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

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:

Photos:

Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve
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