

Final Textiles Project

## The Beauty of Cumin

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## **Products and items used**

The natural dye stuff I used is ground **Cumin** powder. These are other products and items I used in this project.

- Baking Soda
- Water
- Rubberbands
- Cup
- Giant Spoon
- 2 Bowls
- Pot
- Cotton Shirt

I used Cumin for my project, because it was what I had in my cabinet, and it's similar to turmeric.

## **Brief History / Uses**

Cumin, or Cummin, is a small, slender annual herb of the family **Apiaceae**, with finely dissected leaves, and white or rose-coloured flowers. It is native to the Mediterranean region. Cumin is also planted throughout India, China, and Mexico for its fruits, called seeds. They were and still are used for foods and medicinals, like essential oils.

Cumin seeds are actually dried fruits. The thin, yellowish brown, elongated ovals, measures about 0.25 inch (6 mm) long, with five prominent longitudinal dorsal ridges

interspersed with less-distinctive secondary ridges forming a tiny, gridlike pattern.

They are especially popular in Asian, North African, and Latin American cuisines.

The scent is heavy and strong. Cumin is an essential ingredient in many mixed spices such as chutneys, chili and curry powders.

## **The Dyeing Process**

### **Step 1: Gather Supplies**

Before starting my project, I looked up a YouTube video on how to dye fabrics, using Cumin. I couldn't find one I liked, so I followed the turmeric video, used in the last textile project, to guide me. I gathered all the supplies I needed before starting. I used baking soda, water, rubberbands, 2 cups, a giant spoon, 2 bowls, a cotton shirt, a pot, and some Cumin.

### **Step 2: Add 3 cups of cumin**

### **and 11 cups of water**

After gathering all my items, I added eleven cups of water to a big pot. After, I added three full cups of cumin inside the pot, and mixed well. I turned the stove on medium so it can boil.

### **Step 3: Boil the cumin solution**

Once the cumin started to boil, I turned the fire down really low, and let it continue to boil for an hour.



#### **Step 4: Prepare t-shirt for dyeing**

While my cumin solution was boiling, I started the t-shirt preparations. For this project, I started with an accordion fold, but ended up freestyling the fold of the t-shirt. I folded the shirt in half, then in a square, then I folded the shirt back and forth. I folded the shirt one more time, appearing as a U shape. I used rubber bands to hold it together, because the yarn that I brought wasn't strong enough.



### **Step 5: Prepare solution for t-shirt**

After preparing the shirt, I used 2 ½ cups of baking soda, and two cups of water into a bowl, and mixed well.



### **Step 6: Dip the t-shirt in the solution**

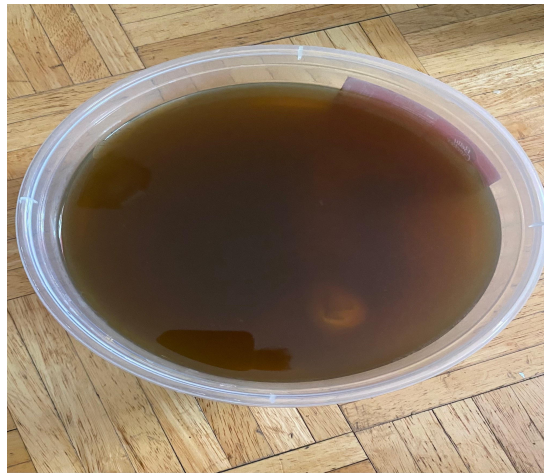
I dipped the shirt into the water, and a baking soda solution. I rotated it for 50 minutes.

### **Step 7: Rinse the t-shirt**

By the time I rinsed the shirt, it was already a little over an hour. I turned the fire off. While the cumin solution was cooling down, I washed the shirt with running water only, in the sink, to wash off the baking soda.

### **Step 8: Dip the t-shirt in the cumin**

I didn't dip the shirt into the cumin solution, but I carefully poured the hot water into a bowl.



### **Step 9: Wait 12hrs**

I let the shirt sit in the bowl full of the cumin solution, for twelve hours.



## The Results / Conclusion

### Cumin



VS

### Turmeric



12 hours later, I washed my t shirt with colorless laundry detergent, and warm water. The results could've been better. The color isn't nearly as potent as the turmeric samples. I had a feeling it wasn't going to be as good, but I like it nonetheless. The little yellow colors are definitely standing out, especially when it began to dry. I do like the yellow around the neck and shoulder area. Maybe if I had used more cumin, maybe, it would have been darker, or if I left the shirt in the bowl for 24 hours, like I did with the turmeric, maybe the color would've set better. Considering all the white areas left on my shirt, maybe I can block-print on the white areas. The shirt smells good, and the smell is very familiar. I smelled this particular smell on a couple of shirts I've owned in the past. I probably have worn cumin and didn't realize.

I had fun doing this project, it was interesting, like the last one. "I look at all the sundresses, wife beaters, and t-shirts I've owned, with tie dye designs, and wonder if I was wearing food, or how many seasonings, and spices, I have worn on my body". I still feel the same way, and wonder how much food am I really wearing on my body. \*laughs.

### **Source(s)**

Augustyn, A. **Cumin**. *Britannica*

<https://www.britannica.com/plant/cumin>