

# Garlic Mustard Identification

Garlic mustard is an invasive non-native biennial herb that spreads by seed. Although edible for people, it is not eaten by local wildlife or insects. It is difficult to control once it



has reached a site; it can cross-pollinate or



self-pollinate, it has a high seed

production rate, it out competes native vegetation and it can establish in a relatively stable forest understory. It can grow in dense shade or sunny sites. The fact that it is self fertile means that one plant can occupy a site and produce a seed bank. Plant stands can produce more than 62,000 seeds per square meter to quickly out compete local flora, changing the structure of plant communities on the forest floor. Garlic mustard is also allelopathic, producing chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants and mychorrizal fungi needed for healthy tree growth and tree seedling survival.

- Garlic mustard has small, four petaled white flowers clustered at the top of a single stem.
- In the spring, new leaves have a prominent garlic smell.
- Garlic mustard produces chemicals that inhibit the growth of other plants, fungi, and butterfly larvae and displaces native plants due to its aggressive mat-like growth habit.