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*Achillea*

*Compositae*

[*Asteraceae*]

*Achillea* honours for some authorities a hero of Greek mythology Achilles. One legend tells how Achilles accidentally wounds Telephus, King Priam's son-in-law, with his spear. An oracle had previously told Telephus that Achilles would heal the cut (actually meaning the plant would do so) and misunderstanding the oracle's prophecy he asked Achilles to heal him instead of searching for yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) himself. Achilles scraped some rust off his spear and as it fell to the ground yarrow sprang up and the plant made the wound whole. For others however a Greek doctor named Achillos restored a soldier called Teleph to health after he had been badly wounded.