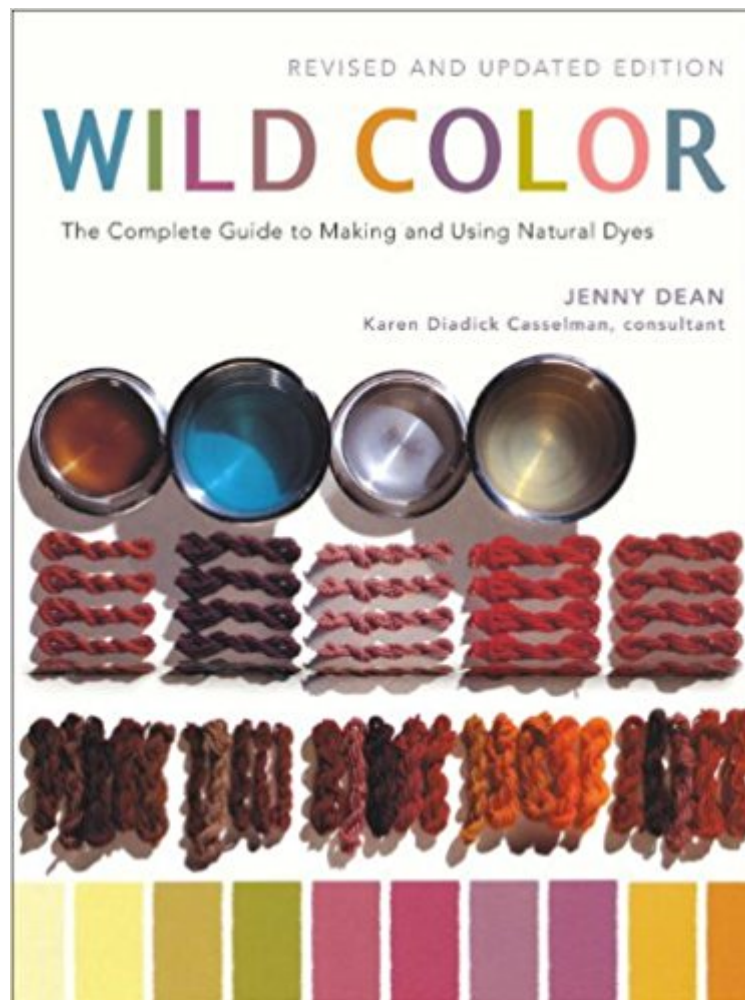




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# Wild Color, Revised And Updated Edition: The Complete Guide To Making And Using Natural Dyes



## Synopsis

The best resource on natural dyeing is back, updated to make your colorful hobby even more beautiful and rewarding. A practical and inspiring guide to creating and using natural dyes from plants, *Wild Color, Revised and Updated Edition*, offers the latest information on current environmentally friendly dyeing techniques and more than 65 species of plants and natural dyestuffs. This comprehensive book outlines all the necessary equipment, how to select fibers and plant parts, choose the right methods for mordanting and dyeing, test color modifiers and the fastness of dyed colors, and obtain a range of gorgeous colors from every plant, from alder to woad, shown in more than 250 swatches. *Wild Color, Revised and Updated Edition*, is the all-in-one resource for fiber enthusiasts, including knitters, sewers, and weavers; gardeners who are interested in new uses for traditional dye plants; and eco-conscious DIYers who want authoritative information about the natural dyeing process and the plants that are essential to it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

JENNY DEAN has worked with natural dyes for more than 30 years. She is the author of several books and numerous articles on natural dyeing, and also conducts lectures, workshops, and courses on the subject. A collection of her dyed samples is included in the collection of the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage in Brussels, Belgium. KAREN DIADICK CASSELMAN has taught dyeing techniques throughout the U.S. and internationally. Her dyed pieces are included in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution and other museums.

I bought this book as an introduction to natural dyeing based on several recommendations. I have been mostly pleased with the information in the book. It's not perfect, and I think the title is slightly misleading, but it's a solid introduction.

The good: It has a good list of natural dye sources along with color swatches that show the colors achieved using the plant alone, plant plus mordant, plant alone plus modifier, and mordant, plant, and modifier. Very very useful! It has a very clear introduction to dyeing that covers techniques and steps in the dyeing process (it even has a small section on using urine to dye with indigo and woad). Pretty thorough for a relatively small book. The illustrations are well done and in full color.

The bad: Organization - the key for the plant sections is located on page 20, which is 2 sections away from the plant section. It's located in a small sidebar that is easily overlooked. Why couldn't the sidebar be located in the chapter it's actually related to? I was expecting more of an emphasis on plants native to North America. From the title I expected it to be a book of dyes that \*I\* could collect from the wild. While there are several that grow wild either as native plants or as imports, that is not at all the focus. The focus is on natural dyes, and the plants listed are largely cultivated species grown in various locations in the world, not wild plants you can find in your backyard.

The conclusion: This is a good book, you will not go wrong in buying it as an introduction to natural dyeing. The organizational quibble can be overcome (remember, key to the plant section is on page 20). Once you've read through this book and practiced you should be well equipped to begin experimenting with plants that do grow wild in your own yard!

This is one of the best natural dyeing books available! It has great photos and gives all the information you need to get started. I highly recommend this book, as well as Gail Callahan's *Hand Dyeing Yarn and Fleece*. Between the two titles, you'll learn everything you need to know to dye some beautiful yarns with techniques and equipment manageable in a home kitchen.

Excellent, well researched information. Dean's book is clearly one written from the perspective of a natural dyer and textile artist who has tested each recipe. A Master Dyer sharing her love of natural colour. Great for Northern Hemisphere textile artists.

I was looking for a book to help me with natural dyes I had collected during my travels and from online shops like [dharma trading.com](http://dharma trading.com) and [fabric treasury.com](http://fabric treasury.com). I heard about this book from a fellow dyer who has been using this for her dyeing experiments in silk yarn. I find this book to be very well organized and easy for all dyers at all levels of expertise. The basic concepts of fiber-mordant-dye is

explained in a simple manner so that even a novice can grasp the rudimentariness quickly.

Having eagerly anticipated the arrival of this book, I was a little disappointed that the pages detailing different plants, etc, did not have any pictures of actual yarn or fabric, but only a series of paint-chip type colors, with a small legend next to each referring to the mordants and modifiers. The key to the legends is hidden earlier in the book and hard to find. Having said that, the first part of the book, dealing with techniques, safety, equipment, etc., is excellent. My favorite pages were 62 and 63, "25 colors from one dye bath" which I felt were the best illustration of the wonderful possibilities using actual yarn. The variety of plant sources was an eye-opener, and the color possibilities enticing. Overall well worth the money.

This is a great reference book, it is very easy to follow. It gives examples of plants and which parts to use, also changing certain dynamics of the mixtures to help create a color pallet from one plant.

Having worked as a batik artist for over 25 years now I, lately, wondered if it might be possible to use more natural dyes for my work, other than the indigo and the marigold or onions I am familiar with. This book not only gave me the answer to this question, but it showed me new horizons and the making of so many new dyes gave me a lot of pleasure and some surprises. This book somehow made it possible for me to create batik paintings with a totally different look from what I usually make. Therefore, it is a welcome addition to my batik library. I have recommended Jenny Dean's book to my batik colleagues and just thought I'd let you know. Bookworm Elletje.

Along with "Colours from Nature" by the same author, this text is an essential part of any dyers' library. The section on indigo alone is worth it for clarity --- it removes the uneasiness most of us feel when approaching the indigo vat. The use of mordants is thoroughly explained as well. Having this book has encouraged me to branch out from more common dyestuff with great results.

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