

DIY Recipe Eco Prints

aka *Botanical Prints* aka *Leaf Prints*

Ingredients:

Leaves and flowers

Paper and string

Pot with lid (not to be used for food again)

Water and white vinegar

Rusty iron objects

- Buy or find an old **pot with a lid** that you will no longer use for cooking.
- Pick **leaves or flowers**. Some work and some don't. My current local favorite leaves are guava, pecan, walnut, and eucalyptus. Experiment with plants around you.
- Prepare sheets of **paper**, either single or folded. I recommend watercolor or printmaking paper that will not disintegrate when wet. Fabric works also, but it is more complicated.
- Layer the leaves and the paper. Have something hard at the top and the bottom of the pile such as flat wood or heavy cardboard or screen. When the bundle is assembled, tie **string** tightly around it. You want the paper and the leaves to have good contact.
- Put your layered bundle in the pot. Cover it with **water**. Add some **white vinegar** if you have it. Iron helps a lot, so add any old **iron objects** you can find, preferably rusty.
- Boil covered about two hours on a low boil (ideally 185 degrees). It is okay to do this in your kitchen if you have ventilation, but some people may be sensitive to the fumes. Do not use poisonous plants!
- After it cools, you can open the bundle and see what magic the leaves have done. Every batch turns out differently. It is always a surprise, and hopefully a wonderful surprise.

This is only the beginning. It can get much more complicated, but start with these basics. There are many good resources on-line. Be careful—you may become hooked!

