

Garlic Mustard Alert!

Dear Neighbour,

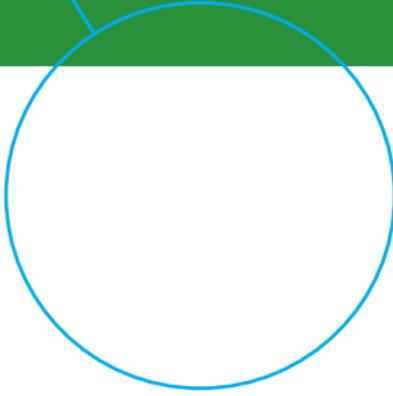
Garlic Mustard has been spotted in your area. Please be on the look-out for this highly invasive plant in your yard and join the effort to remove non-native invasive plants.



Garlic mustard: Photo by NCC

Impacts of garlic mustard

- Garlic Mustard rapidly spreads to displace native wildflowers and tree seedlings.
- The roots release chemicals that interfere with vital fungi growth needed for native plants to take up nutrients, changing the soil composition and making it more difficult for native plants to grow.



The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is the nation's leading not-for-profit, private nature conservation organization, working to conserve our most important natural areas and the plants and animals they sustain.

Identification

- Garlic mustard leaves emit a strong garlic odour when crushed – this is a great ID feature to use.
- First year plants – Small, scalloped kidney shaped leaves.
- Second year plants – Grow up to 1.2m tall, with triangular, toothed leaves, and clusters of small white flowers in spring (April-May).



Garlic mustard; Photo by Steven Katovich/
USDA Forest Service Bugwood.



Garlic mustard; Photo by Ken Towle.

Control options

- Hand pulling (make sure to get the whole root) — early spring (April/May).
- Mowing/cutting — May (after flowering but before setting the seeds).
- Clipping flower heads — May, and repeat until the end of the growing season.
- Repeated control may be needed for several years. Seeds can survive for up to 30 years in the soil! Planting native species in disturbed soil will help reduce future garlic mustard invasions.

What can you do?

- Never compost invasive species; discarded plants can easily spread to new areas. Throw invasive species in the garbage.
- Plant native species in your garden.
- Treat infestations early to increase success.
- Clean all gardening tools and clothing to limit the spread.

For More Information: