



# Smithsonian Associates

## Local Color: Foraging for Natural Dyestuff

Instructor: An-Phuong Ly

Instructor recommended vendors for these supplies include:

- [Maiwa](#)
- [Botanical Colors](#)
- [Dharma Trading Co.](#)

### Tools

- **1-2 Pots** stainless steel or enamel. These can be old ones that you don't (and won't in the future) use for cooking. If it's an enamel pot, try to make sure it doesn't have rust.
- **1-2 large bowls.** Think large mixing bowl. This can be plastic or stainless steel. If you don't have a bowl, any kind clean used vessel will work, like a bucket, old trashcan, etc. Again, these shouldn't be used for cooking.
- **Heat source:** during our workshop you'll need to have access to a heat source. This can be your kitchen stove or a fire outside or tabletop burners.
- **Measuring cups/Spoons** or small takeout containers/yogurt containers
- **Kitchen Scale** that can measure in grams
- **Stirring Stick** or tongs/long wooden spoon or ladle
- **Other items:** gloves, mask, hand towels, tarp in case you want to protect your floor or tabletop

**Dye Materials – for the highlighted items we will be working in teaspoons/tablespons, so you may choose the smallest option by weight from the suggested websites.**

- Potassium Aluminum Sulfate
- Soda Ash
- Clear Tannin: "Gallic" - Gallnut, Tara, some Sumacs
- 2 foraged dyestuffs, examples below:
  - From the garden: marigold (flower heads), rudbeckia (flower heads, stems, leaves), dahlias, sunflowers
  - From the wild: goldenrod, black walnuts, acorns
  - From the kitchen: avocado pits/skins, onion skins, used coffee grounds, tea leaves

### Fabric

- Cellulose: any type of plant based fiber such as cotton, linen, bamboo, rayon. I suggest either bandana or napkin sized pieces. We'll need at least 2 pieces to experiment with.
- Protein: Silk fiber or Wool. Again, I suggest square pieces that you can experiment with. We'll need at least 2 pieces to experiment with.
- You can also purchase yardage and cut these down to small sample pieces for experimentation. Start with ½ yard of each type of fabric.

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

EMAIL: [ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU](mailto:ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU)