

GARLIC MUSTARD

EARLY DETECTION FACT SHEET

Common Name:	Garlic Mustard
Scientific Name:	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Flowering Period:	Early May through early June
Fruiting Period:	Late May persisting through the summer on dead stalks

Description

Garlic mustard is a biennial herb in the mustard family. In the first year, the plant produces a rosette of kidney shaped leaves that remain green through the winter. In the second year the plant grows from 5 to 45 inches tall and produces terminal clusters of white flowers, each flower having four small petals. Small black seeds are borne in a slender capsule. The plant dies after seed production and can persist as a brown stalk through the summer.

Ecological Threats

Garlic mustard aggressively monopolizes light, water and nutrients and out-competes native wildflowers. Along with the loss of spring wildflowers, wildlife that use the wildflowers for food are also deprived. Garlic mustard is also likely to negatively impact forest regeneration and understory stratification through competition with woody seedlings.

Control

Pulling or cutting after flowering but before seed is set can be very effective if done annually for several years. This way the seed bank in the soil can be gradually depleted. Herbicides are effective, especially early in the spring on first- year rosettes before other plants have emerged.

References

Invasive Exotic Plants of Canada, Fact Sheet No. 2.

<http://24.43.24.85/nbs/ipcan/factgarl.html>

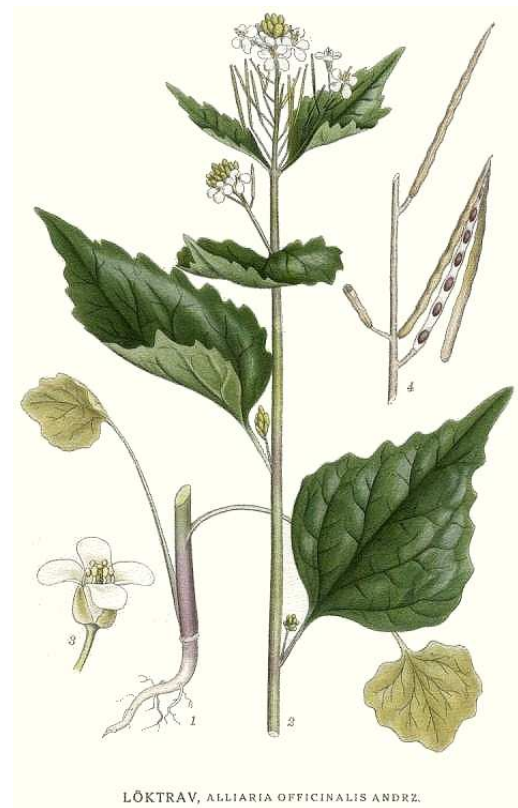
Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia, Garlic Mustard.

<http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/fسالpe.pdf>

Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group – Garlic Mustard. <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpet.htm>

ELEMENT STEWARDSHIP ABSTRACT for *Alliaria petiolata* (*Alliaria officinalis*) Garlic Mustard.

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/allipet.html>



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