



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Common yarrow,
Milfoil

Scientific Name: *Achillea millefolium*

Plant Family: Asteraceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: Yarrow is a perennial herb 30 cm to 90 cm (12 to 36 in) in height.

Leaves: Alternate leaf arrangement, evenly distributed along the stem with varying degrees of hairiness. Blades are finely dissected but lanceolate in outline (fern-like), approximately 0.5 to 3 cm wide by 3 to 15 cm long.

Flowers: Many small whitish to yellowish-white flower heads (occasionally pinkish) arranged in flat-topped clusters at tip of stems. Each flower head: 3-8 ray flowers (appear as 'petals') surround 15-40 tiny disk flowers. Approximately 10-20 flower heads make up one flower cluster.

Habitat: Distributed widely throughout temperate areas in the northern hemisphere. Found in dry, disturbed areas up to the alpine zone (including grasslands, sagebrush, meadows, and alpine tundra).

Bloom time: May-September

Information sources:

The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California (Hickman, J.C., University of California Press)
Wildflowers of the Northern Great Plains (Vance, F.R., Jowsey, J.R., McLean, J.S., University of Minnesota Press)
Plants of the Rocky Mountains (Kershaw, L., MacKinnon, A., Pojar, J., Lone Pine Publishing)

Did you know? The genus *Achillea* comes from the Greek god, Achilles. Achilles is told in stories to have saved the lives of many of his soldiers by applying yarrow to their wounds to stop bleeding during combat. The species name, *millefolium*, comes from the French terms "mille", which means 1,000, and "feuille", leaf, a reference to the plant's numerous leaf segments.



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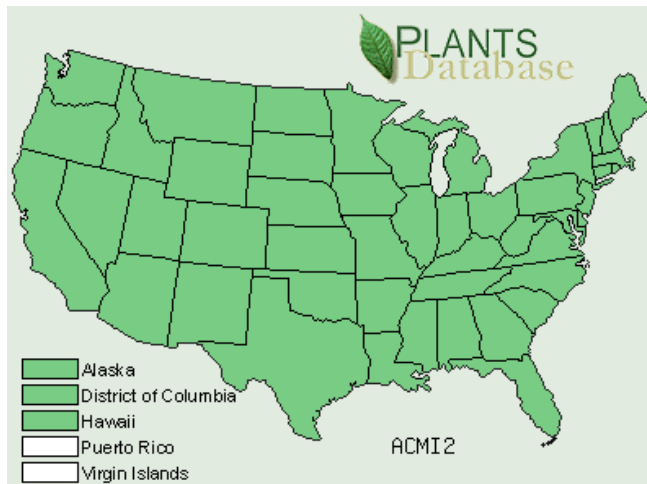


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Phenological observation:
First Flower

Distribution Area:



Map courtesy of USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database (plants.usda.gov)