

Yarrow

Achillea millefolium · Asteraceae

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Herbaceous perennial, spreads via rhizomes

MATURITY 8–10 weeks to first flowers



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought
tolerant once
established



SOIL PH
6.0–8.0



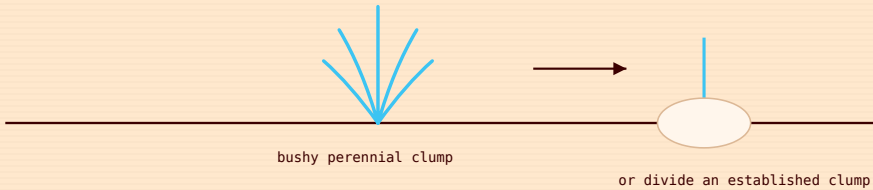
SPACING
30–45cm



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Feathery foliage, tough roots

Yarrow's flat-topped flower clusters and fern-like foliage are traditionally dried for tea, but its value in a garden is attracting predatory insects like ladybirds and lacewings. It spreads slowly by rhizomes and copes with drought better than almost anything else on this site.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or grow from seed (needs a cold period to germinate well).
SOIL	Free-draining, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Root rot** — from poor drainage; ensure it's not sitting wet.
- **Spreading beyond the bed** — the main risk; divide regularly to keep it contained.
- **Very few other pests** — a hardy, easy-going perennial.
- **Powdery mildew** — humid, crowded conditions; space well for airflow.

03 Growing care

- Water moderately while establishing; one of the most drought-tolerant plants on this site once settled.
- Deadhead spent flowers to extend the bloom period.
- Cut back dead growth in late autumn once it dies down.
- Divide congested clumps every 2–3 years to keep them contained and vigorous.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Flowers ready once petals fully open, usually from the first season onward.
METHOD	Snip whole flower heads once fully open; leaves can be picked any time.
CURING	Air-dry flowers and leaves on a tray out of direct sun.
STORAGE	Dried flowers keep for months in an airtight container.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Other pollinator-friendly perennials	Few restrictions	Not applicable — long-lived perennial, spreads slowly by rhizome.