

Native Plant of the Month



Landscape Value

Yarrow is a well known perennial flower used in borders, containers, butterfly gardens, and naturalized meadows.

The native species is white-flowered, but cultivars are available in shades of yellow to purple and also serve as food for birds, butterflies, and bees.

Yarrow is a tough, self-sowing, deer-resistant, and drought-hardy plant that can be included with confidence in any sunny perennial border. Grow with other natives such as goldenrod, tufted hairgrass, penstemon, lupine, and bluebells.

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

- "Achillea" owes its name to the Greek god Achilles. Yarrow is an ancient herbal remedy for stopping the flow of blood and is said to have been used to staunch the wound in Achilles' heel.
- "Millefolium" is Latin for the "thousand leaves" that make up its fern-like leaf.
- The flower head is shaped like an umbrella (called an umbel), a perfect shape for butterflies that can easily land on this flat-topped flower head for nectar.
- The flowers have a sweet, unusual smell reminding us of its use as a medicinal herb.