



Removal and Disposal of Garlic Mustard

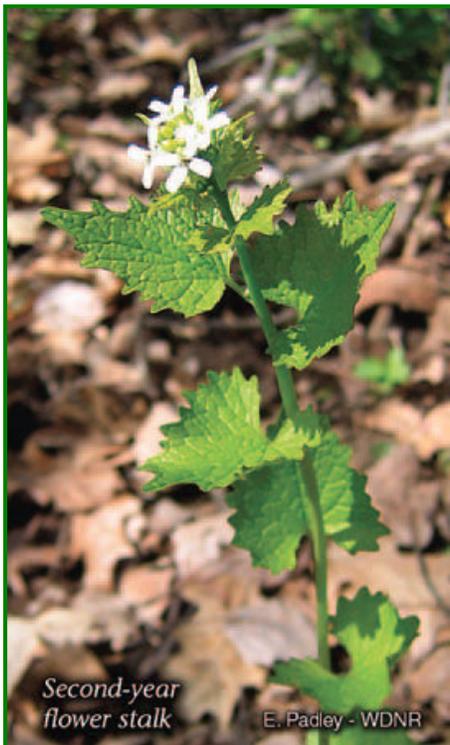
Intent

The intent of this policy is to define the Town's role in aiding Town residents in the removal and disposal of garlic mustard, an invasive weed. The Town will provide a disposal location in the Town Recycling Center for this purpose.



Description

Garlic mustard is a biennial, which means it has a two year life-cycle. The plant emerges in April. There are no flowers during the **first year**, showing 3 to 8 rounded or kidney-shaped leaf clusters. The leaves will have a scalloped edge and will be *green all winter*.



During the **second year** the plants will flower from April to June, a small ¼ inch, white 4 petal bloom. The leaves become heart-shaped or triangular, about 1-3 inches wide. If the leaf is crushed a garlic odor is given off. The plants grow to as much as 4 feet in height. Soon after the blossoms are gone the seed capsules start to appear. They grow very rapidly. A single plant can produce more than 100 seeds.

Removal

Residents should pull the plants after a rain when the ground is soft. This will make it more likely that most or all of the root will come out. Remove the plants that are producing seeds first, pulling from the least to most infested areas. Follow the same steps for immature plants.



Bagging and Disposal

The removed plants should be placed in burnable paper bags and sealed. Sealed bags may be brought to the Town Recycling Center and placed in a special dumpster. **No plastic or non-burnable bags or containers will be accepted.** The Town will dispose of the weeds.

Important Reminders

Be sure to clean shoes, pockets, cuffs and equipment after removing and bagging the plants. Garlic mustard has very small seeds that can be carried in clothing, shoes or mud. Only a few seeds can produce a large infestation in a few seasons.

Pulling and disposal of this weed must be done for eight or more years until the garlic mustard is depleted. It is much easier to eliminate the plant if done before the plant goes to seed.

For a listing of all invasive plant species and information on each, visit the following link:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>



Credits

This factsheet is based on the brochure: *Garlic Mustard – A Major Threat to Wisconsin's Woodlands*, by Paul Hartman and Sharon Morrisey, Univ. of Wisconsin-Extension, 2002. It was revised by Colin Kelly, David Eagan, Eunice Padley, Kelly Kearns, and Colleen Matula, WDNR, 2006.

