



Second year garlic mustard plant with terminal white flowers, elongate seed capsules, and coarsely toothed triangular leaves.

The plant has no natural enemies and can be present in an area for years before it appears—often seeming to explode. Garlic mustard can invade forested areas, even areas that have not been disturbed. It grows quickly in the late fall and early spring, when most native species are dormant. In addition, the rosette stage stays green through the first winter.



In this country, the threat from garlic mustard comes from its lack of natural enemies. Even the white-tailed deer seem to prefer native plants to garlic mustard. Because it persists through the first winter as a green rosette, it can overrun and eliminate many native plants. Consequently, it would deprive us of the vibrant display of native spring wild flowers.

For more information on garlic mustard, please visit the following Web sites:

NPCI Alien Plant Working Group

<http://www.nps.gov/htdocs2/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm>

Cornell University, Biological Control of Weeds—Garlic Mustard

<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/bcontrol/garlic.htm>

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council

<http://www.webriver.com/tn-eppc/species/alipet.htm>

Virginia Natural Heritage Program Fact Sheet—Garlic Mustard

<http://www.state.va.us/~dcr/dnh/invallia.htm>

National Parks Service search engine to invasive weeds

<http://www.nps.gov/Architext/AT-NPSquery.html>



Dense patch of garlic mustard

Photographs by Rosemarie Boyle.

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