

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 ¹



TIMING:

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

MANAGEMENT:

- Target 2nd year plants for chance that 1st year rosettes will not survive the winter
- For 2nd 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: ¹Klein, 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.