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# How to Grow Yarrow: The Complete Yarrow Flower Guide



Yarrow can come in a bright yellow variety, but it can also be red or pink.

**Photo Credit:** Alexander Boeckmann

**Botanical Name:** *Achillea* spp.

**Plant Type:** [Flower](#)

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# Planting, Growing, and Caring for Yarrow Plants

By [Catherine Boeckmann](#)

Last Updated: April 9, 2025



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Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is a native  
North American plant that is popular

with pollinators and practically care-free, making it perfect for borders, ground covers, and open meadows. Here's how to grow yarrow flowers in your garden!

## About Yarrow

### ADVERTISEMENT

Sold as a hardy and versatile perennial, Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) has showy flower heads composed of many tiny, tightly-packed flowers rising above clusters of ferny foliage. The flowers may be yellow, red, pink, or any shade in between. Yarrow is pest-resistant and drought-resistant, attracts butterflies, and is excellent for cutting and drying.

The plant is also an aromatic herb that has many healing properties! [See this wonderful article, Yarrow and Its Medicinal Uses.](#)



*Yarrow. Credit: Alexander Boeckmann*

#### Read Next

- [20 Easy-to-Grow Perennial Flowers for Beginners](#)
- [How to Grow Astilbes: The Complete Astilbe Flower Guide](#)
- [How to Grow Asters: The Complete Aster Flower Guide](#)

## PLANTING

### When to Plant Yarrow

- Plant in the spring or early summer after the danger of frost has passed. [See local frost dates.](#)
- If you plant yarrow from tip cuttings, plant them in spring or early summer.

### Choosing a Preparing a Planting Site

- Plant in an area that receives full sun to encourage compact growth and many flowers. In partial sun or shade, yarrow tends to grow leggy.
- Yarrow performs best in well-drained soil. It thrives in hot, dry conditions; it will not tolerate constantly wet soil. Loamy soil is recommended, but yarrow can also be grown in clay soil as long as it does not always stay saturated with water.
- Use a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil in your garden to about 12 to 15 inches deep, then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost.
- If you grow yarrow in soil that is too rich, the plants may require staking due to overenthusiastic growth. To keep it from growing too tall, choose a site with average to poor soil and supplement it with some compost to give the plants a good start.

## How to Plant Yarrow

- Space the plants 1 to 2 feet apart.

- They are quick to establish and spread, though some species, like *Achillea millefolium*, are extra-aggressive growers, so be careful when choosing your plants. Most kinds grow to be about 2 to 4 feet tall.

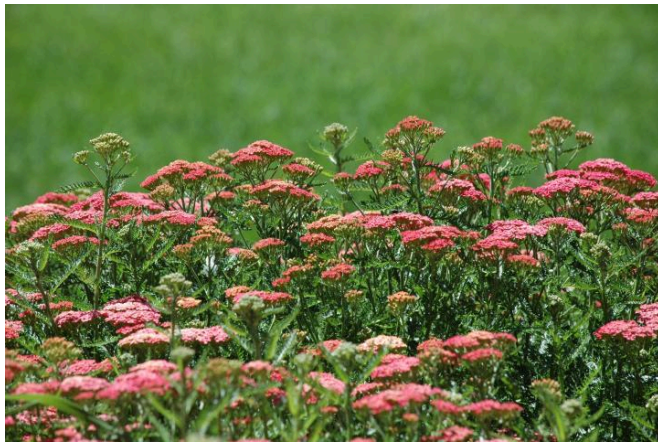


## GROWING

### How to Grow Yarrow

- Add a thin layer of compost around your plants each spring to keep them fed.
- Yarrow is very drought tolerant, but if you receive less than 1 inch of rain a week in the summer, remember to water your plants to keep them looking their best.

- Cut off or “deadhead” flowers when they start to fade in mid-summer; this encourages most varieties to produce another round of flowers.
- Divide yarrow plants every 3 to 5 years to sustain vigorous, healthy plants. Lift the clumps in early spring or fall and remove any dead stems from the center of the clump. You can replant the divisions elsewhere in the garden or share with a friend!



## Types

- **‘Coronation Gold’**, for its beautiful mustard-yellow flowers and silvery gray leaves.
- **‘Fanal’** (or **‘The Beacon’**), for its rich red flowers with yellow centers.



- **'Cerise Queen'**, to add some bright pink color to your garden.

## HARVESTING

To dry yarrow flowers, you can hang the plants upside down in a dark, dry location or use a dehydrator.

## GARDENING PRODUCTS

		
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## PESTS/DISEASES

Yarrow is generally disease-free and easy to keep, though it is susceptible

to the following:

- [Aphids](#)
- [Powdery mildew](#)
- [Rust](#)
- **Stem rot**

## WIT AND WISDOM

- Some Native Americans used ground yarrow infused in water as a wash to [treat sunburns](#). It is also sometimes used as a [remedy for anxiety and stress](#).
- Yarrow is thought to symbolize everlasting love. Find out more [flower meanings here](#).

**FLOWERS**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Catherine Boeckmann**



Catherine Boeckmann loves nature, stargazing, and gardening so it's not surprising that she and The Old Farmer's Almanac found each other. She leads digital content for the Almanac website, and is also a certified master gardener in the state of Indiana. [Read More from Catherine Boeckmann](#)

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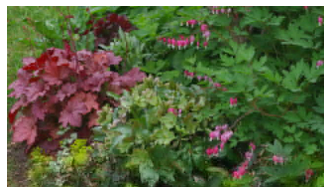
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# Shade Gardens

The logo is a circular emblem with a yellow border. Inside, a sun with rays is at the top, and below it is a variety of colorful garden produce including carrots, tomatoes, and leafy greens. The text "THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC" is written in a curve along the top inner edge, and "GARDENING CLUB" is written along the bottom inner edge.

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## COMMENTS

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**Sally b (not verified)** 11 months 3 weeks ago

I have heard that yarrow does not like Coneflower. There is Coneflower planted about 5' away from my yarrow plants. Will that be a problem?

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**REPLY**

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**Kris (not verified)** 1 year 10 months ago

I planted some pretty white yarrow in my full sun garden early last fall. This is June 26 in Indiana and I have a nice little “bush”, but no flowers. I am concerned since I’ve read that Yarrow doesn’t like too rich of soil. Last fall I dumped used potting soil from several large pots into this sun garden. The “native” soil of the garden isn’t rich on its own, but maybe the added potting soil has made it so

for the yarrow? How can I “fix” the soil around the yarrow to make it LESS rich?

REPLY

**Annie Gaddis (not verified)** 2

weeks 6 days ago

Only thing I can think of right now, is to not add any Blood Meal which will feed the leaves but not the flowers. Try phosphorus and potassium but no Nitrogen.

REPLY

**The Editors** 1 year 10 months ago

Hi, Kris. It sounds like you might need to test your soil's pH. Yarrow prefers a pH between 5.5 and 6.5. You can buy soil test kits or use a DIY method. Check out our page on [how to test your soil](#) that includes how to amend it (if necessary).

REPLY

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**Rex Jones (not verified)** 2 years 10 months ago

When I was a child, about eight years old, I got a very bad cold which progressed into a hospital visit. Couldn't breathe and very high fever for days. We were very poor, and since we couldn't pay the hospital, they sent me home. My Grandfather brought some herbs to my mother and told her to make a tea from the dried leaves and flowers which she did. It was very, very bitter and she made me drink many, many cups of the brew. The fever broke in less than 24 hours and I was back to school in a week. My Grandfather was a naturalist. He had brought Yarrow to my mother and probably saved my life. I now grow many different colors of yarrow, but always save the White Yarrow for illness. Always plant in poor soil as it is invasive.

REPLY

**Cory Lindseth (not verified)** 3 years ago

I grew up in Montana, and the white variety grows wild there. A Native American friend told us that a poultice of chewed flowers and saliva will help ease bee and wasp stings, and we verified that on several occasions. It stops the pain and swelling in under 10 minutes.

**REPLY**

**Patricia Pierce (not verified)** 2

years 10 months ago

So does plantain the narrow leaf  
and broad leaf

**REPLY**

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**Julie Cowee (not verified)** 3 years 8

months ago

I cut the dead dry heads of Yarrow, hang them up somewhere to completely dry out, remove the seed heads, grind them into a fine powder and store them to use in case



of an injury, to stop the bleeding, the powder immediately forms a clump on the open wound and stops the bleeding, it can be left as an antiseptic dressing. It worked equally well on a friend who takes Warfarin and he always makes sure he has some of my powder in stock.

**REPLY**

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**A ROCKWELL (not verified)** 3 years 10 months ago

most of the native yarrow I've seen have white compacted flowers; I've never seen Yellow Native Yarrow; I used Yarrow as a solar tea; put cold water + yarrow blossoms in a glass jar; put in sun for the day; use for tea; Yarrow Tea makes a nice hair rinse; I've used Yarrow Tea as herbal tea; solar tea; bath water; foot soaks; and more !!!

**REPLY**

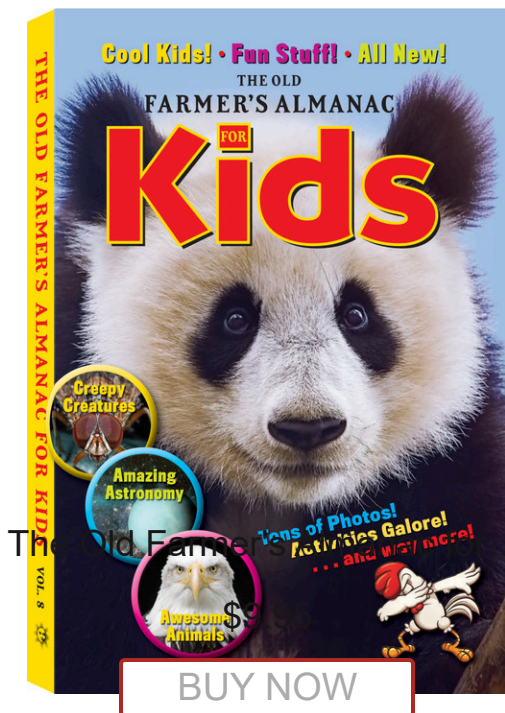
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**Debra Smith (not verified)** 3 years 11 months ago

I've read and seen many instructions that  
say yarrow does grow well in Clay soil.  
Your article says don't grow in Clay soil.  
???

[REPLY](#)[MORE COMMENTS](#)

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