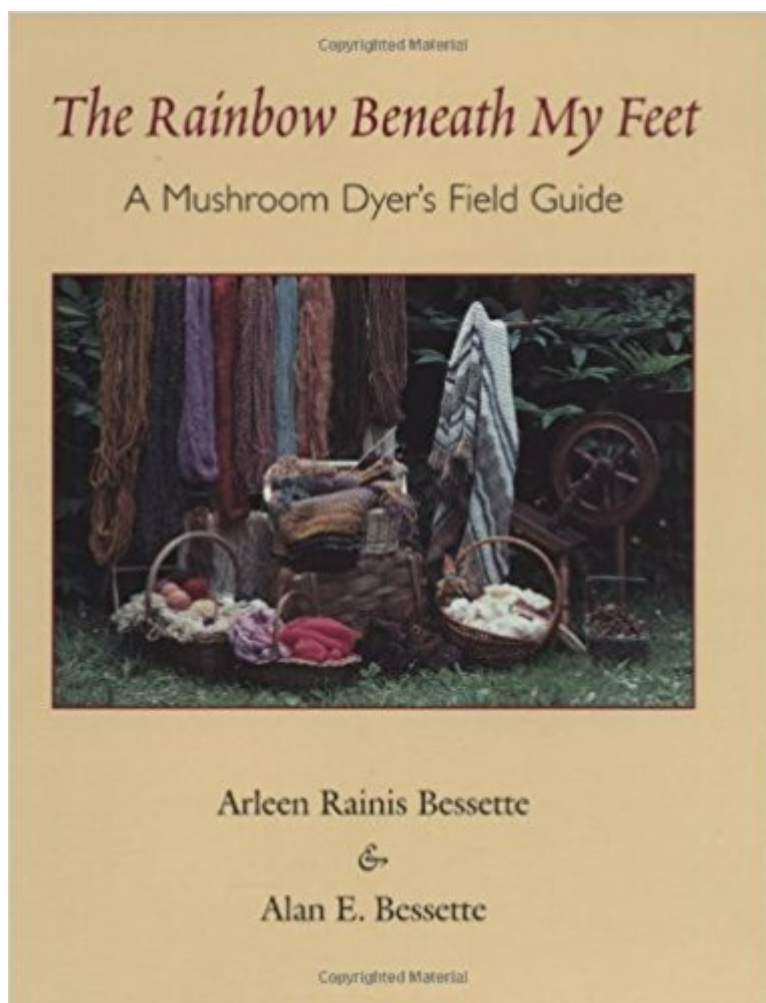


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# The Rainbow Beneath My Feet: A Mushroom Dyer's Field Guide



## Synopsis

A unique and useful reference guide to some of the more common and best color-producing dye mushrooms of North America. The book includes step-by-step instructions to the process from collecting the mushrooms to dyeing the wool. There is an accurate and up-to-date description for each species along with over 200 color photographs. The scope of this work goes beyond the identification of species. The authors provide information about dyeing equipment, mordants, preparing and dyeing the wool, and the dazzling array of colors that can be obtained from mushroom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Arleen R. Bessette is coauthor of *Mushrooms of Northeastern North America*, *Wildflowers of New York in Color*, and *North American Boletes: A Field Guide to the Fleshy Pored Mushrooms* all Published by Syracuse University Press. Alan E. Bessette is a mycologist and professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. He is coauthor of *Mushrooms of Northeastern North America*, *Wildflowers of New York in Color*, and *North American Boletes: A Field Guide to the Fleshy Pored Mushrooms* all published by Syracuse University Press. William J. Neill has served as president of the Boston Mycological Club and has taught mushroom and tree identification.

A short introduction that shows and explains dyeing technique with lots of superb photographs. The meat of this book is the detailed field guide to mushrooms with a full set of color photographs.

Proper keys are here, good index, glossary and bibliography. Superb publication with all the details needed to do the job.

Very informative, just what I have been looking for.

The illustrations are wonderful, but the labeling of photos and organization are confusing.Â Â The Rainbow Beneath My Feet: A Mushroom Dyer's Field Guide

My only criticism is that the authors decided not to mention common names for the mushrooms; but they're a lot easier to memorize than Latin names unless you're at least a serious-minded amateur botanist! Yes, I agree that they are more accurate and common names are often misapplied but would it hurt to mention them? After all, this book isn't designed for scientists but for lay craftspeople; and it's not about eating the specimens but making a dyebath with them. I find myself studying the book with high interest but the names of the mushrooms are completely gone from my head within an hour or so of putting the book down because I am not educated in Latin and the italicized words are gibberish to me. I'll have to really apply myself to learn them and, frankly, I struggle to find time for natural dying as it is. So that decision was counter-productive in my opinion, especially as the pictures are so good. How many of us know all the Latin names for the flowers we grow in our gardens?! The decision might have made a difference between my actually being able to make full use of this book and so it also cost them one star.

I would have liked a bit more information on the parts of the country/world where specific mushrooms are found. I can hardly wait until spring in new England brings the opportunity to experiment with these mushrooms.

The vast majority of the species in this book are found only on the east coast. Makes it very disappointing to this west coast resident. Unfortunately it is the only book I could find of its type. I will be using it as a reference for my own mushroom dying experiments. One of my more nit picky complaints is that it doesn't mention whether the particular mushroom is mycorrhizal or not. This is important to me because I want to grow the dye mushrooms, and you can't do that with mycorrhizal ones. So, it's okay, a little disappointing, but okay.

I have bought and used this book for many years. It is a great book for reference or for fun. You will

be amazed at the colors you can obtain from Mushrooms. I have been dyeing with Mushrooms for over 25 years, and this book just added more information for my passion. A good addition to my stable of books used for learning and teaching about Natural Dyes.

You have to go to different sections of the book to put together name, color and dye it produces. I ended up jotting down my own notes.

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