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!

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**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.

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**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.