

How to Bottle Amaranth Dye for Later Use

Step 1: Prepare the Dye Bath

1. Chop **fresh or dried red amaranth** leaves/flowers.
2. Simmer gently in water for 30–60 min (avoid boiling).
3. Let steep longer for deeper pigment (overnight is fine).
4. Strain thoroughly—get *all* the plant bits out.
Use a fine mesh strainer or cheesecloth for clarity.
5. Optional: Adjust pH for color tweaking.
 - Acidic (vinegar or lemon) = pinker
 - Alkaline (baking soda) = purple/grayish tones

Step 2: Sterilize Bottles/Jars

If you don't want your dye to become a biology experiment in a few weeks:

1. Use clean **glass jars or bottles with tight lids**.
2. Boil jars and lids in water for 10 minutes (like canning).
3. Let them air-dry upside down on a clean towel.

Step 3: Bottle It Up

1. Pour **hot strained dye** into sterilized jars.
2. Fill to about 1/4" from the top.
3. Seal immediately.
4. Label with:
 - Dye plant (Amaranth)
 - Date
 - pH (if modified)
 - Any mordants or additives used

Step 4: Store It Cool

- **Fridge:** Best for short-term storage (2–4 weeks).
- **Freezer:** Best for long-term (several months).
 - Leave room for expansion if freezing.