

Smiling Dog Farm

Plants for Natural Dyeing

We are excited to offer a selection of plants that can be used for natural dyeing of wool and other textile materials. Growing dye plants is a way for us to combine two of our farming interests - fiber and nursery plants! We have selected a few of the more popular and easy to grow plants, sourcing our seeds from companies that specialize in growing varieties of these plants that are used specifically for their dyeing characteristics. These plants have been selected for a variety of colors, and ease of use in harvesting and dyeing prep. They also are attractive to pollinators - grow a few dye plants and your garden will be a wonderful, buzzy, busy and productive space!

If you are a knitter, weaver or fiber artist and love to do your own dyeing using natural, plant-based dyes, try making your own dye by propagating your own plants - it's fun and easy to do. Plants will be well-started and ready to plant out in your garden by mid-May/early June.

All plants started here at the farm with seeds sourced from suppliers who are specifically focused on producing cultivars of plants for natural dyeing.

Our 2022 Selection of Dye Plants

Cosmos (Sunrise)

Dyer's Chamomile

Hopi Red Dye Amaranth

Japanese Indigo

Madder

Weld (Dyer's Rocket)

Scabiosa (Black Knight)

Queen Sophia Marigold

Navajo Tea

Oriole Zinnia

Safflower