

# Garlic Mustard

(*Alliaria petiolata*)

## DESCRIPTION

Cool season biennial woodland herb

**Height:** 1 to 3 feet

**Leaves:** Triangular to heart-shaped, coarsely toothed. Garlic odor when crushed.

**Flowers:** Second-year plants have clusters of white four ¼" evenly spaced petals, May-June

**Fruit:** Pale brown pods 1 to 2 ½" by 1/8" develop in June and remain into fall, pods contain up to 8,000 seeds.



## ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Spreads by seeds that are viable for 5 years

Rapidly spreading herb displaces native, grasses, herbs and tree seedlings. Once established, out-competes native plants and impacts wildlife dependant on early wildflowers

Occurs in moist, shaded forests, roadsides and floodplains

## NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

*Geranium maculatum* Spotted Geranium. Wood Geranium

*Heuchera americana* Coral Bells

*Phlox divaricata* Woodland Phlox

*Tiarella cordifolia* Foamflower

## CONTROL

Goal is to prevent seed production until seed in soil is exhausted

**Mechanical:** Hand pulling complete plant at or before flowering is effective if repeated for at least 5 years. For large areas weed whacking before or during bloom eliminates seed formation. Because this is a biennial, doing this for successive years will eventually eliminate the plant. Bag and remove plants.

**Chemical:** For large infestations apply Roundup in early spring when most native plants are dormant.