Dyeing by CaryLyn at VMQG General Meeting November 14, 2016

Prepare fabric: unless it is PFD (prepared for dyeing), wash your fabric to get the sizing out. I use Synthrapol or equivalent (1/2t) and soda ash (1/2t) with 3-4 yds. of fabric and hot water.

Prepare dye solution: lay out the dye powders that you want to use lightest to darkest. I put notes on the lid of my powders: when I opened it, how much to use per cup of water, temperature info, and the color and #. I use distilled or RO hot water (1 cup), Urea (2-4T), and Dye (2-4T). Shake or stir well.

Prepare soda solution: Soda Ash (8T) and HOT water (1 gallon). Stir with a long handle spoon or stick.

Dye the fabric: Ta Da! Here is the fun part!

Low water immersion:

1. Wet the fabric with plain warm water (1c/yd) and manipulate the fabric into a container. The fabric could be tied, clamped, folded, etc. before or after wetting it.
2. Pour 1c of dye over wet fabric, move it around in the solution,* wait 5-15 minutes,
3. Pour 1c soda solution over fabric, move it around,* let the dye work for a minimum of 1 hr. Move it around during this time.*

Direct application:

1. Place fabric to be dyed into a soda solution to soak for 5-10 minutes. The fabric could be manipulated before or after wetting.
2. Wring it out, place it over a line to hang or on a tray to be dyed. Using squirt bottles (sports-top water bottles work great), apply the dye. This is how tie-dye is done too.
3. The colors will be more intense the longer the fabric stays wet and warm. For example, you can wrap it in plastic and set it in the sun or microwave it. I have left it for a few days!

Remove excess dye by rinsing the fabric in the sink or tub. Loose dye WILL attach to your fabric so try to use lots of water and keep the yellow away from the other colors. When the water looks clear, throw it into your washer with Synthrapol (1/4c).

You have the rest under control. Enjoy! Nothing is a mistake. Use parts of what works, over-dye what doesn't, or remove/discharge some of the dye with bleach or deColorant.