

# GARLIC MUSTARD

invasive  
fact sheet



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Garlic mustard invades Vermont's forests and wet meadows. This plant is easy to see in April and May when its white flowers are blooming.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) was first planted in Long Island, New York in 1868 as an edible garden plant. It was commonly kept as a potted herb whose prolific seeds were dispersed by wind to nearby fields and forests. The flavor of its leaves is true to this plant's name. Young, tender leaves can be substituted as a tangy salad green or as an addition to basil leaves in your favorite pesto recipe.



© Emily Boedecker/The Nature Conservancy



garlic mustard

© Daniel Dietz/The Nature Conservancy



new growth with leaves low to ground and no tall stalk



purple stems of young plants

delicate white flowers

heart-shaped, toothed leaves of older plants



© Leslie Mehrhoff/IPANE

Wise On Weeds!

For more information on invasives, contact  
The Nature Conservancy, Montpelier, Vermont  
802-229-4425 x120 or go to [www.vtinvasiveplants.org](http://www.vtinvasiveplants.org) or  
[www.nature.org/vermont/weeds](http://www.nature.org/vermont/weeds)

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### \*For safe and legal herbicide application:

- Read the herbicide label. The label is the law.
- If you are treating large stands of an invasive, or working on public lands, it is highly recommended to hire a licensed herbicide applicator.
- Private citizens can legally apply non-restricted use herbicides on land on which they own. All others need to become certified applicators or hire someone that is certified.
- If you have questions about herbicide use, contact the VT Agency of Agriculture at 802-828-2431.
- If you are working in or near a waterway or wetland, contact the VT Department of Environmental Conservation at 802-241-3761.



### For small infestations:

Hand pull plants in the spring before they flower. Pull slowly, grasping plants at the stem base. Make sure you remove the “S”-shaped tap root. Put all plant parts into a plastic bag to decompose.



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### For large infestations:

A glyphosate herbicide\*, such as Round-Up® or Rodeo®, can be sprayed on remaining green leaves in the late fall when *all* other plants are dormant.

**DO NOT COMPOST THIS PLANT! Plant fragments can re-sprout.**



## non-invasive alternatives

© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



foam flower  
*Tiarella cordifolia*

© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



blue phlox  
*Phlox divaricata*

Canada  
anemone

*Anemone  
canadensis*



© Mrs. W.D. Bransford/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

white  
boneset

*Eupatorium  
perfoliatum*



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