

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolaria*)
Catherine Felton (GCFM Horticulture Chairman)



At this time of year Garlic Mustard is beginning to flower and soon will turn to seed. Each plant can produce hundreds of successful seeds that compete with our native plants and can wreak havoc in our own gardens. *Alliaria petiolaria* is a biennial. The first year plant grows close to the ground – rosette shape and then spreads. They are able to withstand New England cold winters and continue growing and then flowering/seeding in their second year. The seeds can live for up to five years so it is very important to eradicate before seed set.

If you recognize the first year plant form of this biennial it is easy to remove and dispose in your trash. **DO NOT PUT IT IN YOUR COMPOST OR OTHER GARDEN DISPOSAL AREAS.** Also, it is very important to recheck the site where Garlic Mustard has grown for many years.

For more information check out:

www.ipaw.org/invaders/garlic_mustard/GarlicMustardHandout.pdf

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specied=15#images>

New England Wildflower Society

www.newenglandwild.org/protect/invasive-plants

References:

Invasive Plants - Guide to Identification and Impacts and Control of Common North American Species

by Sylvan Ramsey Kaufman & Wallace Kaufman

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides

A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts Publication produced by NEWFS,
The Nature Conservancy, Mass. Div. of Fisheries and Wildlife (Natural Heritage
& Endangered Species Program)