

NATURAL DYEING

Fig leaves

yellow and green

YOU NEED

- Fig leaves - I used 20 leaves to dye 80g wool
- Dye pan
- Rain water or tap water that has been left to stand
- Mordanted wool - I mordant with alum at 8% weight of fibres
- 2g ferrous sulphate dissolved in 1 litre of water

METHOD

- Put the leaves into your dye pan and cover with water.
- Bring up to a low simmer and keep at that temperature for 30 minutes.
- Let the pan cool naturally.
- Remove the leaves and compost them.
- Add the mordanted wool and gently heat to hand hot, make sure it doesn't boil or you will felt your wool.
- Keep the temperature steady for fifteen minutes to half an hour and then let it all cool naturally.
- Remove the wool, rinse and hang to dry.

If you want to modify the colour with iron.

- Once you have rinsed the dyed skein, squeeze all the water out
- Put the skein into the tub of water and ferrous sulphate and stir.
- After 5 to 10 minutes the colour should have shifted.
- Carefully remove the wool and rinse extremely well then hang to dry.