



BOTANICAL EGG DYE

Use natural materials to create dyes for this colorful spring tradition!

YOU'LL NEED:

- Hard-boiled eggs
- A large, metal pot
- Water
- Strainer or slotted spoon
- Newspaper or tablecloth
- Vinegar (optional)
- Plant material (see page 2)

For creating designs:

- White or clear crayon
- Leaves and flowers for imprinting
- Cheesecloth or pieces of pantyhose
- String or rubber bands

PREPARING THE DYE:

1. Place your plant material in a pot along with enough water to later submerge your eggs. If creating multiple dyes, use a separate pot for each dye.
2. Bring the water and plant material to a boil.
3. Cover pot and reduce heat to a simmer.
4. Simmer plant material for at least 20 minutes.
5. Often, letting the plant material steep overnight will achieve the best color.
6. Remove the plant material from the dye bath using a strainer or slotted spoon.
7. Let dye cool and pour into cups or bowls. Avoid using cups you wouldn't want stained!
8. (Optional) Add 1 Tbsp. vinegar per cup of dye. This sometimes results in a more vibrant color.
 - a. Adding vinegar to the cabbage dye will change the color from purple to blue!
 - b. Adding baking soda changes the color to pink.



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PLANT MATERIAL:

What plant material to use? The eggs below show the colors you can achieve from a selection of dye-plants. Remember, the longer the soak, the more vibrant the color!

Note: If using turmeric, place the spice in a piece of pantyhose or cheesecloth for easy removal from dye bath.

Onion Skin:
Ochre

Turmeric:
Yellow

Red Cabbage:
Pale blue

Hibiscus:
Deep Teal

What else?

From beets, to berries, to coffee, try experimenting with other dye plants and see what colors you create.



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DECORATING THE EGGS:

- Crayon:
 - Use the white or clear crayon to draw designs on a clean, white hard-boiled egg. The dye will not adhere where you have drawn on the egg, leaving a white design on a colored background.
- Leaf & flower imprints:
 - Collect small leaves and/or flowers
 - Place a leaf or flower against an egg and carefully wrap the egg with cheesecloth or pantyhose. Ensure that the plant material is flat and tight against the egg.
 - Use string or rubber bands to secure the cloth tightly around the egg.
 - The portion of the egg that is covered by the flower or leaf will not color, leaving a white imprint on a colored background.

What else? Get creative and experiment with other ways to decorate your eggs!

DYEING THE EGGS:

- Cover your workspace in newspaper or a tablecloth to protect surfaces
- Submerge your eggs in the dye.
- Place cups/bowls containing eggs and dye in the refrigerator and leave until desired color is achieved (at least 30 minutes). The longer the soak, the more vibrant the color.
- Remove eggs from dye and let dry for a few minutes. Dry eggs on a towel or drying rack to protect your countertop.
- Remove any wrappings and let the eggs continue to dry fully.