

10 Knitters' Notes~

Going Green

is a lot easier than it used to be for everyone, including knitters & crocheters. The yarn industry is following the lead elsewhere for products that impact the earth far less than they previously had and for sources that are sustainable and good for the environment (and those of us in it).

We now carry several organic cotton yarns (25% of the pesticides in the environment come from standard cotton production). We have two offerings from Lion Brand, "Nature's Choice" and "Organic Cotton". These both have organic cotton fibers with the colors of the "Organic Cotton" being completely natural with no dyes. The soft colors of the "Nature's Choice" yarn are created from dyes certified to be safe for the environment. Takhi Stacy Charles has the Terra Line of yarns, all of which are either organic or low impact. Their "Jeans" cotton yarn is organic cotton with low-impact dyes, and the "Sky" yarn features Biofil cotton – cotton that is grown without pesticides, chemical fertilizers or defoliants- and are dyed with low-impact dyes.



There are other fibers being used as yarn that are from sources other than sheep or cotton. Bamboo has become increasingly popular due to its sustainable nature. The trees grow quickly and harvesting does not destroy them. We have "Bali" from Tahki that is 100% bamboo, "Royal Bamboo", also 100% bamboo (this one feels like silk), and "Baby Bamboo", a bamboo/wool blend.

Soy has also become a popular plant source for yarn. We carry "Bebe Cotsoy", a soy/organic cotton blend. For a more usual fiber choice, look to "Cot'n Corn". This all natural fiber blend includes cotton and corn – it has a smooth feel and a soft sheen.

Bamboo can also be found in knitting needles and crochet hooks, continuing the "green theme". And we have a variety of beautiful organic buttons including coconut and some great natural rock buttons (I really love these!).

Remember, it is easy being green, you just have to know where to look at what to look for, and we hope we've helped.

Happy (and green) knitting/crochet-ing!

Cathy Mark

