

## Natural Dyes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Blacks:** Came from alder, black walnut, logwood, persimmon, red oak bark, sumac berries, white ash, and yarrow.

**Blues:** elder, elecampane, indigo, larkspur, logwood, woad.

**Browns:** alder bark, birch, black walnut bark or root, burdock, butternut, cascara sagrada, comfrey, fennel, geranium, hops, juniper, madder, onion, pokeweed, poplar, plum root, red oak bark, sorghum seed, sumac, sweetgum bark, tea leaves, white oak. Ojibwa Indians used hemlock for a reddish brown.

**Golds:** agrimony, dock, goldenrod, mullein, onion, plantain, marigold, poplar, safflower, salsify, yarrow

**Grays:** elder, myrtle, pine, poplar, raspberry, sunflower, sweetgum bark, yarrow

**Greens:** agrimony, angelica, barberry, bayberry, betony, coltsfoot, comfrey, dock, fennel, foxglove, goldenrod, hickory, horsetail, mamosa, marjoram, mullein, Queen Ann's lace, red oak bark, rosemary, sage, salsify, sunflower, tansy, yarrow

**Oranges:** bloodroot, chicory, golden marguerite, madder, sassafras, sunflower, weld

**Pinks:** bloodroot, pokeweed, pumpkin, sorrel, woad

**Purples:** blackberry, geranium, grape, lady's bedstraw, bark of swamp maple, sweetgum bark

**Reds:** dandelion, dock, hops, lady's bedstraw, madder, pokeweed, potentilla, St. John's wort, sweet woodruff. Dark red was obtained by using equal parts of blood root and wild plum bark. Pine tree root gave a garnet color.

**Rusts:** pokeweed, safflower

**Tans:** Black walnut, barberry, onion, raspberry, sunflower, sweet woodruff

**Yellows:** agrimony, barberry, broom, chamomile, cocklebur leaves and stalks, crabapple bark, dandelion, dock, fennel, fenugreek, golden marguerite, goldenrod, goldenseal, horseradish, lady's bedstraw, marigold, onion, safflower, saffron, sage, St. John's wort, salsify, sunflower, tansy, yarrow