

Background:

Garlic Mustard is a biennial herb native to Europe and Asia. First recorded in Long Island, NY, in 1668 it was likely used by settlers as food or medicine. Today, this plant relies on its prolific seed dispersal. The small seed can be transported to a new location in mud under foot, on clothing, and on shoes and shoelaces.



Garlic Mustard Infestation.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Impact on Native Habitat:

Garlic Mustard is extremely invasive. Found most frequently in forests under partial shade, it also can grow in full shade or sunlight. The areas most at risk for infestation are disturbed forests and wooded areas adjacent to streams, as well as along trails, parking lots and other places where vegetation has been removed. Boots, clothing and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned when leaving areas infested with Garlic mustard to avoid spreading the seed.

Identification

Leaves: grow one to seven centimeters in diameter and are anywhere from kidney to heart-shaped, with large rounded irregular teeth. First year plants are a rosette of roundish leaves that are about 4" off the ground and stay green throughout the winter. Leaves may be hairless or hairy to varying degrees.



Stems: At the end of the first growing season, garlic mustard is rosette of green, roundish leaves that are about 4 inches off the ground and stay green throughout the winter. In the second year, it has 2 to 3.5 foot tall flowering stems that have a distinctive "S" crook near the base.



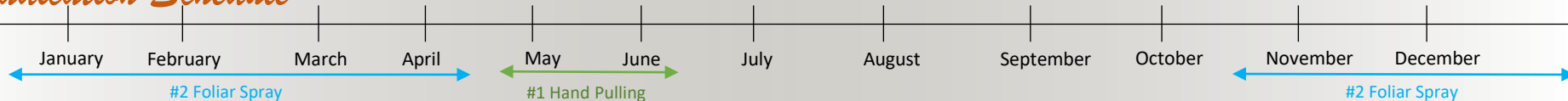
Flowers: The outside of the mustard flower has four sepals, usually green. The flower itself has four white petals usually arranged in the shape of a cross. It has six stamens: four are tall and two are short. Flowers usually appear in a cluster.



Fruits/Seeds: Each flower soon develops into a slender, straight seedpod called a silique. Pods are green at first, but turn tan as seeds ripen. Dispersion occurs in mid to late summer. A single plant can produce as many as 3,000 seeds.



Eradication Schedule



How to Kill: Eradication

- 1. Hand Pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the resprouts. Pulled garlic mustard can still complete flowering and set seed, so be sure to bag and dispose of pulled plants.
- 2. Foliar Spray-** This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. Garlic mustard can be sprayed anytime of the year when foliage is green and the temperatures are above 50; unless flowers or seed pods present and is past the optimal spray window.



Garlic Mustard

