

## Dyers Garden

In medieval times dyeing was done with colour obtained from plants. This is called natural dyeing. The medieval dyeing industry was fairly advanced and had at its disposal a host of dyestuffs that could be gathered from the garden as well as industrially grown and harvested dyestuffs that were traded across Europe and beyond.

	<u>English Name</u>	<u>Latin Name</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	The entire plant is used to make dye and when gathered from spring to September, it yields a pale yellow hue. Gathered later and the dye results in a deep rich yellow. As the plant contained tannin it would also be used in the dyeing of linen and in the manufacture of leather.
2	Alkanet	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	The root produces a deep reddish colour and the name <i>Anchusa</i> comes from the Greek <i>Achousc</i> meaning 'to paint'. The Arabic <i>al-khenna</i> or <i>henna</i> produces a similar dye. Also called Common Bugloss.
3	Bear's Breeches	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	Yellow.
4	Betony	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>	Leaves produce a dark yellow.
5	Black Hollyhock	<i>Alcea rosea</i>	Black flowers produce lavender to purple.
6	Blue Iris	<i>Iris versicolour</i>	Produced a purplish juice which turned green when mixed with alum and used as a clothes' dye in the 14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> centuries. The roots of this plant provided the monks with the compound for producing their writing ink. The flowers were often used to decorate churches.
7	Bronze Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> ' <i>purpureum</i> '	Yellow. In medieval times fennel was hung over doors with St John's Wort to ward off evil spirits
8	Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	The flowers will make a yellow dye.
9	Devil's-Bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Blue dye can be make out of the leaves and flowers.
10	Dyer's Greenweed	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Yellow. Also known as Dyer's Broom.
11	Dyer's Chamomile	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Yellow.

12	Dyer's Woodruff	<i>Asperula tinctoria</i>	Already known by the Ancient Greeks and the Romans, this plant was valued for its red dye.
13	Elecampane	<i>Inula helenium</i>	Blue.
14	Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Apple green obtained from the flowers.
15	Goldenrod	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Leafy shoots used to produce shades of tan and brown; flower heads for bright yellows and golds.
16	Gypsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Produces a durable black dye suitable for funeral clothes. The name Gypsywort comes from a medieval belief that con-men used the plant to make their skin darker so they could pass themselves off as true gypsies who were thought to have magical and fortune-telling powers.
17	Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Gives a coral red rather like that of Lady's Bedstraw.
18	Jacob's Ladder	<i>Polemonium caeruleum</i>	Black. Used in the dyeing of linen. This plant was known to the Ancient Greeks. Its name suggests religious and biblical associations.
19	Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>	Yellow from the tops & coral red from the roots. Green when yellow is over-dyed with woad.
20	Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	The leaves yield a green dye. Also known as Dewcup for the way the soft hairs on its pleated leaves catch raindrops and dew. Medieval alchemists collected the drops, believing them to have magical and healing powers.
21	Lily of the Valley	<i>Convallaria magalis</i>	Leaves yield a green dye.
22	Marigold	<i>Calendula officianalis</i>	Yellow.
23	Madder	<i>Rubia tinctorum</i>	Madder is said to have been introduced by the Vikings. The root required for the red dye was only harvested once a year making it significantly more expensive than some other dyes.
24	Madonna Lily	<i>Lilium candidum</i>	Lily pollen was used as a yellow painting dye. The Madonna Lily symbolises purity for Roman Catholics. Medieval depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary often show her holding these flowers. The Bible describes King Solomon's Temple as having designs of Madonna lilies on the columns.
25	Maltese Cross	<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	Red. Reputedly brought to Europe from the Holy Land during the crusades by Louis IX of France and therefore often known by its other name of 'Jerusalem Cross'. The flowers were used in decorative garlands.

26	Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	Yellow. If mixed with iron it produces black.
27	Nettle	Urtica dioica	Yellow. Dark green if mixed with iron.
28	Pasque Flower	Anemone pulsatilla	Bright green. Also commonly used in medieval times for dyeing Easter eggs.
29	Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	Brown. The flowers produce an edible red dye which was once used to colour sweets.
30	Saffron Crocus	Crocus Sativus	Strong yellow. Saffron was very popular during medieval times and monks used it to illuminate their manuscripts.
31	Saw-wort	Serratula tinctoria	Yellow (rather like that of weld).
32	St John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum	Shades from maroon to yellow, green to brown. St John's Wort was mainly used for magic potions during the Middle Ages to protect humans and animals against witches, demons and evil diseases.
33	Tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	Yellow from the flowers.
34	Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	Yellow. In medieval times, the spiny seed heads were fitted into wooden frames and used to tease out woolen fibers before they were spun (a process known as carding) and also used to raise the nap of finished woolen cloth.
35	Weld	Ruseda luteola	This Mediterranean herb is the oldest yellow dye plant in the world and was obtained by the 1st millennium BC. Pliny described a plant widely grown for its aphrodisiac scent which was also used in treating bruises - for this reason he gave it the Latin name <i>reseda</i> , meaning a healer or restorer. Also called Dyer's Rocket.
36	Woad	Isatis tinctoria	The plant was pulped and drained and the residue kneaded into balls and then dried and reduced to a powder from which a blue dye was produced. (Think of woes = the blues.)
37	Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	Yellow from the flowers and stalks.
38	Yellow Iris	Iris pseudacorus	Yellow from the flowers, black from the roots when mixed with iron. A bright green dye can be obtained from the leaves. Sometimes called <i>Segg</i> which gets its name from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning 'short sword', and refers to the shape of the leaves.

PLEASE REPLACE SHEET TO LEAFLET HOLDER AFTER USE. THANK YOU.