

YARROW (*Achillea millefolium*)



Yarrow (7) is widespread throughout North America and is found in most parts of the world. It is seen commonly in meadows, along fence rows, and in waste places growing on thin topsoil where more desirable plants do not survive. In the U. S., it is known also as milfoil, bloodwort, and thousand-leaf. Seldom does it grow in cultivated fields.

This species is perennial and reproduces by underground rootstocks (4) and seeds (5). Branching underground, the taproot system sends out lateral runners. Each runner may produce several stems from its crown at ground level. Livestock seem to avoid the plant; it has an offensive odor and a bitter taste. Historically, it was used by Achilles to cure his wounds, hence the generic name *Achillea*.

Stems, branched at the top, grow from 1 to 2 feet tall. They grow erect and are covered with many grayish-green hairs.

Leaves are finely divided and fern-like (6). They are covered with soft, fuzzy hair. Leaves near the base of the plant are longer than those near the stem tips. They range from 1 to 10 inches long and sprout alternately from the stem.

Flower heads can be seen easily from a distance. Each head is composed of 5 to 10 white ray (3) flowers (2) and yellow disk flowers (1). These flowers form a flat-topped cluster at the top of the branched stems. The clusters range from 1 to 4 inches in diameter. In the South, yarrow blooms in June, and in more northern sites it flowers in September. Typically, but not frequently, pink flowers are produced.

More than 200 white or gray seeds may be produced by one head of clustered flowers. The tiny, oblong seeds are flattened and slightly curved.

Yarrow is little affected by 2,4-D or hormone chemicals, and large scale control may be difficult. In lawns, repeated applications of 2,4-D will control this weed, and its tough rootstocks can be pulled when lawns are wet and soft. Silvex or dicamba give some control when applied at 1 to 1½ lbs. per acre.

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MSU Invites Turfmen to 36th Annual Conference

Simultaneous sessions will be conducted during the first day of the 36th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference to better serve the needs of two specialized fields of turf endeavor: sport turf management and the sod industry, it is reported by Dr. Milo B. Tesar, chairman of the conference. The conference, to be held at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center for Continuing Education, will take place March 16-17, East Lansing.

An introductory talk, "The Role of MSU in the Turf Industry," by Dr. Sylvan J. Wittwer, and reports by MSU turfgrass research men will be followed by the annual business meeting of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. President Ernie Wohlfeil will preside. The meeting is open to guests of members.

Dr. Harold A. Henneman, MSU Dept. of Crop Sciences, will reveal plans for a new turf short course program at MSU.

Turfmen will be entertained during the annual luncheon by Dr. Maynard Miller, of The National Geographic Society. He will lecture on a recent Mt. Kennedy Yukon expedition.

In two afternoon sessions, turfmen will attend either the Sports Turf or the Sod Industry section meetings. Specialists in both these fields are prepared to present new developments of interest to the golf course superintendent or the sod grower.

While golf course managers gain information on meeting the golf cart problem and, how to prepare a course for tournament play, sod producers will receive information on sod production and certification in New Jersey, and use of muck soils for sod production, among many other subjects.

The final day's meeting will be conducted on a general theme providing important information on all phases of turf production and maintenance. This will include research reports on soil warming from Purdue University and results of turf research projects at Rutgers University.