



Baltimore Woods
Nature Center
Nature in your hands

Natural Plant Dyes

As we continue into the fall the plants around us will be nearing the end of their life cycles. A good way to use these plants before they are gone is to make natural plant dyes to paint with! Good plants to use for natural plant dyes include golden rod, beets, cranberries, red cabbage, yellow onion skins, spinach leaves, and blueberries. To make the plant dyes you will need to cut the plant material up into small pieces, add the plant material to a pot, and add twice the amount of water so if you used two cups of plant material use four cups of water. Simmer the mixture on the stove for one hour, stirring occasionally. Remove the pot from heat and let it cool. Strain the liquid from the plant material and label your jar with the plant material you used. Visit http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/institute/lesson-clearinghouse/353-painting_with_natural_dyes.html for full instructions

Use watercolor paper and your plant dyes to paint a fall scene or your favorite fall plant! Share your paintings with us by sending a photo to connect@baltimorewoods.org or by sharing with us on social media!

