**To get started you will need:**

* Hard boiled eggs (preferably white since they take on the dyes better than brown eggs)
* Ingredients to make your dyes, which I will discuss in more detail below.
* White vinegar (2 Tablespoons for each quart of water)
* Several pots and bowls
* Optional: Leaves from your yard, rubber bands, stickers and crayons for making patterns
* Egg carton for drying the dyed eggs

Natural egg dyes can be made from a variety of ingredients. Here are some that I like. You can combine ingredients to create variations of beautiful colors. When the eggs have dried rub some oil on them to give the eggs a lovely sheen.

**Blue**

Cut ¼ head of red cabbage into chunks and add it to 4 cups boiling water. Stir in 2 Tbsp. white vinegar. Let cool to room temperature and remove the cabbage with a slotted spoon.

Jade Green

Peel the skin from 6 red onions (yes, red) and simmer in 2 cups of water for 15 minutes; strain. Add 3 tsp. white vinegar.

**Orange**

Take the skin of 6 yellow onions and simmer in 2 cups of water for 15 minutes; strain. Add 3 tsp. white vinegar.

**Yellow**

Simmer 4 oz. chopped carrot tops in 1 ½ cups of water for 15 minutes; strain. Add 2 tsp. white vinegar.

**Mustard Yellow**

Stir 2 Tbls. Turmeric into 1 cup of boiling water; add 2 tsp. white vinegar

**Brown**

Add 1 Tbls. Vinegar to 1 cup of strong coffee

**Faint Pink**

Chop 4 oz. amaranth flowers and simmer in 2 cups water; strain. Add 2 tsp. white vinegar.

**Pink**

Simmer skins from 6 avocados in 1- ½ cups of water for 20 minutes; strain. Add 2 tsp. white vinegar.

Alternative: Mix 1 cup pickled beet juice and 1 Tabls. White vinegar

**Lavender**

Mix 1 cup grape juice and 1 Tbls. White vinegar.

You can experiment with any fruits or vegetables you have in your house. Spinach leaves, cherries, raspberries, violet blossoms, tea bags, pomegranates and more will give you beautiful, natural colors.

My daughters liked to pick small leaves from plants and flowers. We would lay these leaves against the hard boiled eggs and secure with a piece of nylon stocking using a rubber band before we dipped the egg in the dye. If strongly secured the design of the leaf will be left on the egg after it comes out of the dye. Put these eggs in a bowl and they make a beautiful centerpiece.

May you enjoy this holiday tradition with someone special.

*Penny Brookins*