Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata)







Key ID Features

Arrangement: alternate

Leaves: kidney to triangular shaped toothed leaves; crushed plant smells of garlic

Flowers: small, white with four petals

Fruit: long slender seed pods

Stem: purple on young plants

Root: white s-shaped tap root

Growth Habit: herbaceous biennial; spends first year as a rosette and bolts and flowers in 2nd year, can grow 4 ft. tall





The Impact

Garlic Mustard (also called "Garlicwort") was first reported in 1868, growing in Long Island, NY. From there, and from potential other points of introduction (popular garden and medicinal herb), it escaped cultivation and spread across North America.

Garlic Mustard grows in dense populations in the forest understory where it outcompetes native plants for water, light, nutrients, and space. Its success stems from the production of up to 8,000 seeds per plant in a season, and the roots release chemicals into the soil that inhibit the growth of other plants (allelopathy).

Garlic Mustard is also toxic to the West Virginia White butterfly caterpillars (species of special concern in Vermont). The butterfly normally lays its eggs on native Toothwort but gets it confused with Garlic Mustard due to their similar chemical signaling to the insects.

Quick Facts

Plant Family: Brassicaceae Origin: Europe

Habitat: disturbed areas, found in the undergrowth of forests and forest edges

Present in Vermont?: yes

Method of Spread: primarily by seeds

Status: Class B Noxious Weed* http://bit.ly/VTPlantQuarantine

*The Vermont Noxious Weed Quarantine listing means it is illegal to buy, sell, or transport this species in Vermont

Native Plant Alternatives



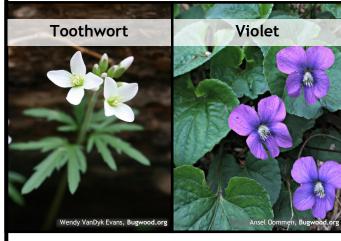
Foam Flower (Tiarella cordifolia): attracts bees and bee flies, grows in rich woodlands

Ack Katovich, Bugwood.org

Common Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum): attracts butterflies, bees and flies, grows on stream edges, wetlands



Common Look-alikes



<u>Distinguishing</u> <u>features</u>

Leaf: leaves are lobed

<u>Distinguishing</u> <u>features</u>

Flower: blue, violet, yellow, or white

Control Information

To learn more about identification & control options, check out the Gallery of Land Invasives on *VTinvasives.org* and these additional resources:

https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/ environment/animals-and-plants/ noxious-weeds/weed-identification/ garlic-mustard.aspx

References: <u>EDDMaps Ontario - Species - Garlic Mustard</u>, <u>Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program - Garlic Mustard</u>, <u>Ohio State University Weed Guide - Garlic Mustard</u>, <u>New York Invasive Species Information - Garlic Mustard</u>, <u>Noxious Weeds in King County, Washington - Garlic Mustard</u>

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