

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SID08146 GATHERING AND USING DYE PLANTS – A TASTER DAY

Tutor: PENNY WALSH

Date: 1 DAY TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This taster course will cover methods and techniques of using natural colour, exploring the opportunity to use an incredible garden at West Dean containing hundreds of plants – to extend design and colour work. Accentuating that using plant colour on textiles can be simple and straight forward.

After some preparation in the workshop where we will make an indigo vat – we will ramble through West Dean's gardens (we have the gardener's permission) and gather small responsible amounts of plants to make botanical dyes. There will be some guidance in identifying plants used in historic dyes and some students may have knowledge of dye plants, but the plan is to experiment.

Back in the workshop we will prepare dyes from the plants and colour a set of sample pieces. We'll then plan a larger piece for a scarf or bag – using clamping, folding and wrapping and using the indigo vat for over dyeing and to extend the colour range.

During the course you will learn the necessity to sample and record all processes when making botanical colour, as you begin to understand how to make natural colour predictable and repeatable. It will illustrate that very few harmful or environmentally undesirable ingredients are needed for this method of dyeing textiles.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Penny Walsh trained at Winchester School of Art and the Royal College of Art in textiles and weaving. She now runs a company specialising in natural dyeing and is author of *'Yarn, a textile handbook'*, and *'Self-sufficiency in Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing'* (published by New Holland).

TIMETABLE:

9.00–9.15am	Registration and coffee
9.15am	Morning classes
10.30am	Coffee
12.45pm	Lunch (included)
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
5.00pm	Classes finish

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm, for any materials you need to purchase from the shop.

Materials included in the course fee:

The course fee includes the cost of all essential materials mordants, indigo, madder bath, sample pieces of fabric, simple cheap cotton for one larger piece as supplied by the tutor.

Available from the Shop:

Silk scarves or cotton squares for those who want them
Fine linen, cotton or silk by the yard

Available from the tutor:

Basic cotton squares to make a bag or cushion

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Overall/apron to protect clothes

Covered footwear

Notebook and pen

Dye-protective gloves if you are allergic or uncomfortable with ordinary kitchen gloves

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.