

Achillea spp.¹

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Introduction

Achillea species are 18- to 36-inch-tall perennials that bear masses of flowers throughout the summer (Figure 1). The 60 to 100 species of yarrow are ancient, spreading, semi-evergreen herbs that are long lived. The aromatic, finely divided leaves are alternate or in basal rosettes. The leaf margins range from simple and toothed to pinnately dissected. However, most of these species have attractive feathery or fern-like foliage. The flowers may be single or double and come in shades of pink, yellow and white; flower heads are mostly in fine-textured corymbs.



Figure 1. Yarrow.

General Information

Scientific name: *Achillea* spp.

Pronunciation: ack-ill-LEE-uh species

Common name(s): yarrow

Family: *Compositae*

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 3 through 9 (Figure 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-11, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999; reviewed October 2003. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: border; edging; ground cover; mass planting

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: parted

Leaf shape: variable

Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see

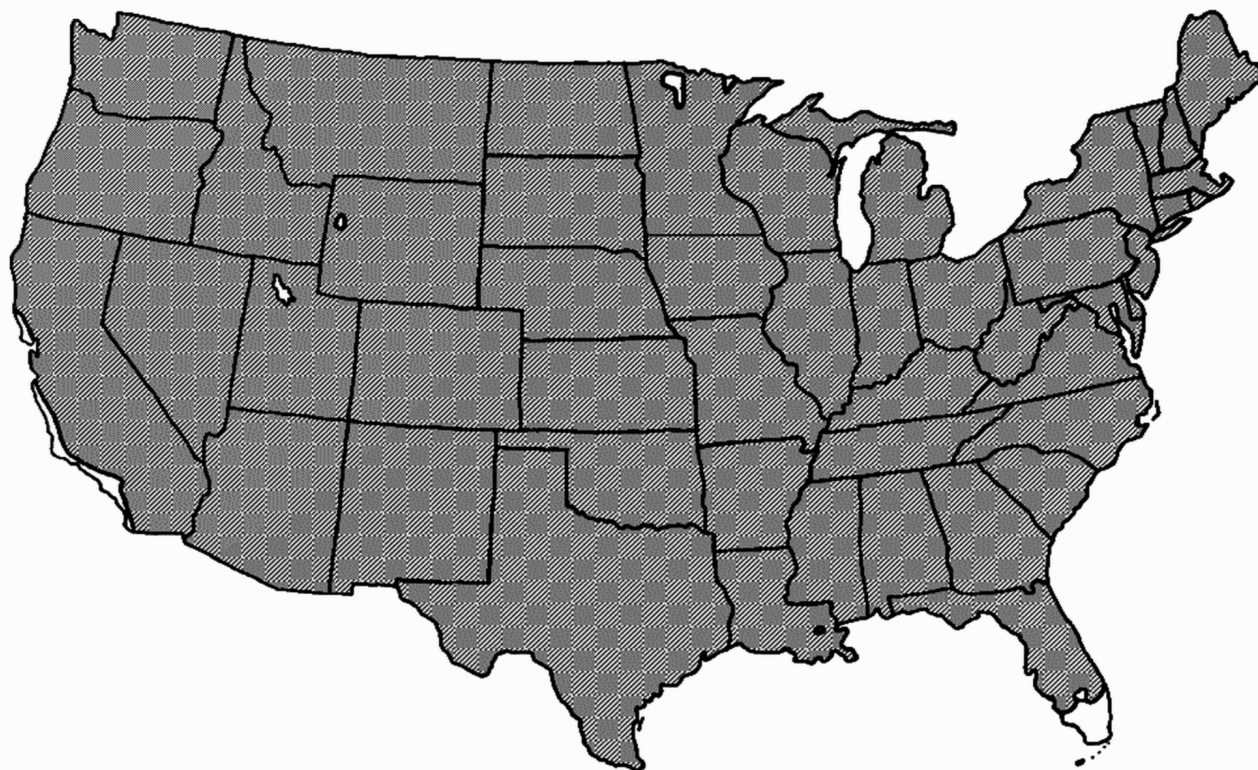


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: spreading; upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: basal rosette

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: red; white; yellow

Flower characteristic: spring flowering; summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit

Fruit length: no fruit

Fruit cover: no fruit

Fruit color: not applicable

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Plant spacing: 18 to 24 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

These lovely flowers are good in fresh or dried arrangements. *Achillea* species may be used in the landscape as an edging or ground cover and are stunning when massed. They flop over as they grow taller, becoming a spreading mass of fine-textured foliage.

Achillea species should be placed in an area of the landscape that receives full sun. They require well-drained soils and are quite drought tolerant. However, these perennials will sometimes not tolerate hot, humid weather. They will endure light foot traffic and seashore environments. Some species are rather weak and may require staking to hold them erect. Popular species include *Achillea taygetea*.

Propagate these species by seed or division.

Pests and Diseases

None of major concern.