



Know What You Grow!



Yarrow

Scientific Name: *Achillea millefolium*

Technically, common garden yarrow and wild yarrow, which is thought of as a flowering weed, are from the same yarrow group, *Achillea millefolium*. But what gardeners refer to as common yarrow has been bred into multiple cultivars.

Recommended Varieties:

- Apple Blossom
- Cerise Queen
- Little Moonshine
- Paprika

Pests/Diseases: Relatively pest free but can be susceptible to botrytis mold and powdery mildew. Spittlebugs.

[The Spruce](#) Photos: Creative Commons

Growing Information

Perennial

Common yarrow is a perennial broadleaf plant with an extensive system of underground creeping stems. Blooms March - September.

Ideal Planting Window

Plant in the spring or early summer after the danger of frost has passed.

Growing Guidance

Common yarrow is most often propagated, so you will likely buy it as a plant. To add it to your garden, loosen the soil about 12 to 15 inches deep and add 2 to 4 inches of compost; mix it in well.

Common yarrow reproduces by seed and by sprouting from underground horizontal, creeping stems (rhizomes). Common yarrow can become weedy, however, since it spreads readily and tolerates disturbance.

Further Information: [IPM](#)



Fun Flower Facts

- Yarrow can survive in various habitats: forests, meadows, grasslands, mountains, coastal areas and even deserts.
- Yarrow has one or more stems that can reach up to three feet in height.
- The Spanish word for "little feather" because of the plant's leaf shape and texture.
- Yarrow develops miniature white, reddish or pink flowers arranged in terminal inflorescences, shaped like rounded or flat heads. They are usually 2 to 4 inches wide.
- Yarrow is named after Greek's hero Achilles, who used yarrow to treat battle wounds of his soldiers.
- Yarrow was used as food in the 17th century. Leaves were prepared and consumed like spinach. Yarrow was also used as an ingredient of soups.
- The Chinese considered yarrow plants to be good luck.
- Even Lewis and Clark were acquainted with yarrow. It was collected during the Lewis and Clark Expedition while they were camped near Kamiah, Idaho in May 1806.

Warning:

Common yarrow is toxic to dogs, cats, and horses. Consumption can cause vomiting and diarrhea as well as depression, anorexia, and hypersalivation.

In humans, touching yarrow can, in rare cases, cause skin rashes as well as increase the skin's photosensitivity.

Contact Information



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Pollinators/Beneficial Insects

Yarrow attracts butterflies, moths, bees and other beneficial insects, making it a nice addition to a pollinator garden.

Planting them in a place where they can grow undisturbed from year to year makes them available to beneficial insects during every stage of their life cycle.



[Calscape](#)

Photo: Wikipedia

Suggested Uses

Companion Plant For:

Yarrow plants attract parasitic wasps to the garden. These wasps feed on tomato worms and other vegetable pests.

Yarrow is available with blooms in shades including white, pink and bright red, but its striking foliage adds a major design element to your garden. Plant them in clusters near the corners of beds to soften row edges.

Alternatively, use yarrow as part of a mix of perennial herbs and flowers, such as lavender, oregano and daisies, and perennial vegetables, such as globe artichoke, cardoon and ground cherries.

Other Uses:

Numerous tribes in North America used yarrow for a variety of ailments. The crushed plant was applied to wounds and burns. The dried leaves were used as a tea to soothe colds, fever, and headache.

Yarrow beer has been brewed in Europe since the middle ages.

[US Forest Service](#) ; [Home Guides.sfgate](#)