



CONNOR HOLLINGER | FOR LNP/LANCASTERONLINE PHOTOS

Debby Phelps rolls goldenrod and flowers into a scarf in a natural dye workshop at Green Matters Natural Dye Co. near Gap.

||||||| SUSTAINABILITY |||||

# PLANT PIGMENTS

*Green Matters Natural Dye Company uses plant-based materials, small-batch dyeing to make a change in fashion industry*

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Green Matters Natural Dye Co.'s next public dyeing workshops will be Saturday, Oct. 22, and Saturday, Nov. 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the company headquarters, 5541 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gap. Each class includes demonstrations on bundle dyeing, shibori, indigo dyeing and more. Students can bring up to one pound of natural fiber clothing to dye (cotton, linen, silk, wool, hemp, for example.)

For more information on the workshops or the upcoming launch of Green Matters Studio's overdyeing service and custom dyeing, visit [greenmattersnaturaldyecompany.com](http://greenmattersnaturaldyecompany.com).

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In a former dairy barn outside of Gap, Winona Quigley hangs a rainbow of yarn bundles, each color rooted in plants. The palette expands in the dye house, where avocado pits turn T-shirts pink, flower petals tie-dye silk dresses and indigo powder gets everywhere. Everything here is one-of-a-kind, made for designers like Rachel Comey, brands like Stitch Fix and companies like Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Last month, Debby Phelps dipped some of her old T-shirts into steaming pots of dark blue indigo.

Rachel Lopez-Cerrato dyed yards of silk with logwood and marigold powders in hopes of making dresses.

Nick Rice darkened a pair of his handmade cotton/hemp farm pants with cutch and iron.

They're part of something new for Green Matters Natural Dye Company. What started as a college thesis aimed to change a toxic industry has become a business that's doubled revenue every year. Last year, Forbes named owner Quigley on its 30 Under 30 list. Now, she's ready to add people like Phelps, Lopez-Cerrato

and Rice to the growing list of commercial clients through workshops and other services. All of these are ways to make clothing more sustainable.

Finding commercial clients to dye with plant-based materials is one way to make change. Bringing natural dyes to the public is part of something bigger.

"We have to slow down the amount of things you're making," Quigley says during a break in a public dyeing workshop last month. "In order to do that, people need to hang on to their garments a lot longer and have more options for how to fix things."

Workshops like this show how to



Winona Quigley started researching natural dye in college. Forbes added her to its 30 Under 30 list for her work.

give clothing a second life through dye, whether that covers stains or simply changing the color.

That's one of the reasons Emma Compton came to Green Matters from Broomall, New Jersey. She brought some clothing she had set aside, like a tan midi dress.

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