

# GARLIC MUSTARD INFO SHEET

Native to Europe, colonial settlers planted Garlic Mustard as an early spring food source. Unfortunately, this aggressive invader escaped cultivation and has spread across the Northeast and Midwest. Garlic Mustard has become the dominant plant in the undergrowth of some forests, disrupting fragile ecosystems and **significantly** reducing species diversity.



## You CAN Remove Garlic Mustard from Your Land

### STEP 1. IDENTIFY



#### YEAR 1

First year growth stays low to the ground with green, heart-shaped leaves. It is easiest to spot in the spring before surrounding plants/grasses grow tall, but can be spotted and removed all year.



#### YEAR 2

In year two, the plant “bolts” forming a stalk up to four feet tall. Small white flowers with four petals form in early spring. Leaves become more triangular and strongly toothed as the plant grows. Seeds form by early June. To easily identify, crush the leaves and see if you notice a garlic odor.



Lake Champlain Land Trust | One Main St, Suite 205 | Burlington, VT 05401

802-862-4150

[www.LCLT.org](http://www.LCLT.org)

## STEP 2. REMOVE

High shade tolerance and long-lived seeds allow Garlic Mustard to aggressively take over the groundcover of mature forests. The plants not only shade out native understory plants, but they also produce biochemical compounds that prevent other plants from germinating or growing in that area. Garlic mustard presents a serious threat to native wildflowers and other plants of the Champlain Valley.

Control: Garlic mustard can be easily pulled by hand. Start removing when the plants bolt in early to mid-May. Stop removal operations when seeds are present (early June). It is important to pull the entire taproot or the plant will resprout.

Bag the pulled plants and deliver to a commercial composting site that accepts invasive plants. Call your local composting facility to inquire. In Northern Vermont, Green Mountain Compost in Williston accepts Garlic Mustard (as of June 2019). You may also dry and burn the plants if open burning is permitted in your town.



## STEP 3. MONITOR

Be vigilant. Inspect the infestation site each year to deal with any re-growth or missed Garlic Mustard plants.

---

**For more information:**

Please give us a call at 802-862-4150 or visit [www.lclt.org/](http://www.lclt.org/)



Lake Champlain Land Trust | One Main St, Suite 205 | Burlington, VT 05401

802-862-4150

[www.LCLT.org](http://www.LCLT.org)