

Lawn Care

A discussion of the vital problems of lawn making and maintenance

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FRIEND and FOE IS THIS WEED

YARROW (*Achillea Millefolium*).

Other English names for this weed are Milfoil, Thousand-leaf, Sanguinary, Bloodwort, Soldiers' Woundwort, Nose-bleed Weed. This is one of the few weeds that cannot be classified as a serious pest. It is not particularly unsightly, the leaves being fern-like and rather pretty. These leaves do, however, lie flat upon the ground, tending to smother out other grasses. If allowed to go to seed the plants will grow two feet tall. Naturally they are not permitted to produce seed in the lawn but being a perennial, propagates by means of root stalks as well as seeds. In pasture and waste lands where allowed to grow unmolested Yarrow blooms between June and October. The seeding time is August to November. Yarrow grows throughout North America and in most parts of the world. It is a very hardy weed, thriving in almost any soil and being indifferent to tropic heat or arctic cold. The Latin name reveals the fact

that Yarrow was named for the invulnerable Achilles who, it is said, used the herb for the cure of his Myrmidons wounded at the siege of Troy. It is known that the plant has some medicinal value and its dried leaves and flowers bring a fair price in the drug market.

TOUGH ROOT SYSTEM.

In addition to the fern-like leaves which at the base of a fully matured plant are about ten inches long, there are white flowers appearing in a dense, flat-topped, compound corymbis. The roots are horizontal and tough and cling strongly to the parent plant. The foliage is strong scented and has a bitter taste (probably the reason it is used for medicine). Cattle avoid the plant for that reason but may eat it in dry fodder, in which case it becomes very damaging to the quality of dairy products. In some parts of the world the pure seed of Yarrow is obtainable, indicating that it has some use as a growing crop. Business friends

of ours in Germany say that Yarrow is not cultivated there but that the seed is hand collected where it grows wild. "It is used for sheep pastures and also in chemists' shops as a medical drug."



YARROW, in full bloom



Writes an English seedsman: "Yarrow is certainly not considered a weed in this country. At one time it was used in quite considerable quantities but now in a very small way. It is always in sheep pasture where it is considered a very useful plant. The seed has been known to command a price of \$2.00 per pound."

POSSIBLE AIRPORT GRASS.

It is possible that Yarrow, while now considered a weed, may yet become a useful plant in this country. As a matter of fact, the grass is now being considered for use on airports principally because of the tenacity with which the foliage clings to the roots, also because of the tough root system itself. The thick, finely laced leaves adhere to the ground and form a sort of carpet which may prove quite useful in keeping down dust, one of the serious airport problems.

MEANS OF CONTROL.

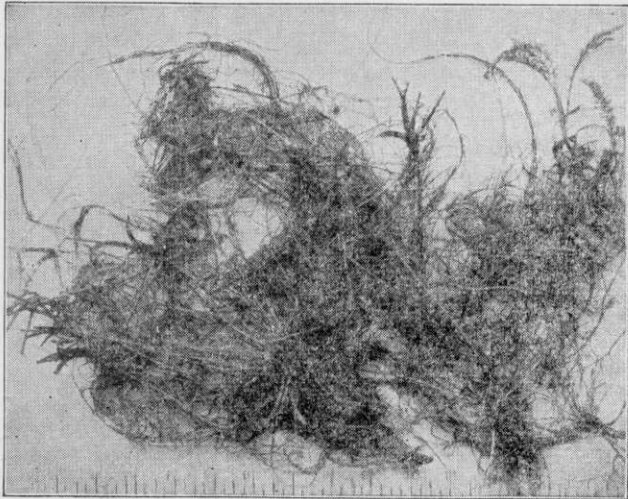
Yarrow is one of the few weeds for which there is no remedy recommended other than hand digging. Because the roots though spreading, are attached so securely to the parent plant a whole colony of Yarrow may be ousted in one pull if the ground is soft. Seed production may, of course, be prevented by close mowing. Many do not regard Yarrow seriously because it is not unsightly and is preferable to coarse ugly weeds if weeds you must have. However, it shouldn't be allowed to take the place of desirable grasses. Most impure lawn mix-

tures contain many thousand seeds of Yarrow per pound.



Believes in Sweat

1. Sharpen an oak peg tapered pretty thin.
2. Make saturated solution sulfate of



Note the elaborate root system of Yarrow

iron in three- or four-ounce screw cap bottle.

3. Dip peg in solution.
4. Stab dripping peg down deep into heart of dandelion and let the sun do the rest.
5. After weed has withered and died, mix good soil with grass seed one pound to a bucketful of soil; put a little pinch of mixture in hole left by deceased dandelion.

Repeat ad *infernalitum*.

My recipe for a good lawn is the above, month in and month out. The measure of a good lawn is the gallons of sweat per square yard.

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