

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata



Identification: These biennial herbaceous plants form a few leaves their first year, and then produce taller stalks with flowers in their second year. First-year leaves have scalloped edges and are more rounded in shape; second-year leaves are triangular. Small white petals and produce long, thin seedpods in the summer.
KEY TRAIT: Crushed leaves have a pungent, garlicky smell.

Impact: Garlic mustard grows even in undisturbed habitats, competing with native plants. These plants threaten many butterfly species, which unintentionally lay eggs on their leaves, although larvae often cannot survive on garlic mustard.

Removal: Small patches may be pulled, which is especially easy when the soil is moist. Larger patches can be cut to the ground in spring or sprayed with glyphosate in late fall or very early spring. Do not allow flowering plants to form seedpods, or the plants will spread.



Replacement:

Lady Fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Foam Flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>
Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>
Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>
Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>