



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Common Yarrow or Plumajillo

*Achillea millefolium*

**DESCRIPTION:** In antiquity, yarrow was known as *herbal militaris*, for its use in staunching the flow of blood from wounds. The lacy foliage and small daisy-like flowerheads of Common Yarrow make it a beautiful, delicate garden flower. Its leaves are grayish green, aromatic, and very finely dissected, like soft dainty ferns. The plant forms dense spreading mats of lacy leaves from rhizomes that creep beneath the ground surface. In summer Common Yarrow sends up erect, grayish, usually unbranched stems, 1-3 ft tall. Horticulturists have created, selected and hybridized many outstanding cultivars which are beautiful flowering perennials. Many of these have branched flowering stems and larger flower clusters. Some are selected for stronger stems that don't require staking. Among the many cultivars of *A. millefolium*, are these beauties: 'Cerise Queen' with vivid pink flowerheads; 'Fire King' red; 'Lilac Beauty' lavender; 'Paprika' orange-red; and 'White Beauty' with snow white flowerheads. Common Yarrow is a cosmopolitan plant native to Europe and western Asia and parts of North America. Today it grows in temperate regions worldwide.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Yarrows are well suited to the wildflower garden where they can be allowed to spread a little. They are good in the mixed perennial border, and are excellent when massed. The flowerheads are used in arrangements, fresh and dried. If picked at their peak and dried quickly, they will retain their color.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Fully hardy in Tucson.



**Sun tolerance:** Full morning sun to all-day light shade.



**Watering and feeding:** Longevity and flowering are likely to suffer if fertilizer is used but water regularly.



**Soil requirements:** Adaptable to a wide variety of soils and growing conditions but does best in well drained soil



**Pruning:** Divide every couple years to maintain vigor and to keep the plants in bounds. Common Yarrow may require staking.

**WARNING:** Some people may develop an allergic reaction from contact with the foliage or sap of yarrow.