

Garlic Mustard **MUST DIE!**

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012

mature plants

YOU CAN HELP!

**Invasive
Plant Removal
Work Day**

**Saturday,
March 31**

- 9 a.m.'til Noon
- Meet at Wayne Ave.
Bus Stop

What's the Problem with Garlic Mustard?

Garlic mustard was introduced in North America as a culinary herb in the 1860s and is an invasive species in much of North America. As of 2006, it is listed as a noxious or restricted plant in many states. Like most invasive plants, once it has an introduction into a new location, it persists and spreads into undisturbed plant communities. In many areas of its introduction in Eastern North America, it has become the dominant under-story species in woodland and flood plain environments, where eradication is difficult.

The insects and fungi that feed on it in its native habitat are not present in North America, increasing its seed productivity and allowing it to out-compete native plants. It is a possible threat to the West Virginia White Butterfly and Mustard White Butterfly; adults of both species lay their eggs on native Dentaria or Toothwort plants, but they often confuse garlic mustard plants with Dentaria and lay their eggs on garlic mustard, because they have similar flowers. The eggs and young butterflies cannot live on the garlic mustard, because it has chemicals that are toxic to the larvae and eggs.

Garlic Mustard produces allelochemicals which suppress fungi that most plants, including native forest trees, require for optimum growth. Additionally, because white-tailed deer rarely feed on Garlic Mustard, large deer populations may help to increase its population densities by consuming competing native plants. Trampling by browsing deer encourages additional seed growth by disturbing the soil. Seeds contained in the soil can germinate up to five years after being produced. The persistence of the seed bank and suppression of fungi both complicate restoration of invaded areas because long-term removal is required to deplete the seed bank and allow recovery of native fungi.

Garlic mustard produces a variety of secondary compounds including flavonoids, defense proteins, glycosides, and glucosinolates that reduce its palatability to herbivores. Research published in 2007 shows that, in northeastern forests, garlic mustard rosettes increased the rate of native leaf litter decomposition, increasing nutrient availability and possibly creating conditions favorable to garlic mustard's own spread. (From Wikipedia, 2012)

young plants



YOU CAN HELP restore the natural balance of Carpenter's Woods and have fun doing it!

For weather cancellation info: froghawk1@aol.com or lafrites@aol.com or call 215-848-2014



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