



Archangel infestation. Photo: City of Portland BES



Photo: Jane Shotaku



## YELLOW ARCHANGEL

(*Lamium galeobdolon*)

Class 1 -  
Eradication  
Required



Photo: Molly Williams

### Overview

Yellow archangel is a popular groundcover in North America, originating from Europe and Asia. Because of its ability to grow thick, dense mats, it has been planted in yards, flowerbeds and hanging baskets alike. Although it may be pleasant as a groundcover for a home, it can quickly cause great damage in forest habitat. Unlike many ornamental groundcovers, yellow archangel does extremely well in shade, allowing it to move into forested areas with ease. If left alone, it can take over forests and quickly choke out native flowers and shrubs.

### How to Identify

Yellow archangel is a fast growing perennial that occasionally grows upright but generally creates a dense mat of groundcover. The leaves are typically oval-shaped and hairy with greyish-silver markings. Stems are typically purplish, hairy, and square-shaped. Flowering stems can grow 1 to 2 feet tall and produce small, yellow, bell-shaped flowers. These flowers grow in clusters, appearing close to the stem. The oil produced by the plant's leaves has an unpleasant odor, especially when leaves are crushed.

### Lookalikes

Yellow archangel is in the mint family and may look similar to other mint groundcovers, but the coloring and variegation of the leaves easily distinguishes it from others.

### A Word of Caution

For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator and to please refer to the PNW Weed Management Handbook or contact your county noxious weed coordinator. Always read and follow the label on any chemical product you are using!

#### SUBMIT YOUR REPORT TODAY!

Yellow archangel is a CWMA target species - control programs are available in certain areas or habitats. Please report at [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org) if in Oregon or [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/sighting\\_form.shtml](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/sighting_form.shtml) if in Washington.



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

[www.4countycwma.org](http://www.4countycwma.org)





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## When to Remove

In order to prevent seeds from spreading, removing the plants before June is important. Hand-pulling in early spring when soil is moist will likely yield the best results with the fewest remaining root fragments.

## Basic Manual Control Methods

### THIS METHOD SHOULD BE USED WHEN:

- Terrain is flat or gently sloped
- Invasion may be near surface water
- There are desired plants in or around invasion

### TOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Gloves and protective clothing
- Hand trowel or dandelion fork
- Shovel or Pulaski
- Weed wrenches (weedwrench.com)
- Loppers, hand pruners or saws

PULL out all plants and plant roots. Because this shrub can send suckers from roots, it is best to REMOVE all above and below ground plant parts.

COMPOST in a composting facility, or a curb-side composting bin. Backyard compost piles will not generate enough heat to destroy the plant. NEVER dump clippings in parks or natural areas.

If plants have seeds, CAREFULLY remove plants and bag up all seed heads. Label the bag "INVASIVE PLANT PARTS – DO NOT COMPOST" and dispose of them in the trash.

PLANT native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and prevent new and recurring invasions.

MONITOR the area and continue to remove any plants and roots that re-sprout. This should be done every 2-3 months for greatest success.

## Other Control Methods

Herbicide use can be effective on yellow archangel but it is most successful when combined with manual control and extensive monitoring for surviving and re-sprouting plants.

It is crucial to spray the plants in the spring, before they go to seed, as this will help prevent new plants from growing and sprouting from seed.

### THIS METHOD SHOULD BE USED WHEN:

- Walking is difficult on slope and invasion is >70' away from water
- Invasion is too large to remove manually
- There are few desired plants in or around invasion

### TOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Herbicide applicator; dishwand
- An aquatic/fish approved herbicide product of up to 53.8% Glyphosate such as Rodeo or Aquamaster.
- A triclopyr based, aquatic-approved herbicide labeled for field bindweed. Renovate is a good option.
- For a more natural solution, try a vinegar-based herbicide. (Visit gardening websites or call the City for recipes.)

When leaves are dry, WIPE or SPRAY on leaves at the labeled rate. If using a Glyphosate based herbicide, it may be most efficient to treat right after flowering occurs in early summer. In the spring, triclopyr generally yields the best results. One treatment generally does not effectively kill an invasion. We recommend using manual removal methods whenever possible, then using herbicide to destroy tough-to-reach areas or particularly problematic spots. Then, SPOT TREAT any new plants that emerge after treatment.

PLANT native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and prevent new and recurring invasions.

MONITOR the area. Yellow archangel is hearty and seeds remain viable for many years, so yearly observance of an area where yellow archangel has a history is very important.