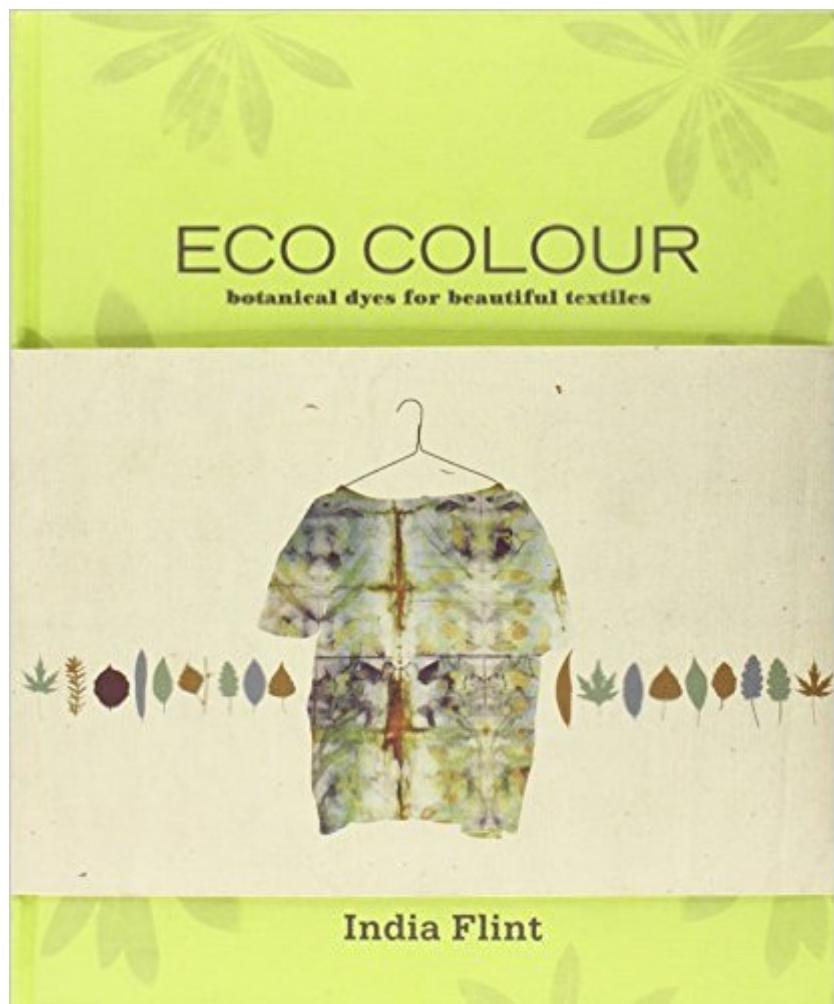


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# Eco Colour: Botanical Dyes For Beautiful Textiles



## **Synopsis**

The essence of plants bursts forth in magnificent hues and surprising palettes. Using dyes of the leaves, roots, and flowers to color your cloth and yarn can be an amazing journey into botanical alchemy. In Eco Colour, artistic dyer and colorist India Flint teaches you how to cull and use this gentle and ecologically sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes. India explores the fascinating and infinitely variable world of plant color using a wide variety of techniques and recipes. From whole-dyed cloth and applied color to prints and layered dye techniques, India describes only ecologically sustainable plant-dye methods. She uses renewable resources and shows how to do the least possible harm to the dyer, the end user of the object, and the environment. Recipes include a number of entirely new processes developed by India, as well as guidelines for plant collection, directions for the distillation of nontoxic mordants, and methodologies for applying plant dyes. Eco Colour inspires both the home dyer and textile professional seeking to extend their skills using India's successful methods.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Interweave (September 14, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596683309

ISBN-13: 978-1596683303

Product Dimensions: 1 x 9.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (77 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #102,238 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Needlecrafts & Textile Crafts > Dye #25 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Nature Crafts #82 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Textile & Costume

## **Customer Reviews**

I bought this book two years ago thinking I would find directions on Eco dying. I believe the book is used as bait to take the authors workshop. There is no defined instruction or cookbook recipes, and only vague descriptions with a lot of the authors Eco-spiritual philosophy scattered throughout. I ended up taking India Flints week long workshop, which she promotes and teaches all over the World, after attempting, with some good results, a DIY approach for quite some time. Let me tell

you, if this book wets your appetite and you want a hands on experience with Ms. Flint...you may be in for an expensive retreat considering lodging, meals, travel expenses, etc... She stretches the week out as best she can with hours spent on gathering local windfall, time chatting up her Eco spiritual approach, a half day was spent learning to stitch personal initials into fabric while she recited her poetry in the background, and then... she barely reveals the dynamics of the process at hand, her secrets of the technique are not revealed only basics are covered. At the end of the five days I was exhausted from straining to hear her, because after numerous request from different students to speak up, she quite literally refused! Also, the results of the class were less than striking and quite dull in appearance...nothing as vibrant and defined as the work she has accomplished and published in her books and on her media sites. In my opinion India Flint is a businesswoman first, and she wants to milk her expertise for as long as she can before her competition spreads the nuts and bolts of this alluring and beautiful surface design technique. Buy the book if you want to get the gist of Eco printing. But if you are a serious fiber artist and textile designer Irit Dulman is the Eco dyer to follow!

This book has a wealth of gorgeous photography and tons of information on coloring with botanicals. If I stopped there, it would get 5 stars. The main drawback is that the book's organization is awkward, requiring much study and flipping around to figure out how best to use the botanicals at your disposal. To be fair, much of the information is complicated, making it hard to organize; and there is a good index to help you find that stray sentence you need. If you are willing to plow through and experiment, Eco Colour is a great foundation and inspiration. There are actually a couple "recipes" for quick and easy eco-prints, but patience is still required (the author advises waiting a week to open that lovely bundle of now-rosy silk I tinted with red onion skins!) When you try the flower pounding, please do take the author's advice to make a trial, even if you have limited plant material to work with! :-) One thing the reader should not miss is that the author admitted drawing during chemistry class! She mentions early in the book the reliable color results that can be obtained using certain chemicals, without the specific caution that these are quite toxic, cautions she does, however, repeat concerning plants that are poisonous, etc. (Please be sure to look up an MSDS if you are tempted to order any chrome salts, etc.) One of the most helpful things to me was the extensive information on the friendlier mordants, which ones are useful on which types of fiber, and how various ones may affect the final colors you will achieve. We benefit also from little tricks she has learned, such as freezing certain flowers or berries to extract the most color. (Spent blossoms are in the freezer now and will be my next project.

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