

Garlic Mustard Fact Sheet

Garlic mustard is listed as a Restricted Noxious Weed in Minnesota. Garlic mustard has had a significant impact on forest understory habitats in Minnesota. Due to its ability to aggressively spread, outcompete important native forest understory species, and create large monocultures, many ecologically important plant communities are being displaced. It is a prolific seed producer but can be managed by preventing seed production of plants over several years. Managing this species takes a strong commitment once it becomes established.



Characteristics:

- Biennial plant that grows as a low basal rosette its first year
- First plant year has heart-shaped, scallop-edged leaves
- Leaves become smaller as they progress up the flowering stem
- Second year plant has 2-3' tall flowering stems
- Bears numerous small clusters of small white flowers in late spring
- Has a garlic odor when crushed

Habitat: Garlic mustard typically invades woodlands and forested habitats. It is also found in shady landscaped areas, along forested roadsides, trails, and waterways.

Photo:

Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*

What YOU can do about the Invasive Spread of Garlic Mustard

Become Familiar with the Plant

- Research Garlic mustard by visiting the following sites:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist/garlicmustard.aspx>

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/weed/broadleaf/basal/garlicmustard.html>

Control and Manage

- Eliminate plants and stop seed production in both Spring and Fall
- * Organize a “Garlic Mustard Pull” event in your community

Educate Others in your Community, Neighborhood, Garden Club & Schools