

# Garlic mustard

*Alliaria petiolata*



## HABITAT:

- Shady areas, stream corridors, moist forest ground, wooded stream banks, roadsides, trail edges

## ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Produces phytotoxic chemicals that interfere with other plant species growth <sup>1</sup>

Year 1



Year 2



## TIMING:

- Flowers March - July and seeds produced soon after
- Fruits ripen in mid-July and germinate through August

## MANAGEMENT:

- Target 2<sup>nd</sup> year plants for chance that 1<sup>st</sup> year rosettes will not survive the winter
- For 2<sup>nd</sup> year: pull at base of stem to remove all roots when they have begun to flower or cut at base of stem to minimize disturbance
- Those with flowers and/or fruit should be disposed of in bags to prevent seed spread

## Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** Year 1, kidney-shaped with horse-shoe base  
Year 2, alternating triangular, sharply-toothed with  
Leaves have garlic odor when crushed in both stages
2. **Flower:** Year 1, *does not flower*\*  
Year 2, four white petals that narrow at base
3. **Fruit:** Year 1, *does not fruit*\*  
Year 2, long, narrow seed pods on short stalks

\*note: biennial life cycle

## Native Alternative:

Golden ragwort, *Packera aurea*

- Perennial herb
- Blooms March through August; yellow flowers
- **Habitat:** meadows, bogs, low woodlands
- **Benefits and Uses:** good ground cover, even in shady areas
- **Growing tips:** grows best in sun or part shade in moist soil



**References:** <sup>1</sup>Klein, Helen. "Garlic Mustard." *Alaska Natural Heritage Program*. University of Alaska Anchorage. N.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2012. <aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/services/AKNHP.cfc?method=downloadDocumentByUsdaCode&documentType=species\_bio&usdaCode=ALPE4> .

**Photos:** Czarapata, Elizabeth. *Garlic Mustard*. N.d. *Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin*. Web. 9 Aug. 2012. Rozlišeni, Jiná . *Garlic Mustard: flower, buds*. N.d. *Wikipedia*. Web. 9 Aug. 2012.