



Kate Temple  
Recipe for a raw ink

CAMPLE LINE

[campleline.org.uk/kate-temple/](http://campleline.org.uk/kate-temple/)  
drawing in bramble and iron rust, 2020

Suitable for flower petals, berries, spinach, spices, beetroot, dahlia, buddleia, gorse, nettle, tulip, daffodil, turmeric, paprika, hibiscus, rose

- 1 Take a couple of large handfuls or more of your plant material and put in a bowl
- 2 Add a little hot water or white vinegar or alcohol and leave to soak for a little while
- 3 Start pounding/mashing. Use a spoon or fork or a pestle and mortar
- 4 Add more liquid if you need to but go gently – you won't need much
- 5 The colour should release quite quickly as you pound, mash or squeeze the material
- 6 Once you think enough colour is released, strain off all the solids
- 7 Test your ink. If it's too watery you can very, very gently simmer off some liquid. If it's too thick or syrupy, you can add some more water. Have a play until it feels just right
- 8 Add cloves for preservation and store somewhere cool in an airtight jar

---

What's in the cupboard? Try adding some of the following to any of your inks once you have put them on paper. They will alter the pH of your ink (make it more acidic or more alkaline) and change the colour. You might get some unexpected results! salt, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, lemon, citric acid, hand sanitiser, iron ink