



Stony Creek Colors

MYROBALAN

DYE RECIPE

Myrobalan is used as both a dye or a mordant for plant-based fibers, like cotton and linen.

Before dyeing with Myrobalan, we recommend mordanting your fibers with alum for protein-based fibers like wool and silk. For plant-based fabrics, like cotton and linen, you can mordant with myrobalan, then alum.

Dyeing with Myrobalan:

In beginning any new project, the proper amount of Myrobalan Powder needs to be calculated.

1. Measure the weight of fabric, WOF. We recommend using 20-30% WOF for buttery yellows.

For example, if you are dyeing 500 grams (1 pound) worth of fiber, you would need 100-150 grams of powder.

If we are calculating 20% of Myrobalan powder this would be our formula:

Weight of Fiber x 0.2 = Amount of Myrobalan powder needed (by weight)

2. To prepare your dye bath, fill a pot with warm water, enough to allow your fiber to float freely. Add the pre-measured powder and stir well until it's completely liquid.

3. You are now ready to begin dyeing! We recommend getting your mordanted fabrics wet and ringing them out until they are damp, this helps evenly distribute the dye.



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Tip: Modifiers

This is where you can add modifiers, or dye assists, to manipulate color. Remember, modifiers cannot be removed from the dye bath, if you want to experiment with swatches or dye different pieces of fabric, separate your dye bath and add modifiers accordingly.

Adding 2-4% WOF to the dye bath to produce grey and earthy greens.

Pairing both myrobalan osage orange creates a brighter but less colorfast yellow than just using myrobalan alone.

4. Once the fabric is in, slowly begin heating your water to about 180 degrees F, above a simmer but below a boil with slight steam, for about an hour.

5. The final step is to rinse the dyed fabrics and let them dry overnight. Wash using a pH-neutral liquid detergent, like Dr. Bronner's.

Tip: Modifiers

Myrobalan is a good foundation for over-dyeing with Indigo, producing a tinted teal.