

How to make botanical prints on the fabric

Material needed:

- **Canvas bag from medium-thick linen, cotton or other plant fibre (30 x 24 cm or 21 x 16 cm)**
- **Fresh leaves or blossoms (leaves of trees and shrubs, flower leaves and petals, leaves of vegetables and herbs can be used)**
- **Mordants: 2-5 g of copper sulphate (CuSO_4), 2-5 g of ferrous sulphate (FeSO_4)**
- **Water (H_2O)**

1. Hammering botanical prints

Place a thick sheet of paper or cardboard sheet inside the bag and arrange leaves or petals of various plants on the surface of the fabric. Cover with carbon paper and hammer the fabric using a small hammer or stone. When the pattern is completely hammered into the fabric, carefully remove the paper and plant bits from the fabric. Repeat the same steps on the other side of the bag.

2. Colour fixing for botanical prints and modification reactions in CuSO_4 and FeSO_4 solutions

Mordants used to achieve colour fixation for botanical prints are 2 – 5 % copper sulphate and ferrous sulphate solutions. You will need 2 – 5 g of mordant salts (CuSO_4 and FeSO_4) for 100 ml of water. Prepare two separate mordant baths. Use separate brushes for each of them. Apply one of the mordant solutions on each plant print, taking care not to spill too much over the edges: copper sulphate makes the plant print brighter, although it does not change the colour strongly; ferrous sulphate provides the plant print a gray-purple colour.

3. Drying and rinsing

First let the dyed item dry well. After ~ 24 h, rinse thoroughly with water, leave to dry again and then iron. For further care, use mild detergents, hand or machine wash at 30° C.