



Noxious Weed Alert!

March 2009

Offering Free Landowner Assistance to Manage Invasive Garlic Mustard



What Can You Do?

- Walk and search your entire property for Garlic Mustard.
- If infestations are small, pull weed at base of the plant before the plant goes to seed (March through early June is the best time). Be sure to remove the entire root.
- Keep an eye out for Garlic Mustard around local roadways and parks.
- Report **ANY** infestations to Mary Logalbo at **(503) 238-4775**.

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is listed as a noxious weed of economic importance by the OR Department of Agriculture, and Multnomah County has one of the worst infestations in the state. Local control efforts for Garlic Mustard began in Forest Park, led by residents of surrounding neighborhoods and agencies such as WMSWCD. We are asking local landowners and residents, the first stewards of the land, to help us identify, locate, and uproot this extremely noxious weed.

In the Midwest, Garlic Mustard has already taken over thousands of acres of native forest. This aggressive herb displaces native plants by monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Garlic Mustard also releases chemicals into the soil that is toxic to other plants and, in particular, harms fungus vital to native hardwoods such as maple and ash.

Controlling Garlic Mustard is critical to preserving our native



First-year rosettes



Second-year plants

forests. A single plant releases thousands of seeds that can remain viable for more than five years. To prevent its spread, we need to control known patches of Garlic Mustard before the plant goes to seed, typically in June.

Despite several large patches, infestation of **Garlic Mustard is not yet widespread**. Without immediate attention, **Garlic Mustard will become a very serious threat** to our native ecosystems.

If you know of any Garlic Mustard patches, please report to WMSWCD immediately. By signing the included permission form, WMSWCD can help you identify and control Garlic Mustard on your property.

For questions or reports of infestations, contact Mary Logalbo, 503/238-4775, ext. 103 or mary.logalbo@or.nacdnet.net.

Who is WMSWCD?

We are a state-designated special district that serves the residents and landowners in west Multnomah County, "to sustain, protect, and develop soil and water resources; to help with the development of all natural resources in the West County through education; to develop and sustain a concern for protecting and caring for our soil and water by creating social interest and awareness. "

How to Identify Invasive Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is a biennial plant whose first year seedlings emerge as early as March forming a rosette of leaves. Plants remain green and in their rosette form through winter and until they bolt and flower around May of their 2nd year. Leaves on second-year plants are alternating triangular or heart-shaped with scalloped edges and smell of garlic when crushed. The plant flowers from

April to May with button-like clusters of white, four-petal flowers. When flowering, the plant can reach 2 to 3.5ft tall. In Multnomah County, Garlic mustard is most frequently spotted along roadsides. You will also find it in moist, heavily shaded forested areas which is why it's so prevalent in and around Forest Park.

For more pictures and information:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_garlicmustard.shtml

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/alert/alrtalli.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm>

<http://westmultconserv.org>