

BOTANICAL PRINTING BOOTCAMP

GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2026



JANNELEE.COM

A Litte Note Before You Begin

Thank you for showing up — for saying yes to your curiosity, your creativity, and this slow, beautiful path into botanical printing.

This guide is the starting point for the Botanical Bootcamp sock challenge. You don't need prior experience — just curiosity and a willingness to follow the process.

This is a learning experience. Each bundle gives you information you'll use in the next one. Some prints will surprise you. Others will teach you exactly what to adjust.

This challenge isn't about perfect results.
It's about understanding how plants behave on fabric — one flower, one sock at a time.

So take a breath.
Let go of perfection.
And have fun.

With wonder, and wildflowers,



Botanical PRINTING Bootcamp

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WATCH
the day's video

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4

MORDANT & PRINT
your socks



Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Scour	Mordant	Fix	Print

POST
your socks in our community

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4

SHARE
on social media & tag @janneleestudios

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4

ENCOURAGE
another member

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4

Complete and check off each box. Then take a photo of your checked off paper to enter to win your choice of a botanically printed item. Check the group to see what the prizes are this round.

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Supplies:

spoon

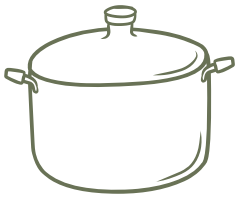
Egg beater to mix



2 Bowls



Pot & Lid



Steaming Basket



Gloves
(I like Casabella gloves)



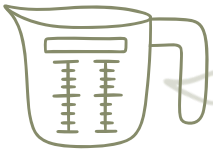
Gram scale



N95 mask



1 liter measuring cup



Aluminum sulfate
(you can find a small jar at the groceries in the spice isle



String , T-shirt yarn, or ace bandage



1 Cup Wheat bran + Nylon sock



OR

10 grams calcium carbonate





Dried flowers or fresh

On Etsy: look for dried marigold, sulfur cosmos, coreopsis or black hollyhock or purple pincusion or just use Onion Skins yellow and/or red

I also carry kits on my website with most everything you need in case your short on time at:
https://jannelee.com/botanical-kits



Synthapol
(or another pH Neutral detergent)



Soda Ash



Use Dedicated Equipment:
Use separate pots, utensils, and strainers for dyeing. These should never be used again for food preparation.

Clothes Line for drying

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DAY ONE



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Day 1: Scour



1. Weigh your fabric

Before anything, you must weigh your fabric (socks) before the next step. This is refered to **WOF "Weight of Fabric"** You will see this abbreviation a lot in natural dying and printing literature.

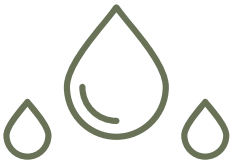
2. Scour your fabric



Scouring is a deep clean for your fabric so it will accept the alum.
Use 1% synthrapol and 1% soda ash to your WOF. Place in a pot with plenty of water + synthrapol + your fabric and gently boil for 2 hours. Rinse in cool water

3. "Wet Out" the fabric/socks

If you go straight from scouring to mordanting you can skip this step.



To wet out means to soak the fabric. By letting the fabric soak it will allow it to absorb the mordant more evenly.

If dry, place your socks into the water bath for 1/2 hour. Wring out well.

What Is Mordanting?
Mordanting prepares the fabric to receive and hold plant color. A mordant is a mineral solution *(in our case, alum)* that helps color from flowers and leaves to bond to the fibers. This step leads to clearer prints, richer color, and longer-lasting results.
If fabric isn't mordanted, prints can be faint or uneven.

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DAY TWO

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Day 2: Mordant

Mordanting is the process of preparing your fabric so it can bond beautifully with plant color.

A mordant (such as alum) acts like a bridge between the fiber and the natural dyes within the leaves and flowers. It helps the color attach more permanently, improves clarity, and increases light and wash fastness.

Without mordanting, prints can appear faint, muddy, or wash out more easily. With proper mordanting, your botanical prints develop richer tones, clearer detail, and greater longevity. 🌿

Protection

- Always wear a N95 mask when mixing metal salts
- And always wear gloves to protect your skin.

4. Mordanting your socks



1-Weigh out alum (aluminum sulfate) equal to 12% of the weight of your **dry** fabric (WOF) using a gram scale.



2-Dissolve the alum in a bowl of boiling water.



3-Pour the dissolved alum into a large pot, then fill the pot with hot tap water.



4-Add the socks and stir gently for the first few minutes so the mordant distributes evenly.



5-Stir again every 30 minutes or so.



6-Leave the fabric in the pot for at least 6 hours.

7-Hang to Dry



ALUM RECIPE

- Use 12% alum of the WOF (weight of fiber)
- To calculate use this handy calculator online: Calculateme
- e.g. for 100 g fibers, use 12 grams of alum

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DAY THREE

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Day 3: Fixing

5. Make your fixing bath

Another name for this is **dunging.**

There are two ways to Fix your mordant, choose which one you prefer a or b



a. Place about 1 cup of wheat bran into a nylon sock and tie tightly.

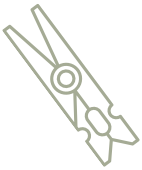


Place the nylon sock into a bath of water. Squeeze the sock repeatedly. You will see the water turn cloudy. That's when you know your bath is ready.
This is my choice of fixing.

OR

b. Measure 10 grams of calcium carbonate and mix well in 1 liter of warm water





Then:

With gloves on, place your mordanted socks into the fixing bath and work it in the fibers like you're washing ithem.

Squeeze out excess water once done and hang on the line to dry

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DAY FOUR

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Day 4: Printing

1. "Wet Out" the fabric/socks

To wet out means to soak the fabric. By letting the fabric soak it will allow it to absorb the mordant more evenly. Place your dry socks into the water bath for 2-3 hours. If you go straight from scouring you can skip this step.

2. Place your pot on stove or heating element

Put your steam basket in with some water. Be sure the water is below the steam basket. You want steam, not to boil your socks.

3. Place a piece of plastic on the table for protection

4. Sprinkle/place your flowers &/or onion skins on the plastic barrier

5. Place your socks on top of the flowers

Be sure to wring out your socks (wear gloves). You don't want them dripping with water

6. Now sprinkle/place your flowers/onion skins on top of your socks

Sulfur Cosmos flowers and Coreopsis (tickseed) are easy to grow and loaded with color! You will also find that herbs will release color as well.



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7. Roll up your socks like a burrito



8. Tie your bundle VERY Tight

Use a string, or t-shirt yarn (my favorite to use)

10. Place into steamer for 30 minutes

11. Remove from steamer with tongs

Unbundle. Remove all plant material. Rinse. Hang to dry.

12. Enjoy your beautiful socks!







About Janné

Hi, I'm Janné — artist, art educator, and lifelong believer in the creative power of nature.

For nearly 30 years, I taught art —guiding students of all ages to explore with curiosity and confidence. But it wasn't until I moved through a season of deep loss and healing that I turned to plants—not just for inspiration, but for grounding.

In a quiet corner of my backyard, I set up a picnic table with simple materials, a few leaves, and a wood dowel. No fancy tools. Just me, a bundle, some steam, and a deep need to reconnect.

What followed was more than just color on fabric. It was a ritual. A practice of noticing. A return to self.

Now, through The Art of Botanical Printing, I help others discover this gentle, powerful process for themselves. And it starts right here—with socks and dried flowers, yes—but also with curiosity, wonder, and your own creative voice.

This bootcamp is just a beginning.
If this stirred something in you…
I think you're going to love what comes next.

Janné



Want to Go Deeper?

If you enjoyed this Bootcamp, this is where it naturally leads.

The Art of Botanical Printing is the full course — where you move beyond a first experience and into a clear, thoughtful process for printing with plants. It's designed to help you understand what you're doing, why it works, and how to return to the process with confidence.

Inside the course, you'll learn how to:

- 🌿 Work with tried-and-true recipes you can trust
- 🌿 Follow clear, step-by-step instruction from preparation to finished print
- 🌿 Understand which fabrics work best, and why
- 🌿 Get the most from each season with seasonal printing guidance
- 🌿 Select and test plants so you're not guessing or wasting fabric
- 🌿 Print on garments as well as larger-format fabric
- 🌿 Apply the elements of art and design to create thoughtful, intentional compositions
- 🌿 Learn through simple, easy-to-understand teaching, without science-heavy language
- 🌿 A beautiful, comprehensive guidebook to use as both a learning companion and long-term reference
- 🌿 Two live Zoom calls (with replays)
- 🌿 A private community (not Facebook) for support and shared learning
- 🌿 All future course updates, included

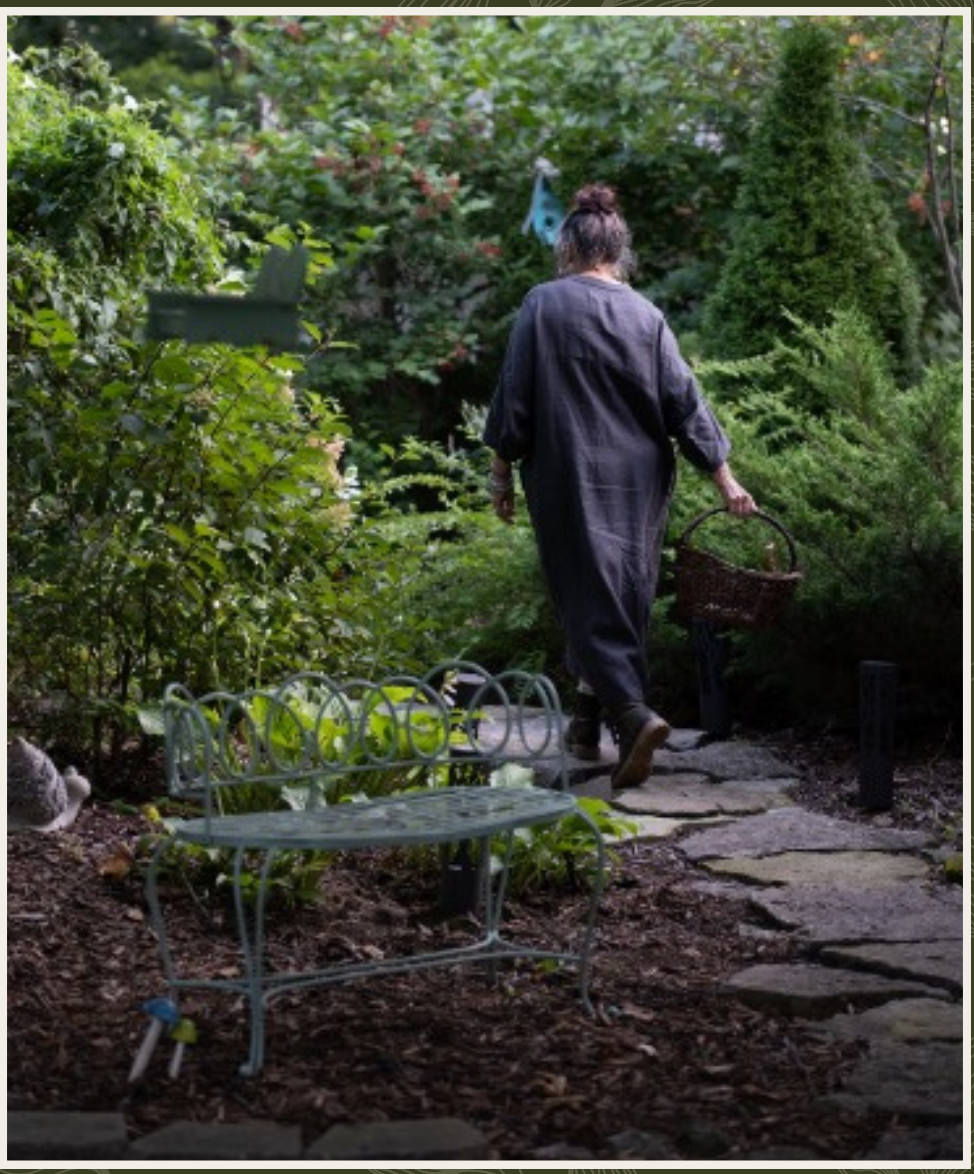
More than anything, this course invites a slower, more intentional pace of making — one where clarity replaces rushing, confidence grows with practice, and calm becomes part of the process.

If you're ready to go deeper, this is where you go next

.

I'd be honored to have you in this next chapter.

Check out the Course



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