

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata



Evergreen biennial broadleaf herb.

Widespread in New Castle County, sporadic but **increasing** in Kent and Sussex Counties.

First year plants a short rosette of toothed roundish leaves. Mature second year plants to three feet tall with blooms. Small quarter-inch, four-petaled white flowers bloom late April – June. Thin, upright seed pods up to two-inches long, appear shortly after.

Occurs in moist, shaded soil of river floodplains, forests, roadsides, edges of woods, trail edges and forest openings.

Garlic Mustard - Control Methods

Hand Pulling – Very effective for both first year rosettes and mature plants. Rosettes can be pulled any time. If mature flowering plants are present with ANY developing seed pods, they must be bagged and removed from the site. Mature plants that have been pulled can still produce viable seeds from the oldest seedpods along the stem.

Rosette – **Year-round**

Mature – **April - May**

Foliar Spray – A 2% solution of Glyphosate and water in a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant is effective when applied to first year rosettes during the winter months when most desirable native species are dormant. For best results treatment should be done when air temperature is above 50° F. Foliar spray can be used after first hard frosts (**late Nov.**) until the spring wildflowers begin to emerge (**late Feb-early March**). **Care to avoid native evergreen herbs must be taken.**

Due to potentially large seed bank, control effort may need to be repeated for several seasons.