



# SOLAR DYE -Hibiscus Dried Petals Natural Dye

## Directions for use with wool

**Materials needed: Water, Large jar or stainless-steel pan, Alum, Cream of Tartar, wool yarn, Fresh hibiscus petals or dried hibiscus tea**

Before beginning the dye process, read through all instructions. Assemble all tools and gather any additional supplies not included in the kit.

**Pre- mordant the yarn (if using only solar power, mix the mordant solution and allow the yarn to sit in the solution for 24 hours)**

My mordant is usually a substance called alum. Weigh the dry yarn and calculate 12% of the weight of dry yarn. This is how many grams of alum to use for the mordant solution. In a stainless-steel pan, heat enough water for the yarn to float freely, over medium heat. Add the alum (12%) and cream of tartar, (5%). Stir to dissolve. Mordanting your wool yarn before proceeding with the natural dye process helps the dye color stick to the yarn.

**Add the yarn-** Your yarn skein should be tied in at least three places to help resist tangling in the dye pot.

(**note:** When purchasing yarn for dyeing you will need to do this yourself. Use a piece of scrap yarn in a neutral color and secure the skein loosely in three or four locations.)

Bring the water to a simmer, keeping heat steady, and allow the yarn to simmer in the bath for at least an hour. After 30 minutes you can turn off the heat and leave the yarn in the warm water for the rest of the mordant phase. Sometimes I leave it sit in the alum bath overnight and continue the dye process the next day.

When ready to dye the yarn, or if you want to dry and store the yarn for future dyeing, gently squeeze the excess water from the skein. If you want to save the yarn for later, hang to dry. You do not have to repeat the mordant bath on skeins that have been mordanted. Just re wet the yarn and proceed to the dye phase.

### **Making the Dye Bath for Solar Dyeing**

The dried hibiscus petals will release a beautiful shade of dark pink dye. Putting the dry petals in a small muslin bag will help prevent pieces of hibiscus being entangled in your yarn during the dye process. Depending on the size of your yarn skein, use 50% dye material to the weight of dry yarn. If your yarn weighs 50 grams, use 25 grams of dry hibiscus. For a darker concentration, use more hibiscus.

First, add the muslin bag of dye material to the jar or pan of water. Allow the dye sit in the sun for a few hours. Add a quarter to a half cup of white vinegar.

Add the wet yarn and place the jar or pan in a sunny warm location for an additional day. Hibiscus will dye without any heat, but the warmth will help set the color. I leave my yarn in the jar for up to three days for maximum color.

Remove the yarn from the jar or pan. There will be enough color left in the jar for an exhaust bath if you have additional yarn to dye. (just repeat the process) Carefully squeeze out the excess dye water. Rinse the yarn in room temperature water, until no color runs from the yarn. Hang or lay flat to dry. Do not dry naturally dyed fibers in direct sunlight as this can lead to fading color. For more information : <https://www.timbercreekfanner.com>