

WeedWise tips to target garlic mustard

⊙ *Know your invader.* Familiarize yourself with garlic mustard and learn how to identify and manage this species.

⊙ *Inspect your property.* Keep an eye on your property for garlic mustard, particularly along roadways, streams, and trails.

⊙ *Control garlic mustard before it becomes a problem.* Control when patches are small and manageable to reduce the time and expense needed to be successful.

⊙ *Know when to seek help.* Some weeds may require particular methods or techniques for control to be successful. Contact the **WeedWise** program for additional information about a particular weed or management practice.

⊙ *Don't spread garlic mustard.* Properly dispose of pulled plants. Treat flowering plants as trash and don't compost garlic mustard once it has flowered.

⊙ *Be patient and diligent.* Understand that controlling and preventing the reinfestation of garlic mustard is a long term process.



Known current and historic garlic mustard locations in Clackamas County
The red dots depict all known garlic mustard locations.



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Samuel Leininger, Clackamas SWCD



Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata

Garlic Mustard



Management



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.conservatondistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.

Samuel Leininger, Clackamas SWCD

Garlic Mustard



Above: A large garlic mustard infestation



Clockwise from upper left: Garlic mustard seeds pods in summer, white four-petaled flowers of garlic mustard, Adult garlic mustard plants, dense coverage of garlic mustard seedlings in spring.



What is garlic mustard?

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an aggressive weed invading our region. Native to central and western Europe, this fast-growing biennial plant commonly invades sites such as parks, trails, roadsides, and streamsides.

What does it look like?

Adult plants form dense patches up to 3 feet in height at maturity. The leaves of garlic mustard are kidney shaped and deeply scalloped becoming more triangular during flowering. The leaves have a strong garlic odor when crushed. Garlic mustard produces white four-petaled flowers in spring, that develop into long seed pods known as siliques.

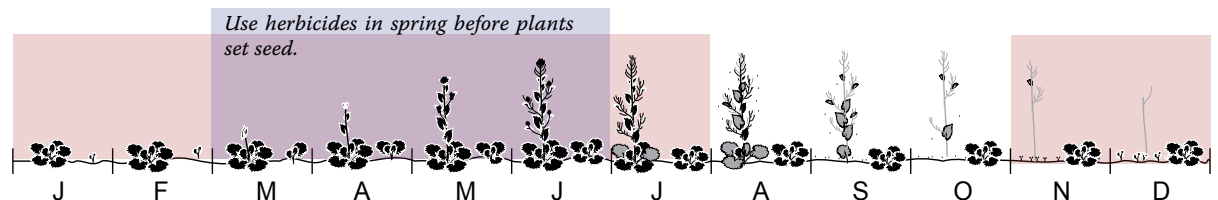
Why should I worry about garlic mustard?

As a fast growing noxious weed, garlic mustard displaces native vegetation needed by wildlife for food and shelter. Garlic mustard is edible but is generally avoided by most grazing animals. It releases a chemical from its root system that keeps forest trees and shrubs from establishing.

How does garlic mustard spread?

In our area, garlic mustard is typically spread by humans or animals. The small seeds of garlic mustard stick to shoes, clothes, fur, and equipment. Care needs to be taken to clean clothing and equipment after moving through infested areas to help prevent the spread of garlic mustard.

Pull garlic mustard plants before they begin flowering. Once plants begin flowering be sure to bag plants and dispose of them as trash. Monitor the site for regrowth, but avoid disturbing plants in summer once the seeds start to disperse.



How do I control garlic mustard on my property?

Garlic mustard can be a very difficult plant to control due to the large number of seeds it produces. In dense stands, garlic mustard can produce as many as 400 seeds per square foot. As such, control efforts should focus on preventing seed production.

Small patches of garlic mustard can be controlled by pulling adult plants. Take care to remove the entire tap root to prevent resprouting. The easiest and best time to remove garlic mustard is in winter and spring when the ground is soft.

Large patches of garlic mustard are best controlled using an herbicide application in spring. Herbicide treated patches should be followed up by hand pulling in early summer before seeds develop.

Read the herbicide label to make sure the product is suitable for the site being treated. Products containing the active ingredients triclopyr and glyphosate have been shown to be effective in our area.

Before beginning an herbicide treatment, contact the **WeedWise** Program or consult the *Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook* (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>) for the most up-to-date herbicide recommendations.

Samuel Leininger, Clackamas SWCD



Clackamas SWCD WeedWise Program
www.conservationdistrict.org • 503-210-6000
221 Molalla Avenue, Suite 102
Oregon City, OR 97045

REPORT GARLIC MUSTARD!

Have you noticed invasive *garlic mustard* in your area? Report your sightings to the District's **WeedWise** program, or submit them online at oregoninvasiveshotline.org.



Oregon Invasive Species Online Hotline