

**WOAD**, wōd (AS. *wād*, *woad*, OHG. *weit*, Ger. *Waid*, *Waid*, woad), *Isatis*. A small genus of plants of the family Cruciferae, mostly natives of the Mediterranean region. Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) is a biennial herb about 3 feet high, with much-branched leafy stems and small yellow flowers. It was formerly cultivated for its large root leaves, which furnish a blue dye now largely replaced by indigo. The leaves when cut are reduced to a paste, fermented in heaps for about two weeks, and then formed into balls for sun drying. These balls, which have an agreeable odor and are blue internally, are subjected to a further fermentation before being used. Woad is generally used with indigo. Woad should not be confused with weld, *Reseda luteola*, which yields a yellow dye.