

36000 Indigo

A variety of plants, including woad, have provided indigo throughout history, but most natural indigo is obtained from those in the genus *Indigofera*, which are native to the tropics. In temperate climates indigo can also be obtained from woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) and dyer's knotweed (*Polygonum tinctorum*), although the *Indigofera* species yield more dye. The primary commercial indigo species in Asia was true indigo (*Indigofera tinctoria*, also known as *Indigofera sumatrana*). In Central and South America the two species *Indigofera suffruticosa* (Anil) and *Indigofera arrecta* (Natal indigo) were the most important.

Natural indigo was the only source of the dye until about 1900. Within a short time, however, synthetic indigo had almost completely superseded natural indigo, and today nearly all indigo produced is synthetic. Indigo is among the oldest dyes to be used for textile dyeing and printing. Many Asian countries, such as India, China, and Japan, have used indigo as a dye for centuries. The dye was also known to ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Britain, Peru, Iran, and Africa.

Natural indigo is not soluble in water or in alcohol. To be dissolved, it must undergo a chemical change: an alkaline solution containing a reduction agent reduces the water-insoluble indigo to a soluble substance known as indigo white or leucoindigo. When a submerged fabric is removed from the dye bath, the indigo white quickly combines with oxygen in the air and reverts to its insoluble form (giving the blue color).

Certificate of Analysis

Indigotin (photometric)	46.2 %
Ash (DGF-M-V-4)	12.1 %

This product corresponds to the a.m. requirements.