

Kathy's Garden:

# THE MANY COLORED YARROW

Yarrow & I go back a long way. My early memories include grubbing about in the lawn for bits of a deep green aromatic feathery plant. "Fern" I called it, not being much of a botanist at two or three years of age. It made nice bouquets with dandelions & fairy-stars, which was what I called chickweed. I was rather smug upon discovering decades later that real botanists called my fairy-stars *stellaria*, a good star strewn Latin name.

In my childhood I don't recall seeing yarrow in flower. A lawn weed, it was kept trimmed to the ground. Now, in my sunny drought garden & in corners of my rose garden I have yarrow in bloom from midsummer into the fall. My old childhood friend is *achillea millefolium*, considered a weed in most places. I let it grow along woodland paths with oxeye daisies, where its umbels of white flowers bring a cool sparkle to the scene. There are named varieties of common yarrow—a very pretty red ("Fire King") and a rosepink ("Cerise Queen"). Sometimes nurseries will offer you simply "red yarrow", which is probably one of the above. It is a fast & aggressive spreader & should be given a site where it won't overwhelm more timid plants.

In recent years a new strain bred in German has reached the nurseries, with colors ranging from salmon pink through near lilac. I have a coral pink that is very lovely. Near as my still inexpert botanical eyes can tell these German varieties (sometimes listed as *Fanal* hybrids) look awfully like common yarrow, but thus far have not spread so aggressively in my gardens.

Common yarrow has deep green leaves. *Achillea taygetea* has silver flowers that fade to a gentle primrose. This yarrow spreads, but in a controlled & controllable fashion. The pale yellow flowers dry well for winter bouquets—actually, all the yarrows dry nicely. Just pick them, bunch them, & hang them head downward in an airy place.

If you like silver leaves but want white flowers, look for Greek yarrow (*A. ageratifolia*) or Silver yarrow (*A. clavennae argentea*).



The huge, impressive deep golden yellow yarrows that you might spot in florist's arrangements are *A. filipendulina*, fernleaf yarrow. These plants grow to 4 or 5 feet high & combine nicely in borders with *delphiniums* & my old standbys, the *Shasta daisies*. They are native to Asia. Devotees of the Chinese oracle, the *I Ching*, may recall that one method of divination uses stalks of yarrow. I've always wondered if this impressive species wasn't the one used—imagine shuffling stalks 5 feet long. By the time you finished your case cast, the sheer effort expended surely must have put you into cosmic harmony.

Two short & furry little yarrows make nice ground covers for sunny dry places: *A. nana* and *A. tormentosa*. Both have white flowers; *nana* is

slightly shorter.

Preferring more moisture & not looking much like yarrow at all is *Achillea ptarmica*. You'll find the variety "The Pearl" most often offered. It has narrow green leaves and loose clusters of white frilly flowers that are very pretty in bouquets. Be warned that The Pearl and her cousins spread every bit vigorously as common yarrow, so plant it where you will rejoice over its vigor rather than weeping as it overwhelms your Parma violets.

All yarrows are easy to grow. The common sort used to be used as a vulnerary, or an herb to stop the flow of blood from wounds. In an old herbal I once read that if you sleep on a bit of yarrow sewn into a little pillow you will surely dream of your true love.

I haven't tried it. Life is complex enough. But happy gardening—and sweet dreams to you.

-Kathy Epling



## FOUR PATHS IN THE VISIBLE COUNTRY OF PASSION

1. You showed me the dissolution of desire  
your unstrung body scattered on the waters  
I have been falling for a long time  
  
here, & without you, in this vertebral land  
rain cold as a rosary against my breast  
& my heart its own drum. You gave  
  
your skin to light the numbered passions  
your hair for the warmth of sparrows  
your blood for the orchard's flowing &  
  
at last the bitten apples, at last  
this naked tree solitude  
of bone & ashes
2. Is death a permanent address?  
I thought the country visible  
just beyond those blue hills. There were  
deer  
  
wearing the sunlight to keep warm  
there were the lost children of the bobcat  
The creeks pulsed with minnows  
  
the ridge with small paws & ripples  
I would give my heart here, a glad lantern  
a cup of succor  
  
to know this path where all I have loved  
keeps vanishing
3. Yes, grief moved like the mist  
over the yellow hills of summer, a banditry  
that veiled your mouth, that covered  
  
your blue eyes, & from this place  
& from this place only the questions  
echo, & when will the rocks speak  
  
when will the broken rocks speak  
to answer again, to answer again  
this heart's asking
4. No one else  
could meet me there

Kathy Epling

### Black Trumpster Troll- GOFUNDME, GOFUNDYOURSELF

Conservatives began flocking to a viral post shared by the Twitter user @chckpeas who announced that **she was a Trump supporter and as a black woman, wasn't prepared to hide anymore**. Quran, who is studying art history at Howard University, initially wanted to troll black Republicans. "It was just straight Republicans all in the comments who were so proud of me," explained Quran. "It was weird. It was very unnerving. A lot of Republicans have this idea that everyone thinks Republicans are mostly racist and they're really desperate to get that stigma off of them. I just felt like capitalizing on that. I was at 900 likes. I told my friend, 'I feel like this is gonna blow up. Let's try and get some money off these dumb, rich Republicans.'"

She followed this up with a tweet claiming that her parents had disowned her and were refusing to pay her university tuition fees. Included in the tweet was a link to a GoFundMe page asking Republicans to help her out during this time.

Quran shared further tweets explaining that she had been kicked out of her house and even posted screenshots of a text conversation she had with her mother. She claimed that enough money had been donated to her for her to be able to afford her 'tuition, rent and 17 iPhones. 'An article by *Elle*, where she is referred to by the name Karen, reports that \$150,000 was donated to her but a contrasting report by *NY Mag* said that she didn't raise anywhere near that. She told *NY Mag* that she had refunded everything that she had received which was said to be around \$200, with GoFundMe apparently refunding at least \$90.

"I didn't scam anyone. I just felt really weird about taking their money. This could go south really fast, so I just decided to refund everyone and give their money back. I think it was like maybe \$200 at that point. I just honestly didn't want to take their money. Yeah, I can't pay for school but I don't want Republican money to pay for it. I just want everyone to think I'm the finesse queen, which I am."

The GoFundMe campaign has since been shut down by Quran herself and is no longer accessible. She has since posted a series of tweets attacking Trump and Republicans.



So' Hum  
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CENTER

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"The question is not whether we  
will be extremist, but what kind of  
extremist we will be- will we be  
extremist for hate, or for love"

-MLK

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