

Supplies and Resources by Dorota Haber-Lehigh,
www.dorotahaberlehigh.com email:dorota@iinet.com

Colored pencils: Generally I buy individual colors I need or like from various brands as long as they are artist quality not student grade. My favorite brands are Faber Castell Polychromos, Pablo by Caran d'ache, Prismacolor Premier and Derwent Coloursoft. I collect greens from **all** brands since I do a lot of botanical work. I use hard colored pencils such as Prismacolor Verithin, Irojiten or Derwent Artist for embossing lines or sharpening edges, you just need a few colors of those. Luminance by Caran d'ache are expensive but highly pigmented, I especially love all the reds and violets from Luminance. All colored pencils are somewhat compatible, regardless if they are wax or oil based.

Prismacolor Premier (less expensive) wax based, feel creamy and waxy, great for blending, they tend to break more.

Basic colors:

White,
Cream,
Canary Yellow,
Orange,
Scarlet Lake,
Process Red,
Violet,
Violet Blue,
True Blue,
Dark Green,
Olive Green,
Apple Green,
Dark Umber or Espresso, Tuscan Red,
Sienna Brown,
Goldenrod,
Burnt Ochre,
Yellow Ochre,

Additional colors:

Grey Green Light,
Pale Sage,
Sap Green Light
Jade Green,
Celadon Green,
Spanish Orange,
Mineral Orange,
Cool Grey 70 %,
Black Cherry,
Black Grape,
Black Raspberry,
Henna,
Ginger,
Purple Dahlia,
Salmon Pink,
Pommegrante,
Limepeel,
Clay Rose

Faber Castell Polychromos (more expensive), oil based, great for blending and laying down an even tone of color, great for the first layers, also high rating for lightfast (meaning the color on page will last longer), they tend not to break and sharpen to a beautiful point, they are also somewhat erasable, so when I sketch my drawing I use these pencils instead of a graphite pencil, May Green or Burnt Ochre or Greys are great for that.

Basic:

White # 101
Ivory # 103
Cream # 102
Cadmium Yellow Lemon # 205
Cadmium Yellow # 107
Dark Cadmium Orange # 115
Pale Geranium Lake # 121
Middle Purple Pink # 125
Magenta # 133
Fuchsia # 125
Purple Violet # 136
Red Violet # 194
Ultramarine # 120
Cobalt Turquoise # 153
May Green # 170
Earth Green Yellowish # 168
Permanent Green Olive # 167
Chromium Green Opaque #174
Chrome Oxide Green # 278
Earth Green # 172
Dark Indigo #157
Sepia # 175
Burnt Ochre # 187
Venetian Red # 190

Light Yellow Ochre # 183
Burnt Sienna # 283

Additional Colors:

Naples Yellow # 185
Dark Naples Ochre # 184
Crimson # 134
Cinnamon # 189
Cadmium Red #
Dark Red # 225
Madder # 142
Manganese Violet # 160
Mauve # 249
Hooker's Green # 159
Juniper's Green # 165
Terra Cotta # 186
Indian Red # 192
Pompeiiian Red # 191
Burnt Carmine # 193
Walnut Brown # 177
Caput Mortuum Violet # 263
Cold Grey I # 230
Cold Grey III # 232
Cold Grey IV # 233
Cold Grey VI # 235

It is better to buy a few quality pencils at a time and build your collection, than buying a less expensive set, as you will not be satisfied with student grade pencils.

My Favorite Greens:

Prismacolor: Grey Green Light, Pale Sage, Sap Green Light, Jade Green, Celadon Green – *(these are perfect for lichen or very bluish, silvery leaves)* also Kelp Green, and Artichoke are good muted greens

Faber-Castell Polychromos: Permanent Green Olive, Earth Green Yellowish, May Green, Earth Green, Chrome Oxide Green, Hooker's Green, Juniper's Green, Chromium Green Opaque,- These are a must!

Pablo Caran d'Ache: Spruce, Light Green, Khaki Green, Spring Green, Light Olive Green, Moss Green, Olive Grey, Olive Black, *(great addition to your greens,)*

Irojiten: Mist Green, Verdi Gris, Quartz Green *(good addition to your silvery/bluish greens)*

Special techniques:

For highlights, use white color pencil, white Prismacolor is best for highlights, it is the most opaque and very waxy, useful for blending and burnishing, experiment with white pencils from various brands if you'd like,

For blending or burnishing: use Ivory, Cream or White (FC), White, Cream, Eggshell (P), some people use colorless blenders. Also: any color that is tonally much lighter, so for pinks use a very light pink like Pink Deco (P), for greens use Sap Green Light (P), for yellows use cream or white or Eggshell (P)etc.

To darken your color:

- * For green leaves use the darkest green such as Chrome Oxide Green (FC) or use Indigo
- * For red fruit use Dark Red or Red Violet (FC) or Tuscan Rouge (P)
- * For brown subjects I use Walnut Brown, Sepia (FC) or Sepia or Espresso (P)
- * For shadows or to darken I also use a violet such as Mauve (FC) or Grape (Derwent Artist) or Black Cherry, Black Grape or Black Raspberry (P), Blackberry (Derwent Coloursoft)
- * Warm Grey V or VI can be useful for darkening green as well.

For light pastel tones:

Place white or ivory first then add color, continue layering white and your color

Greys for shadows: Faber Castell: Warm I-VI, Cold I-VI, Prismacolor: Cold Grey 10 %, 30 %, 70 % and 90 %, or mix your own using primary colors

Recommended Paper: Paper is a personal choice, and you have to experiment to find what you like, I stay away from pastel paper or rough paper, such as watercolor cold press, some sketchbooks can also have rough paper, below are some papers that I like and use.

Sketchbook: (for rough sketching) – choose one below

- Strathmore Drawing sketchbooks, 400 series, various sizes, - Great –this is what I use
- Strathmore Colored Pencils sketchbooks, various sizes -OK

Botanical Drawing: (I use the first one below)

- Stonehenge Aqua 100 % cotton, HOT PRESS watercolor paper 140 lbs, sheets – Great
- Fabriano Studio sketchpads- HOT PRESS watercolor paper, or Fabriano Artístico sheets 140 lbs HOT PRESS watercolor paper - OK
- Strathmore Bristol Vellum (9 by 12 or 11 by 14) - OK

For Walnut Ink Stained Surface: (for botanicals or birds, etc)

- I use Fluid 100 % cotton HOT PRESS watercolor paper 140 lbs- Great
- Stonehenge Aqua 100 % cotton, HOT PRESS watercolor paper 140 lbs, - OK

For Natural Science Illustration:

- Strathmore Artagain Assorted Tints (9 by 12 or bigger)- sketchpads- Great
- Strathmore Toned Paper (Gray or Brown) comes in sketchpads of various sizes, - OK

For Journals/Sketchbooks: (for my personal journal)

- Moleskine Folio Sketchbook A4, 8 ¾ by 11 ¼, Portrait , 111 lbs paper,– I use this one and it has been my favorite journal sketchbook, it has 96 pages, you can also buy a smaller version and it's called Moleskine Classic Notebook Sketchbook 8 ¼ by 5” also 111 lbs.

Other Resources:

Recommended books:

Botanical Drawing in Color by Wendy Hollender,

Botanical Drawing Using Graphite and Colored Pencils by Sue Vize

Botanical Portraits in Colored Pencils by Ann Swan,

Extras:

Tombow MONO zero eraser- for erasing fine detail, **Kneaded eraser** (Prismacolor brand)

Proportional Divider – This can come handy with proportions of a complicated subjects. Any will do. I use a plastic one called Acurasee (you can find it on amazon)

Blender – There are many on the market, my favorite is a Copic Sketch Marker- Colorless blender 0. Another good blender is a wax stick by Caran d’Ache called Colorless Blender.

Embossing tool: I use Pergamano Embossing tool, 10031 Fine Stylus – 0.5 mm (amazon.com)

Websites:

Oregon Botanical Artists: www.oba-artists.com

Pacific Northwest Botanical Artists: www.pnba-artists.com

American Society of Botanical Artists: www.asba-art.org

Colored pencils artists: Susan Rubin, Ann Swan, Wendy Hollender.

Val Webb- Various classes online (Drawing and painting flowers, birds, fairies, owls, horses)

EDX.org – Free class: Drawing Nature: Science and Culture: Natural History Illustration 101

Mindy Lighthipe- www.mindylighthipe.com

Wendy Hollender- botanical color pencil: www.drawbotanical.com

Craftsy.com – Drawing Essentials: Inspired by Nature (Kathleen McKeehan) and other drawing, painting, sketching classes.