



FACT SHEET

GARLIC MUSTARD

(Alliaria petiolata)

- Garlic mustard grows to 4 feet tall, usually with just one flowering stem.
- The small, white-petaled flowers cluster at the ends of stems.
- Plants smell like garlic in the spring.
- First-year plants have kidney-shaped leaves.
- Second-year (mature) plants have triangular, toothed leaves.
- The root usually has an “S” shaped curve just below the stem.
- Several plants, such as fringe cup or money plant, can easily be mistaken for garlic mustard.
- Mustard family.



First year rosettes

WHY BE CONCERNED?

- Garlic mustard is **EXTREMELY** invasive and displaces native plants
- It produces chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants, fungi and butterfly larvae.
- It has destroyed native woodlands in the eastern United States.

Garlic mustard is Class A weed. Eradication is required

DISTRIBUTION:

Garlic mustard is invading many parks and woodland areas in Seattle and has been found in Sequim once (having been brought from Seattle).

It has not yet been found in Jefferson County!

ECOLOGY:

- Garlic mustard is a biennial plant that forms a low rosette in its first year and flowers and seeds the second year.
- It reproduces by seed. Each plant produces 500 to 1,000 seeds, which remain viable for about 10 years.
- It can grow in dense shade or sun and can establish itself in a relatively stable forest understory.
- It can grow in damp spots near streams and also on dry, steep slopes.
- Garlic mustard plants mature early, out-competing many north-west native plants.
- Garlic mustard is allelopathic, producing chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants and mycorrhizal fungi needed for healthy tree growth and tree seedling survival.

CONTROL

Prevention and early detection are the best means of control.

- **Do not buy** plants, soil or compost from areas known to have garlic mustard.
- **Learn** to recognize the plant and if you have wooded areas on your property check them for garlic mustard.
- **After** removing plants continue to monitor and remove plants twice a year for several years.

HANDPULLING is **NOT** recommended for rosettes (first-year plants) because they tend to snap off at the root and resprout. They can however be carefully dug. Second-year plants can be hand-pulled, preferably in the early spring before they have flowered or made seed. However, plants are easier to find and identify once they have flowered. If plants are pulled when they have flowers, or even buds, they should be removed from site and disposed of, because buds or flowers will eventually produce viable seed.

MOWING is **NOT** an effective means of control because mowed plants will resprout and flower.

MULCHING with several inches of material such as wood chips has been a highly effective control method. The edges should be carefully monitored.

HERBICIDES can be effective, but should always be applied with care. Do not apply herbicides over or near water bodies. Read the label to check that you are applying a herbicide in the right place, to the right plant, at the right time, and in the right amount. Translocated herbicides, (ones that move throughout a plant's system) are recommended. These are most effective on young, actively growing plants because the herbicide moves around the plant more quickly. Also, herbicide is more easily absorbed by clean, new leaves.

- **Note:** Most herbicides will **NOT** prevent germination of weed seeds already in the soil, so monitoring and retreatment are necessary.

Call the Weed Board for specific herbicide advice



Garlic mustard, a Class A noxious weed

Pictures and information taken from King County's web site—
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx>

Many thanks!!