

Garlic Mustard Fact Sheet

Alliaria petiolata

Brassicaceae Family



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Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Small, four petaled white flowers clustered at the top of a single stem.
- ❷ **Seeds / Roots:** Prolific seed producer. The root has a distinct “L” or “S” shape just below the stem.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Rosette leaves are kidney shaped. Mature stem leaves are triangular and become increasingly smaller towards the tip. In the spring, new leaves have a prominent garlic smell.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** April - June after the first year.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** 4ft tall biennial herb that germinates and forms seedlings in the spring and early summer, followed by flowering and seed production the following spring.

Impacts:

- Produces chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants, fungi, and butterfly larvae.
- Displaces native plants due to self-pollination, early maturation and seed production, lack of natural enemies, and an aggressive mat-like growth habit.

Control:

- For mature plants, hand pulling in the spring *before seed production* is the most effective form of control for small infestations.
- Dispose of the stems and flowers from the site, as pulled plants left on the ground can still produce viable seed.
- For rosettes, *hand pulling is not recommended*, as the stems tend to break off at ground level and the plants re-sprout.
- Monitor the site throughout the season, as germination takes place for many months. Seeds may stay viable in the soil for up to 10 years.
- For larger infestations, spraying in the spring and/ or fall with a selective herbicide such as 2, 4-D and dicamba (such as Weed-be-gone), Triclopyr (Garlon 3A), and Metsulfuron (Escort XP) has been known to be effective.



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*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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