



EASTERN UP INVASIVE: Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata



Photo by D. Herms

WHY THE CONCERN?

Garlic Mustard was initially introduced from Europe in the late 1800's for cooking and medicinal use. It quickly escaped cultivation and began to form dense stands, reducing biodiversity. It is typically found on roadsides edges and forest understories where it releases a chemical preventing the germination of tree species. The tiny seeds spread easily in shoe/ tire treads.

FEATURES OF EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Garlic Mustard is a biennial plant, meaning that it has a two year life cycle. The first year, it can be identified by short stems and rounded, heart-shaped serrated leaves. During the second year, it grows 2-4 ft tall and has heart-shaped serrated leaves with small white flowers. Slender seed pods produce hundreds of seeds. The plant has a garlic scent when crushed. For more information, please contact the Biology Department.

CONTROL METHOD

The most effective control methods are hand pulling, herbicide treatment, and also controlled burns of the affected areas.



Photo by D. Tenaglia

Photos by Daniel Herms, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org and Dan Tenaglia, MissouriPlants.com, Bugwood.org



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