

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH387



### YARROW

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams  
Central Maryland Research and Education Center  
University of Maryland

#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Yarrow
- Scientific name: *Achillea millefolium*
- Genus named for the Greek mythological character Achilles
- Native to Europe and temperate areas of Asia
- Grows 1-3 feet tall
- Develops dense mats of foliage from underground rhizomes
- Develop large, flat clusters of flowers at the top of the stem in May and June
- Flowers can be white, yellow, orange, pink, or red
- Hardy in zones 3-9

- Historically used as a medicine due to astringent effects
- Genus *Achillea* contains over 85 species

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Requires well drained media in full sun
- Water regularly, but resistant to drought once established
- Does well on poor soils; longevity and flowering may suffer if fertilizer is used
- May require staking
- Should be divided every two to three years to maintain plant vigor

## PROPAGATION

- Propagate by division in early spring or autumn
- Divisions planted at 2 foot intervals will produce an unbroken mat within a year
- Seeds germinate in two weeks at temperatures between 65°F and 75°F
- Plant seeds no deeper than ¼ inch, as light is required for germination
- Planting seeds may yield plants with great variability in flower color

## DISORDERS

- Gray mold (*Botrytis*)
  - Dead brown areas appear
  - May eventually kill the plant
  - Fungicides and proper sanitation may be helpful
- Susceptible to powdery mildew (*Erysiphe cichoracearum*) and root rot (*Rhizoctonia solani*) if not planted in well-drained media
  - Provide better aeration and drainage
  - Remove infected plants
- Spittlebugs
  - Produce a protective foam that looks like spit
  - Use a strong spray of water to remove the foam and the insects

## CONSUMER CARE

- Plants tend to be invasive and may become weeds if not controlled
- If dead flower clusters are removed, a second bloom is possible in September
- Cut flowers can be used in arrangements

- A fragrant addition to pot-pourri

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Achillea millefolium*
  - ‘Cerise Queen’: pink flowerheads
  - ‘Fire King’: red flowerheads
  - ‘Lilac Beauty’: lavender flowerheads
  - ‘Paprika’: orange-red flowerheads
  - ‘White Beauty’: white flowerheads
  - ‘Apricot Delight’: range of pink flowerheads, compact growth
  - ‘Ortel’s Rose’: rose pink flowerheads, ferny foliage
  - ‘Red Beauty’: deep crimson flowerheads
- *Achillea filipendulina*
  - ‘Anthea’: pastel yellow flowerheads
  - ‘Fireland’: large, fire engine red flowerheads

## References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achillea>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarrow>  
[http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/achi\\_mil.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/achi_mil.cfm)  
<http://www.thegardenhelper.com/Achillea.htm>  
[http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/focus/per\\_achillea.html](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/focus/per_achillea.html)

Mention of trade names does not constitute an endorsement by the Maryland Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland, College Park, or University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.