

Pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

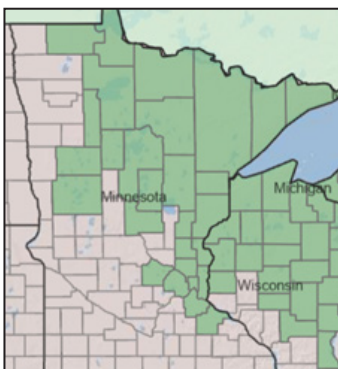
Family: Asteraceae (Aster)

DESCRIPTION: An ornate herbaceous perennial, pearly everlasting flowers from summer into fall. The plant is distinguished by yellow flowers enclosed by dry, strawlike white bracts, white hairy stems and sharply pointed leaves.

USES: Used in prairie restorations, residential native gardens and streambank restorations, pearly everlasting helps restore disturbed areas. The plant attracts pollinators such as butterflies and other beneficial insects, and is a larval host for the migratory **American lady butterfly** (pictured).

REFERENCES:

Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects With Native Plants; Heather Holm, Pollination Press LLC
[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)
[U.S. Forest Service](#)



Range Map Credit: USDA Plants Database



Planting Recommendations

Pearly everlasting thrives in dry, sunny spots and is well-suited for rocky or poor soils. This perennial is an excellent addition to native plant gardens, where it pairs well with other sun-loving species such as wild bergamot, butterfly milkweed and narrow-leaved coneflower. It also tolerates partial shade. The plant may be

started from seed, either by allowing 30 days of cold-moist stratification before sowing — or by direct sowing after the last spring frost, or in the fall when winter conditions will break dormancy. Seeds should be lightly pressed into the soil, not buried. Regular watering during the first year helps plants develop strong root systems.

STATEWIDE WETLAND INDICATOR STATUS: FACU

ID: White, daisylike flowers bloom in dense clusters atop fuzzy stems. The narrow, silver-gray leaves are lance-shaped. This multi-stemmed plant can grow up to 3 feet tall and wide, creating a bushy appearance. Some say the flowers smell like butterscotch.

SIMILAR SPECIES:

Sweet everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*), also known as rabbit-tobacco, produces open clusters of flowers with narrower heads and white or yellowish bracts. The woolly white leaves of white sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) are narrower.

Developed by Corey Denning, a resource conservationist for the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

Plant Photo Credit: Erin Loeffler
Insect Photo Credit: Heather Holm

