



# GARLIC MUSTARD CONTROL in the WILLAMETTE WATERSHED



Garlic mustard spring flowers



Garlic mustard in winter

## *Allaria petiolata*

### Garlic mustard is a noxious weed.

Garlic mustard's greatest threat is to native woodland wildflowers. It dominates deciduous and mixed canopy forests and displaces most native understory species. It reduces plant diversity and decreases forage for deer. Garlic mustard invading road rights-of-way reduces visibility and increases vegetation control costs.

It is a cool-season herb, native to Eurasia. European settlers brought it to North America.

#### How Garlic Mustard Spreads

This weed spreads exclusively by seed. Hikers, animals and road maintenance equipment spread garlic mustard seeds. Wind dispersal is minor, however, flowing water in stream corridors can spread the seeds.

#### How To Identify Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is a biennial that forms a basal rosette of kidney-shaped, scalloped leaves in the first year, and an elongated flower stalk in the second year. Leaves are alternate on the smooth stem, sharply toothed with a triangular shape. Crushed leaves produce a distinct garlic odor. Garlic mustard typically flowers in April and May. Plants have one flowering stem with numerous white flowers that have four separated petals. Plant height ranges from 12 to 48 inches. Seeds are black, oblong in rows within a long narrow pod.

#### Garlic Mustard Look Alikes (please don't pull these native plants)

- Fringecup, *Tellima grandiflora* - watch for hairy leaves and stems
- Piggy-back Plant, *Tolmiea menziesii* - watch for hairy leaves and stems
- Wild Ginger, *Asarum caudatum* - watch for glossy, dark green leaves



Fringecup



Piggy-back



Wild ginger

#### Controlling Garlic Mustard

You can pull out small patches by hand or spray with herbicide. Pulled material will complete flowering and set seed so be sure to bag pulled plants and put them in the garbage. Mowed plants will re-grow and set seed, so don't rely entirely on mowing as a method of control. Clean your shoes after hiking in areas with garlic mustard plants so you don't spread garlic mustard seeds on your next hike.

Information source: Oregon Department of Agriculture Garlic Mustard brochure

