



# GARLIC MUSTARD CHALLENGE

## WHAT IS GARLIC MUSTARD?

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a rapidly spreading invasive plant with a two-year life cycle. It spreads in wooded areas and can rapidly dominate a forest floor. Garlic Mustard out-competes native plants for light and nutrients and secretes damaging chemicals that alter the soil chemistry, inhibiting the growth of native plants and trees. Garlic Mustard is toxic to local caterpillars, reducing native butterfly populations.

## WHAT TO DO?

The best time to pull the shallow rooted plant is in the early spring months. Removed plants must be bagged and disposed of to help prevent the spread of seeds.

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In the first year of growth, plants form clumps of round shaped, slightly wrinkled leaves that, when crushed, smell like garlic. In the second year, the plants can grow up to four feet tall and produce cross shaped white flowers in dense clusters. Flowers blossom from mid- to late-Spring.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

We need your help in removing the already present, rapidly spreading Garlic Mustard. With your help, we can control this invasive plant and protect our ecosystems. Join in the Garlic Mustard Challenge. Visit [www.maipc.org](http://www.maipc.org) for more information.



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