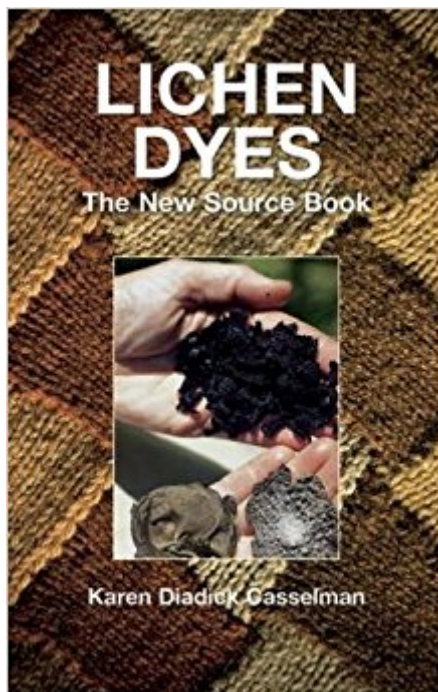


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Lichen Dyes: The New Source Book



Synopsis

Lichens are curious plants, composed of fungi and algae that often resemble splotches of paint peeling from rocks or wood. They have been used to create brilliant, versatile dyes for over 4,000 years. In this comprehensive guide based on 25 years of meticulous research, noted textile designer and lichen expert Karen Casselman explains how to create and use dyes derived from these unusual plants. The text begins with a fascinating history of such Asian and European lichen pigments as Phoenician purple, Roman murex, Florentine orchil, and Norwegian korkje.

Consideration of Scottish, Irish, and Scandinavian domestic lichen dyes follows, as well as those used in colonial America. Also discussed at length are safe dyeing methods, with special attention to equipment and preparation of the fiber; ecologically sound dyeing techniques and the use of mordants (substances used to fix dyes); lichen identification; and more. A final section includes charts of lichen dye names and ingredients, additives and alternative mordants, international field guides, useful bibliographies, indices, and other information. Well written, informative, and filled with expert advice, this excellent guide will be indispensable to novices and experienced dyers who wish to learn the age-old art and craft of dyeing with lichens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This little paperback is one of the few books for lichen lovers, and I have the author's other book. I refer to them (as well as a couple other books) whenever I am looking to lichen dye. Clearly written, and full of important information.

Very disappointed. I have been dyeing fabric and paper for many years. Lichens have always been a bit baffling, especially identification. I have several other books on lichens. I was hoping this book would be "the one".....and it's not. Only 6 color plates and they are all terrible. So if I can't identify how can I understand what color I might get? The bibliography is 12 pages, or so. How would I ever be able to know what lichen are safe to harvest and which ones are endangered. This book will definitely be a dust collector.

Collecting lichens and mosses for dyeing is a hobby and this book gives a good resource for me to follow to get colors I would like to add to my collection of dyed yarns. Thank-you!

Book arrived in perfect condition.

Great book great service, thank you

great book

Deep and solid information, Casselman knows her lichens and seems to have devoted a lifetime to their study. That said this is a book for the trivia buff and the very serious dyer. You will learn more than you thought possible about lichens and their role in history. You will be able to dye with lichens, but you will have to have large expensive Field Guides in order to identify the lichens as in this book all you get is the Latin name. A small tome with loads of information that works without the nasties -tin, chrome and copper

Great introduction to a little known subject. Describes the lichens and their possible dyes and color uses well

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