

NATURAL DYEING

# Flag Iris root

peach and grey

## YOU NEED

- Plump roots of flag iris chopped into pieces
- Non reactive dye pan (stainless steel works well)
- Colander
- Bowl or second pan
- Stove
- Mordanted wool yarn (I use alum at 8%) soaked and drained
- Rainwater (if you have to use tap water leave it for a couple of hours to settle)
- 1 teaspoon of ferrous sulphate

The more roots you have in relation to your fibre, the deeper the colour will be.

## METHOD

### Step 1

- Put the chopped iris roots into the water, stir well.
- Leave overnight.

### Step 2

- Heat the pan to a very gentle simmer for half an hour and leave to cool.
- Repeat step one and two over several days until you have a lot of colour in the dye pan and the roots feel soft.
- Drain the dye into another pan (reserve the roots as there may be enough dye left for another dye pot)

### Step 3

- Add the yarn, gently heat to hand hot and then allow pan to cool naturally overnight.
- Rinse the yarn.

### Step 4

- If you want to change the colour from peach to grey, mix up 1 teaspoon of ferrous sulphate into a bowl of water and submerge the wool. watch for the colour change and then remove the wool and immediately rinse well.
- Dry yarn and leave it somewhere dark for 2-3 weeks for all the dye pigments to settle before a final wash..