

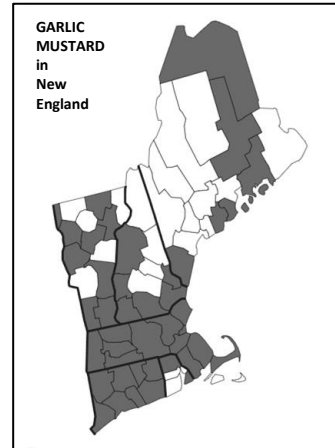


Garlic Mustard

BVGC INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) a/k/a Poor Man's Mustard, Hedge Garlic, Garlic Root and Garlic Wort, is an aggressive non-native herb in the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*). It invades high-quality upland, floodplain forests, savannas, and disturbed areas, such as yards and roadsides. First introduced during the 1800s for medicinal and culinary purposes from Europe, it can now be found in every county in Massachusetts.

Description: Upright, herbaceous biennial that can grow up to three feet tall. Leaves are heart or spade shaped with scalloped edges. White flowers bloom from April through June. All parts of the plant smell like garlic when crushed.



MAP: NATIVE PLANT TRUST

GARLIC MUSTARD



Pl. 33. *Alliaria officinale*. *Alliaria officinalis* Andr.

1891 Chromo-Lithograph

Ecological Threat:

Garlic mustard exudes antifungal chemicals into the soil that disrupt associations between mycorrhizal fungi and native plants, suppressing native plant growth. It is an aggressive invader of wooded areas throughout the eastern and middle United States. A high shade tolerance allows this plant to invade high quality, mature woodlands, where it can form dense stands which shade out native understory flora and also inhibit seed germination of other species.

Extermination:

Garlic mustard is easy to pull, especially when the soil is moist after a rain shower. Mowing as low as possible before the emergence of flowers can suppress garlic mustard, but plants may resprout and still flower. Targeted burning and herbicides (such as glyphosate) can be effective.

Disposal: Bag the remains for safe disposal or burn.