



# VKR TEX - Tutorials

Manufacture of All Kinds of Auto loom Fabrics and Natural Dye Fabrics.

Website: [www.vkrtext.com](http://www.vkrtext.com) E-Mail: [info@vkrtext.com](mailto:info@vkrtext.com)

## Woad

### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Brassicales  
Family: Brassicaceae  
Genus: *Isatis*  
Species: *I. tinctoria*

### Binomial name

*Isatis tinctoria*  
L.

**Woad** (or **glastum**) is the common name of the flowering plant *Isatis tinctoria* in the family Brassicaceae. It is commonly called dyer's woad. It is occasionally known as Asp of Jerusalem. Woad is also the name of a blue dye produced from the plant. Woad is pronounced to rhyme with road (IPA pronunciation: [woʊd]).

- Woad is native to the steppe and desert zones of the Caucasus, Central Asia to eastern Siberia and Western Asia (Hegi), but is now found in southeastern and some parts of Central Europe as well. It has been cultivated throughout Europe, especially in Western and southern Europe, since ancient times.

### History of woad cultivation

In Europe, woad was the only source for blue dye available until the end of the 16th century when trade routes began bringing indigo from the far east.

The first archaeological finds of woad seeds date to the Neolithic and have been found in the French cave of l'Audoste, Bouches du Rhone (France). In the Iron Age settlement of the Heuneburg, Germany, impressions of the seeds have been found on pottery. The Hallstatt burials of Hochdorf and Hohmichele contained textiles dyed with woad.

## **Woad and health**

Recently, scientists have discovered woad might be used to prevent cancer, having more than 20 times the amount of glucobrassicin contained in broccoli. Young leaves when damaged can produce more glucobrassicin, up to 65 times as much.

Indigowoad Root is used in traditional Chinese medicine to treat mumps, painful swollen throat, infectious hepatitis, headache, and fever.