

Garlic Mustard Fact Sheet

Alliaria petiolata

Euphorbiaceae Family



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn., Bugwood.org



Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Conn., Bugwood.org

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 distinction “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 its 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.
- Mulching with several inches of mulch such as wood chips has been shown to be a highly effective control method. The edges must be monitored.
- For large infestations, spraying in the spring or fall with glyphosate (such as roundup) has shown to be the most effective form of control. Products containing 2, 4-D (such as Crossbow or Weed-be-gone) do not significantly control garlic mustard.

Connie Gray, GA-EPPC, Bugwood.org



Salt Lake County Weed
Control Program
www.weeds.slco.org
801-562-6466
weeds@slco.org