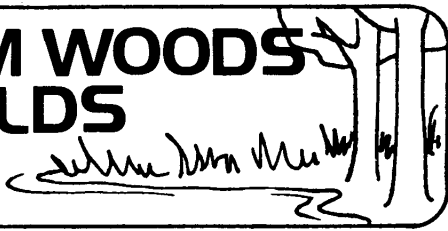


FROM WOODS & FIELDS



by *Connie J. Magoffin*

One of our dye garden projects at the Arboretum this past summer included two 100' rows in the nursery in which eight different dye plants were planted. The plants involved were camomile, teasel, madder, a coneflower, bedstraw, weld and pokeweed. The purpose of the experiment was to watch the growth habits and to test dye quality. Some of these dye plants are of historical significance and some are not native to this part of the country. Thus, it was interesting to watch the progress of the plants in this environment. All the plants did well.

In September we had a "dye day" when dye garden members were able to dye their own wool using the dye plants that had been grown in the nursery. At the same time we tested the dye potential of each plant for our records. One ounce of dye plant material and a sample of test yarns were used in each case. The yarn sample included a 12" length of each of the 5 mordants (alum, tin, chrome, copper, and iron) and one unmordanted strand. The dye plant material was chopped, water was added and the wetted yarn was simmered in the dyebath.

Although it is the roots of the madder and bedstraw that contain the red dye we want, the leaves were also tested for the sake of curiosity. The two different years for dyers greenwood refer to the 1978 plants, seeds sown last year and kept in the greenhouse over the winter, and the 1978 seeds that were sown this spring.

The following chart shows the results of the dye tests. Light test results will be given at a later date. Just a reminder, too, that the color terms are unavoidably general.

Our 1980 garden meetings have begun. We meet once a month in the evenings (usually the 3rd Thurs. evening of each month at 7:30 p.m.). If you are interested in attending, contact me at 822-8358 for exact date and place. We would love to have you be a part of our group!

dye plant	alum	chrome	tin	copper	iron	unmordanted
Camomile whole plant	olive	med. gold	very bright gold	light olive	dark gray	off-white
Teasel whole plant	med. olive	dark green-gold	med. green-gold	med. olive	dark gray	light gray
Madder roots	deep red	deep red	med. red	deep brick red	deep wine	orange
leaves	med. light olive	med. gold	light yellow-gold	light olive	gray	off-white
Coneflower flower	deep olive	dark gold	deep bronze	med. olive	deep dull green	warm light gray
flower & leaf	med. green-gold	bright gold	bright gold	light green-gold	med. brown	very light olive
Dyers Greenwood 1978 whole plant	bright green-gold	orange-gold	bright gold	med. green-gold	med. brown	dull med. olive
Bedstraw roots	med. orange	dull med. orange	bright med. orange	dull med. orange	med. maroon	dull med. orange
leaves	dull yellow	med. gold	yellow	med. warm gray	light warm gray	off-white
Weld whole plant	med. green-gold	bright orange-gold	bright yellow	bright green-gold	med. brown	light dull yellow
Pokeweed berries fermented	deep purple	purple	lavender	red-purple	purple	purple
berries unfermented	med. orange	dull orange	med. dark orange	gold	dull med. orange	med. orange

MIDWEST CONFERENCE

MIDWEST WEAVERS CONFERENCE 1980

This year's Midwest Conference will be held at Lake Forest College, 30 miles north of Chicago. Guest lecturers will look at the Bauhaus tradition as it developed at the Institute of Design in Chicago, survey patterns emerging in weaving today, and envision directions for the future. Speakers will be Else Regensteiner, Claire Zeisler and Jack Lenor Larsen.

The conference will meet June 29 through July 2, and is hosted by the North Shore Weavers Guild.

To obtain more information, a lifetime membership in MWC is available for \$2.00 (a bargain any time). Send it to Marjorie O'Shaughnessy, Secretary-Treasurer MWC, 2126 Skyline Pl, Bartlesville, OK, 74003.

SHOWS & EXHIBITS



Nagallery, Northfield; February 5 - March 15.

Contemporary Tapestries by Barbara Sykes will be featured along with drawings and pints by Barbara Smith. A reception for the artists will be held Sunday, February 10 from 2-5 p.m. Nagallery is located in the Northfield Arts Guild building, 304 Division, in downtown Northfield.