
Common yarrow *Achillea millefolium*



Perennial, silky villous, rhizomatous herb with erect stems, 0.3 to 1.2 m tall. Leaves finely two to three pinnately divided, the smaller segments linear to ovate, hairy. Flowers borne in heads about 0.5 cm broad, with white to pink ray flowers and small disc flowers; heads borne in dense terminal clusters. Nutlets oblong, slightly flattened, 2 to 3 mm long; pappus absent. Found throughout the southern area east of the Mississippi River; most common in pastures, roadsides, dry hillsides, open woods, and waste places.

Toxicity

This plant contains the alkaloid achillain and glycosides but is not considered to be highly toxic. Consumption of the plant may cause a disagreeable odor or taste in milk or in the meat of slaughtered animals. All livestock are susceptible.

Symptoms

Mucous membrane contact with the plant causes irritation and inflammation. Gastrointestinal upset including diarrhea may occur.

Treatment

Use intestinal protectives.