

A quick guide to Dyeing flowers

This is how we dye fresh flowers from our flower farm. It is a simpler process than preserving flowers with glycerin, which we often do for our Hydrangea.

This process is call systemic dyeing.

The most common flowers dyed are tulip and roses. It is easiest if you are starting with white flowers, essentially a flower with no starting color.

If you want to tint a flower that already has color, you will need to practice and experiment using you knowledge of color theory, red and green make brown etc.

Start with fresh flowers, we suggest fresh, slightly dehydrated flowers.

Best bets, sunflowers, hydrangea, tulips, gladiolas, Queen Anne's Lace, and dahlias. Since the dyeing process is done out of the cooler, you need to use flowers that last more than a few days.

The dyeing process does not shorten or lengthen the life of the flower.

Time for the process depends on humidity > flower transpiration rate > uptake of dye

Some flowers prefer a slower process. I've found Oak dries out before it takes up enough dye in a low humidity environment.

I've never used food coloring by it should in theory work.

What you will need: You can get everything at the link below, they also have manuals that go into much more detail.

Especially helpful are Lists of dye amounts for light, medium and dark flowers. Make sure to ask for the dye color chart.

<https://www.kochcolor.com>

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- Systemic floral dye- many color choices, I like cinnamon and the greens 1/4 to 4 oz. per gallon of water. Use can get as little as a 4oz. jar.
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- Wetting agent: Tw-20 surfactant
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- To keep the dye fresh until it is used up, add critic acid ~1 tsp/gal. and Potassium Sorbate 1 tsp./gal.

How it works:

- Heat the water for better desolving of the dye. Add the other ingredients and stir.

- You are ready to go, after the water has cooled.
- Recut your stems right before you add them to the dye.
- Place flowers in an upright, narrow (glass vase) loosely
- Make sure you have a medium to low humidity, with good air circulation (small fan)
- Check the flowers often, starting at 30 minutes
- Take them out when they reach your preferred color and move to water and your cooler. (Be care with the dyed ends this is strong dye)
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- Have fun and experiment. Cheers, Susan and the Shady Grove team!