

Garlic Mustard - Take Action this Spring



Before flowers up



Flowers close up



Garlic mustard in forest, flowering

- Garlic mustard is an invasive plant, originally from Europe, but now infesting our forests, woodlands & the back corners of our yards.
- This plant out-competes our native plants and puts out a chemical from its roots that prevents other plants from growing.
- It is a biennial, meaning that it lives for 2 years. How to tell what it is:
 - In the first year, it grows close to the ground, with kidney-shaped leaves in a rosette formation, and develops a strong root system. Remove by digging.
 - In the second year (see photos) leaf is distinctive triangular-shaped, sharp-toothed and if you crush the leaf, it will give off a distinctive garlic smell. Pulls out easily.
- In the second year it grows up to a meter tall and produces a 4-petaled white flower as shown in the photo. After that it forms hundreds of tiny black seeds. Pull it out before it flowers if you can! 'Go wild' on it!

See

www.ontario.ca/page/garlic-mustard for more details.



www.auroraarboretum.ca