

Dyeing cotton with Bloody dock

You need

- Large pan
- Cotton thread or yarn mordanted with aluminium acetate.
- Leaves of Rumex sanguineus
- Colander

Step 1

Put the leaves and water in the pan and heat it to hand hot. Boiling can destroy red pigments so keep the water well below boiling point.

Keep at this temperature for half an hour and then allow to gradually cool overnight.

Pour through a colander to remove the leaves, retain the dye and put it back in your dye pot.

Step 2

Make sure that your thread or yarn is damp and put into the dye pan with the dye, gently stirring.

Raise the heat until hand hot, keep warm for half an hour and then allow to cool

Step 3

Take cotton out of the pan, gently squeeze to remove dye and then rinse in cold water.

Hang to dry naturally.

Store somewhere away from light for at least a week to allow the colour to cure.

Step 4

Wash in cool water with a pH neutral soap.

Leave to dry naturally.

