

Garlic Mustard is a noxious, invasive weed that threatens the biodiversity of any area it grows by choking out other species with the antifungal chemicals it spreads in soil.

The City of Davenport actively treats and removes garlic mustard in an effort to control the spread, and hopefully one day eradicate the species, in public areas to support healthy riparian zones and other ecological environments. However, it is critical this invasive weed be addressed on private property as well.

General Facts

- Garlic Mustard is a biennial, so plan on managing for a minimum of two years, commonly longer.
- Focus on eradicating areas with small infestations and move outwards.
- Remember to read all herbicide labels before using. Use only in accordance with instructions provided. Labels provide important instruction on application and personal protective measures for skin and respiratory contact.
- Let neighbors know when you spray herbicides. Consider placing warning signs when spraying. Signs can be picked up at most home and garden centers.

Treatment and Removal

Spring

Before the end of May, pull the plants by the taproot, bag and remove from the site. Seal the bag and place in garbage cart. ***Do not place Garlic Mustard in with yard waste, your home compost pile, or bring to the Davenport Compost Facility. It spreads quickly and contaminate soils produced.***

Fall

Spray first year rosettes in October with a 2-3% solution of glyphosphate. Two applications may be necessary. Note, applications must be made before the plant goes dormant in the winter.

Scientific Name

Alliaria petiolate



THREATS

- Butterfly larvae that feed from the leaf die, threatening the butterfly population.
- Native wildlife do not eat or use garlic mustard. Because of spread, garlic mustard reduces available resources for surrounding plants, soils, microorganisms, insects and other animal species.
- Expands rapidly and contaminates soils.
- Seeds remain viable in soils for up to 7 years.

Identifying Garlic Mustard

- Can do well in sun and shade, but primarily found in shade.
- First year leaves are heart or kidney-shaped with scalloped edges. On the second year, stems leaves are 2 to 3" across, alternate, triangular with large teeth. Flowers are also present.
- Leaves and stem smell like garlic when crushed.



- Flowers are small and white.
- Flowers have four petals.
- Flowers bloom throughout the spring.

Seed pods are viable by June 1 and easily spread through the fall. Pods are 1 to 2.5" long slender capsules. Pods are green, drying to pale brown. Inside, seeds are small, shiny black, and arranged in a single row. ***Seeds remain viable in the soil for at least 7 years.***

