

***Anaphalis margaritacea* (L) Benth. and Hook. F. ex C.B. Clarke**
pearly everlasting **Family: Asteraceae**



Figure 79. Documented range of *Anaphalis margaritacea* in northern British Columbia.



Figure 80. Growth habit of *Anaphalis margaritacea* in cultivation.

Anaphalis margaritacea
(continued)

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Background Information

Anaphalis margaritacea can be found north to Alaska, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, east to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and south to North Carolina, Kentucky, Arizona, New Mexico and California. It is reported to be common throughout B.C. except in the northeast (Douglas et al. 1998).

Growth Form: Rhizomatous perennial herb, with few basal leaves, alternate stem leaves light green above, woolly white underneath; flower heads in dense flat-topped clusters, yellowish disk flowers; involucre bracts dry pearly white; mature plant size is 20-90 cm tall (MacKinnon et al. 1992, Douglas 1998).

Site Preferences: Moist to dry meadows, rocky slopes, open forest, landings, roadsides and other disturbed sites from low to subalpine elevations, throughout most of B.C. In coastal B.C., it is reported to be shade-intolerant and occupies exposed mineral soil on disturbed sites and water-shedding sites up to the alpine (Klinka et al. 1989).

Seed Information

Seed Size: Length: 0.97 mm (0.85 - 1.07 mm).
Width : 0.32 mm (0.24 - 0.37 mm).

Seeds per gram: 24,254 (range: 13,375 - 37,167).

Volume to Weight Conversion: 374.0 g/L at 66.7.5% purity.

Germination Capacity: At 30°/20° C untreated: 62.8% (42 - 84%).
At 25°/15° C untreated: 86.1% (75 - 97%).
stratified: 54.5% (23 - 86%).

Germination Speed: To first germination: 13.3 days.
To 50% potential: 26.2 days.

Seed Longevity: At least three years. In our research, *Anaphalis margaritacea* seeds two and three years old remained viable, with germination levels 15 - 18% greater than seeds grown and tested in the year they were harvested, suggesting that some after-ripening or inadvertent stratification may occur in seeds over time.

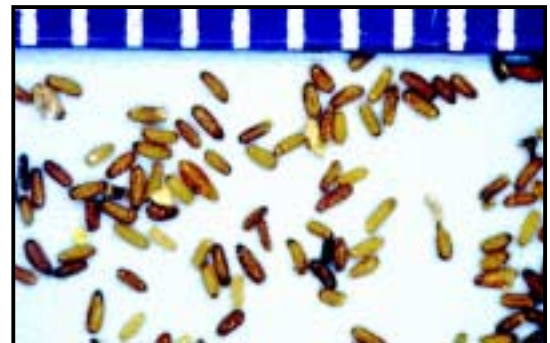


Figure 81. Seeds of *Anaphalis margaritacea*.
Rule divisions are 1.0 mm.

Considerations for Growing

Techniques for Seed Production

Seed treatment: Tests indicate that untreated seeds germinate best under cool conditions, and that there is no benefit to stratification.

Soil considerations: Establish on loamy, finely tilled and well prepared soils with a firm seedbed.

Stand establishment: Site should be free of all weeds, especially rhizomatous grasses and other persistent species because there are currently no selective herbicides that can be used once plants are growing. Stands can either be established from seedlings started in the greenhouse or from seed, sown in spring.

Row spacing: 60–90 cm.

Seeding density: 300-400 PLS seed per linear metre.

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(continued)**pearly everlasting**(Techniques for Seed Production, continued)

Seeding depth: Surface to shallow; a light dusting of peat moss or loose soil will help to keep the seeds in place.

Stand maintenance: Regularly cultivate rows and spot spray with herbicide to keep plot weed free; annual fertilization with low N formulations may extend the life of the plot. Plastic placed between rows will not only serve as mulch but will catch easily scattered seeds which can later be vacuumed or swept up.

Harvesting and Seed Processing

Dates of selective harvesting in the Bulkley Valley of northwestern B.C. have ranged from August 13th to October 21st. Link (1993) suggests that *Anaphalis* should be harvested when the centre of the flower is dark brown in late August to mid-September. Timing of harvest is important, as seed is easily scattered by the wind after it is ripe.

Hand clipping: Hold the seed heads over bins placed alongside the plants being clipped or place a bag over the seed heads before clipping to minimize seed loss.

Vacuum: A shop vacuum works best for this species. Hold hose over ripe, completely dry flower heads and turn on suction. Empty the canister as it fills. Modified leaf blower is not suitable for this species because fabric collection bag allows the small seeds to seep out.

Seed stripper: Not recommended.

Combine/thresher settings: Repeated runs at 1850 rpm with 1 mm gap.

Seed cleaning: Fanning mill (no air flow) twice, follow with hand sieving. Fanning mill screen sizes first run: prescreen 1.2 x 7.1 mm slot; top 1.8 x 12.7 mm slot; bottom blank; second run: prescreen 0.5 mm square; top 1.8 x 12.7 mm slot; bottom blank; then use vacuum separator with speed and suction set low to remove dust and <5% of seeds; can use hand sieve (0.5 mm screen) for finishing or as the main cleaning for small quantities.

Storage requirements: Cool, dry conditions (Link 1993).

Considerations for use in revegetation

- *Anaphalis margaritacea* is reported to grow well on medium to coarse textured mesic to dry soils on open woods in foothills, mountains and dry pastures in Alberta (Gerling et al. 1996).
- This species establishes slowly so it should not be counted on for quick cover or erosion control; suitable for subsoil materials and compacted soils resulting from recent roadbuilding activities.
- *Anaphalis* can successfully colonize on low nitrogen soils (Chapin 1994).
- It can be sown by direct broadcast seeding and raking in as part of a grass/forb mixture (Link 1993).

Other considerations

- *Anaphalis* was traditionally used as a poultice for sores and swellings by West Coast Natives and as a medicine for internal disorders (Turner and Bell 1973, Turner et al. 1980).
- This species has potential for use in floral arrangements and craft products, as its flower heads dry well (Douglas 1995).

