



ALKANET dyer's alkanet is a purple dye found in the roots of plants which are part of the borage family. It grows wild thru central Europe, Asia and North Africa. Pigment from Alkanet is used in cosmetics & soaps as well as the natural dyes pot. The colourant from alkanet is not soluble in water and you must first soak the roots in alcohol (methylated spirits) for at least 2 days to extract the dye.. Alkanet gives beautiful greys, lavenders and purples but has poor fastness. For medium depth of shade use 75-100% WOF.

MORDANTING

PROTEIN

Use alum at 15% WOF

CELLULOSE

Use tannin at 8% WOF then

Use alum at 15% WOF or

Use aluminium acetate at 8% WOF

DYEING Having soaked the alkanet in alcohol (or methylated spirits), strain off the dye liquid and add to the dyebath. Boil the dyebath for an hour – it will have an odd smell and will be a greenish brown colour but don't be deterred!! If you need to, add extra water to cover the fibre. Cool the dyebath and add the mordanted fibre to the dyebath. Heat dyebath up gently to no more than 60C , maintain until all the colour has exhausted into fibre. Adding iron to the dyebath at 2% WOF creates a range of greys and grey-violets.



DYERS CHAMOMILE is a daisy which belongs to the Anthemis tinctoria family. It grows throughout North America, Europe and the Himalayas . The dried flowers give anything from soft cream (without mordants) to warm, strong yellows and olive green. You can also use the stalks and leaves for greener shades. It can also be mixed with madder for tangerine orange colours. For medium to strong colour use 50 to 100% WOF. Chamomile works best on protein fibres.

MORDANTING

PROTEIN

Use alum at 15% WOF

CELLULOSE

Use tannin at 8% WOF then

Use alum at 15% WOF or

alum acetate at 8% WOF

DYEING Steep the dried Chamomile flower heads in hot water for an hour. Strain and add to dyebath with fibre. Slowly bring the temperature up to about 80C and hold at temperature for about an allow to allow the dye to exhaust into the fibre. You can add madder at this stage to change the yellow to orange Dyers Chamomile is distinctive for its yellow petals and centre but normal chamomile which has white leaves and yellow centres will also dye fibre if Dyers Chamomile is unavailable.

