

37390 Green Buckthorn Berries

C.I. Natural Yellow 13

engl.: Buckthorn berries, yellow berries

german: Kreuzdornbeeren

fr.: Baies der nerprun, baies de jaune nerprun, graines d'Avignon

Buckthorn berries are also called yellow berries. These berries are pea-sized and belong to the species *Rhamnus catharticus*, of the *Rhamnaceae* family. Unripe buckthorn berries yield a beautiful yellow stain.

Buckthorn berries come from many different countries, such as France, Hungary, Germany, Asia and Northern Africa and Mediterranean countries.

The coloring components of the buckthorn berries are flavonoids. Depending on the ripeness of the berries, different hues can be obtained: green berries give a bright yellow, the ripe berries give a green color and over-ripe berries give a dark red color.

The buckthorn berries cannot be used directly for dyeing purposes, metallic salts have to be added to mordant. When using the green berries, aluminum salts give light fast yellow hues, tin salts give orange hues (which can change to brown under the influence of light), iron and copper salts give olive hues. These colors are resistant against soap and chlorine.

Recipe from 1899:

Chop the berries (you can use a coffee mill) and boil in water with some alum for about one hour.
Pour through a sieve and brush on.