

GARLIC MUSTARD

Alliaria petiolata



National Park Service

Mature Height	2 to 3 1/2 feet	Soil Type	Does not tolerate acid soils
Mature Spread	Forms colonies	Flower Color	White
Mature Form	Upright	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Very Rapid	Fall Color	Dead brown stalk
Sun Exposure	Very Shade Tolerant		
Soil Moisture	Prefers moist and shaded areas		

Garlic mustard poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities in Indiana. It is also found in parks, roadsides and in residential areas. The crushed leaves have a garlic smell. It was originally brought from Europe to flavor wild meats. It is a biennial plant meaning it takes two years from seed sprouting to maturity. The basal rosette plant shown below stays green through the winter and in early spring begins to form its taller flower and seed stalk at which time it crowds out most native wildflowers that also have their main growth in early spring. By late May flowering is generally complete and the seed stalk has formed. The most common control method is to pull the plants during or before flowering and putting the plant in a plastic garbage bag and sending to the landfill where the heat will kill the seed. Seed stays viable in the soil for several years so control takes commitment for a long time. Foliar sprays labeled for Garlic Mustard are also effective before seed formation.



Second Year Bloom



First Year Plant—basal rosette



Seed Stalk

Photos from Wildmanstevebrill.com



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

