rubbing the seed heads together. Allow to dry for a few more days.

11

Store in paper bags or airtight glass jars. Keep checking for mould.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The seeds may stain your fingers when harvesting, use lemon juice to clean off.

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MULLEIN

PART 1: HARVESTING

1

The leaves can be collected in the first and second year of the plant's growth.



PART 2: DRYING/STORING

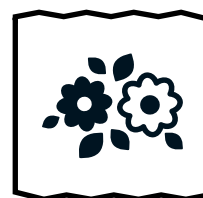
2

While still wearing gloves, shake the leaves outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.



3

Then snip them into small pieces and place them on kitchen towel or toilet paper, on a tray or table, near a heat source and allow them to dry.



Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

4

Once dry collect up the leaves and, still wearing gloves and a mask to avoid irritation from the fine hairs on the plant, store the mullein in a clean, dry, large jar to keep moisture away.

Alternatively they could be stored in paper bags or similar, in a dry location.



HEALTH & SAFETY

This plant has fine hairs that can cause skin and throat irritation, so it's important to wear gloves and a mask when collecting the leaves.

Wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they also contain naturally-found chemicals.

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NETTLE

PART 1: HARVESTING

1

Collection in spring and early autumn or anytime they are growing.



2

Collect nettles using gloves and scissors, ideally thick gloves with a rubber coating to avoid stings; also remember to cover skin so that you don't get stung on arms, legs, feet etc.



PART 2: DRYING/STORING

3

Whilst still wearing gloves tie string around the stem of the nettles to form bunches and shake them outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.

4

Then find somewhere warm and dry to hang them, such as above a radiator. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

5

Once dry, store the nettles in a clean, dry, large jar to keep moisture away. Alternatively they could be stored in a paper bag or similar in a dry location.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they also contain naturally-found chemicals.

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ROSE BAY
WILLOW HERB

PART 1: HARVESTING

1



The flowers and leaves can be collected and stored separately as they produce different colours.

2



This plant can take over any area very quickly, so collect flowers before they go to seed to avoid being overrun in the following year.

3



The leaves can be collected at any point during the year. Ideally wear gloves for collecting.

PART 2: DRYING/STORING

4

While still wearing gloves, tie string around the stem of the plant to form bunches and shake them outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.

5

Then find somewhere warm and dry to hang them, such as above a radiator. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

6

Once dry, store the flowers and leaves in separate clean, dry, large jars to keep moisture away. Alternatively they could be stored in paper bags or similar, in a dry location.

HEALTH & SAFETY

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SAFFLOWER - CARTHAMUS TINCTORIUS

Safflower is a herbaceous, thistle like annual plant, it can produce a yellow and pink dye. Growing habit: Allow 30cm per plant. Grows 1.2m tall.

PART 1: GROWING

1

Sow indoors in early spring and transplant seedlings when soil is warm.



2

Safflower tolerates most soils, but requires plenty of sun.



PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

3

As soon as the flowers begin to bloom, remove fresh petals every few days. Keep picking until you have enough for a dye bath. Petals dry and will store well.

5

Once dry, store in paper bags or cardboard boxes, in a dry location.

4

To dry the petals spread them on paper and find somewhere warm and dry such as above a radiator, somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they may also contain harmful chemicals.

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TANSY

PART 1: HARVESTING

1

Collect the flower heads in late summer using gloves and scissors.



PART 2: DRYING/STORING

2

While still wearing gloves, shake the flower heads outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.

3

Then place them on kitchen towel or toilet paper, on a tray or table, near a heat source and allow them to dry. Somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal.

4

Once dry, store the flower heads in a clean, dry, large jar to keep moisture away. Alternatively they could be stored in paper bags or similar, in a dry location.

HEALTH & SAFETY

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WELD, DYER'S ROCKET RESEDA LUTEOLA

Weld is a biennial, it is a UK naturalised wild flower, which can be found in great masses on waste land, this may be a good plant to be foraged. Weld produces yellow dyes. Growing habit: Allow 30cm per plant, grows up to 1.8m.

PART 1: GROWING

1

Sow outdoors in spring in growing position, when they are large enough to handle thin them out.



2

The first year will produce flat rosettes of leaves and flowering stakes in the second year.



PART 2: HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

3

The plant tops with the flowers are used to produce the dye, they are harvested during the summer of the second year and can be used fresh or dried.

4

Wearing gloves, tie string around the stem of the plant to form bunches, cut and shake them outside to remove bugs, dirt etc.

5

Then find somewhere warm and dry to hang them, such as above a radiator and somewhere quite dark and away from direct sunlight would be ideal

Once dry, store in paper bags or cardboard boxes, in a dry location.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they may also contain harmful chemicals.

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WOAD IS *ISATIS TINCTORIA*

Woad is a biennial plant that forms leaves during the first year and flowers and seeds in the second year. It is a member of the mustard family and is easy to grow. It has pretty feathery yellow flowers and makes large seeds.

Growing habit: Allow 30cm per plant. Grows to 90cm - 1.5m. Dye can be made from the leaves, and seeds and flowers can be used for direct contact dyeing, it is in the first year that leaves will make blue dye.

GROW WOAD FROM SEED

1



Woad seeds should be sown outdoors in rows in early spring or early autumn.

2



Woad likes full sun, and a rich soil will produce good strong leaves.

3



Keep well watered and thin out if required. Sowing seeds in both seasons will supply woad leaves from early summer through to the autumn.

GROW WOAD FROM PLANTS

1



You can buy woad plants, the leaves will be ready to harvest in the first year of planting and will provide flowers and seeds in the second year.

2



Seeds can be collected and used to produce more plants, note they will freely self sow and spread like a weed, so care is needed.

3



In some areas of the world it is classified as a noxious weed. Feed with a nitrogen rich fertiliser.

HARVESTING/DRYING/STORING

4

Pick leaves in their first year from midsummer to mid autumn to produce a blue dye.

5

Harvest can happen as early as May/June if climate is warm or July in cooler climates. Second and third harvests may be made later in the year.

6

Harvest Woad when the leaves reach about 15cm in length or the rosette is over 21cm in diameter. Wearing gloves carefully remove the leaves that are around 15cm long.

7

Ideally the leaves should be used straight away to get the strongest colour.

8

You may make dye liquid* once processed can be stored for up to a year for later use. Be warned stored dye can be hit or miss.

9

To harvest seed, let the seeds mature on the plant before harvesting for dye, observe your plant carefully to gauge the right time to harvest, they will turn from green to brown, collect the seed when dry and store in a paper bag or cardboard box somewhere dry.

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Growing habit: Allow 30cm per plant. Grows to 90cm - 1.5m. Dye can be made from the leaves, and seeds and flowers can be used for direct contact dyeing, it is in the first year that leaves will make blue dye.

HOW TO MAKE A LIQUID DYE FOR LATER USE

Woad needs no mordant, and uses washing soda as the source of alkaline and sodium hydrosulphite to remove oxygen. **To make up a 9 litre dye vat:**

- 1 Tear or cut at least 250g of fresh leaves and put in dye pot**, pour over enough boiling to make dye vat, steep leaves for an hour.
- 2 Strain off the sherry coloured dye liquid and press leaves again sieve to extract as much dye potential as possible.** Don't throw leaves away, use them for a second dye bath for pinky-tans.
- 3 When the dye liquid has cooled down to 50C add just enough washing soda** to turn the sherry coloured liquid into a greenish-brown.
- 4 Introduce air in to the liquid - either with a whisk or by pouring liquid from one container to another to convert the green liquid into blue.** If it does not turn blue add a little more washing soda and continue to whisk until it does.
- 5 Let the froth subside then pour into an air tight glass jar with a well fitting lid and top up to get rid of air, a tea spoon of sodium metabisulphite** (used in wine making) as a preservative may also be added. Store in a dark, cool place.

Please note there are many recipes for making woad dyes, some with yeast and other more eco friendly chemicals, but this is the recipe for making a dye liquid to store.

HEALTH AND SAFETY



Wear gloves and wash your hands after handling the plants at all of the stages of the process. Although they are natural products they may also contain harmful chemicals.



Take extra care when making dyes as you may use some dangerous chemicals: protective clothing, gloves, goggles and masks/ respirators must be worn.



All the processes requires excellent ventilation or extraction where necessary.

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