

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*)



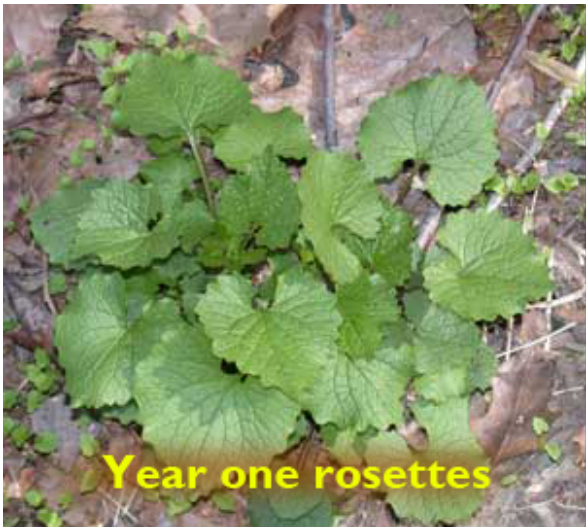
Garlic mustard is not toxic to humans but is thought to produce a toxin that kills fungus in the soil that some native plants need. It also smothers native wildflowers, native tree seedlings, and destroys previously healthy eco systems by eliminating native plant species.



Identification

Garlic Mustard's leaves are kidney shaped the first year and elongated the second year.

- They are not hairy, but are deeply veined.
- If the leaves are crushed they smell like garlic.
- It has white flowers with four petals the 2nd year.



- The stems are round (below, left).
- The seeds come from an elongated pod (below, right). One plant can produce over 5,000 seeds that will survive for 5-10 years.



Similar looking species

Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*)



Creeping Charlie is propagated by spreading or stem cuttings. It is not toxic but does spread rapidly.

Identification

Creeping Charlie has round scalloped leaves with short hairs and the leaves smell like mint when crushed. It has square stems and blue funnel shaped flowers.



Sources

- North Carolina Extension: <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/alliaria-petiolata/>
- King County: <https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/garlic-mustard.aspx>
- Iowa Plants: http://iowaplants.com/flora/family/Lamiaceae/glechoma/g_hederacea.html