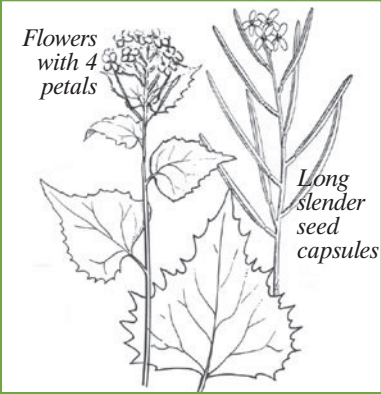




INVASIVE PLANT IDENTIFICATION SHEET

Garlic Mustard
Alliaria officinalis

- ▶ **Garlic Mustard** is a biennial. In its 2nd year, the plant flowers, sets seeds, then dies.
- ▶ The plant is easily identified by its garlic odor and taste and irregularly toothed leaves.
- ▶ Garlic mustard roots produce toxins that kill or weaken neighboring native plants. The plant was introduced to the U.S. by early European settlers.



Carpets of garlic mustard have spread and killed native flora in the Greenbelt.

Garlic Mustard CALENDAR

1st Year

Tiny seedlings grow into leafy rosettes less than a foot high and remain green all summer. Remove 1st-year plants, including roots, throughout the season as their root system is actively poisoning neighboring native plants.

Seedlings may be scraped or vigorously raked. Rosettes may be gently pulled from the base or dug with a weeder.



April—Seedlings germinate in early April and develop first true leaves (above) by mid April.



April-May—1st-year plants form leafy rosettes that persist the full growing season.



◀ **2nd Year**—2nd-year garlic mustard plants grow leggy and begin to flower in early May and into late spring. It is important to remove these plants and roots before flowering as flowers can produce seeds even after being dug up. Viable seeds are produced within days of initial flowering.

A single plant may produce thousands of seeds which remain viable in the soil for 5 years or more.

To remove 2nd-year plants, pull by grasping the plant at the base. 2nd year plants may be cut if cut at the soil line. The plant will resprout if cut above the soil line.

◀ **May**—Flowering in early May of 2nd year (far left)

◀ **June**—Seeds set by early June of 2nd year