

Flavonoids...

Flavonoids used as a colourant come mainly in plants that attempt to attract pollinators, although in larger plants it also helps with UV filtration. Flavonoids are present in a lot of foods eaten by humans such as elder berries, strawberries, blueberries, dark chocolate and cabbage. Flavonoids have anti-oxidant properties and help to control cholesterol levels, it's sometimes known as vitamin P.

In recent studies strains of flavonoids have been tested for their use in cancer treatments and are thought to inhibit the chance of tumour invasion.

When dyes are taken from berries such as the ones mentioned, it is the flavonoids that are colouring the vessel to be dyed. These make a great range of reds through to blues and yellows depending on the amount of acid and alkali present in the mixture. These can be laked easily holding their colour well, they are easily made into concentrated inks. The flavonoid as a colour is also lightfast but can be prolonged by the additive of a mordant, which can be as simple as salt or vinegar (commonly used in dyeing fabric).

