

Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

Description

Yellow archangel is an aggressive, low-growing plant originating in both Asia and Europe. Known as yellow Lamium it can either be upright or trailing depending on conditions. It thrives in deep shade. In the forest or native garden it can quickly spread, choking out native flowers and shrubs and degrading forest habitat. It spreads by stems, roots, and seeds. It escapes from landscapes and improperly disposed of garden waste.

Identification

Yellow archangel is a dense perennial ground cover that occasionally grows upright.

Leaves

- Oval to heart-shaped
- Hairy with serrated margins
- Variegated with grayish silver markings

Stems

- Purple, hairy and square-shaped
- Flowering stems are 1 to 2 feet tall

Flowers

- Small yellow flowers arranged in whorls around the stem
- Yellow flowers are visible from April to June.

Additional details

- Has a distinctive non-menthol and somewhat unpleasant odor
- Plants produce numerous seeds per stem

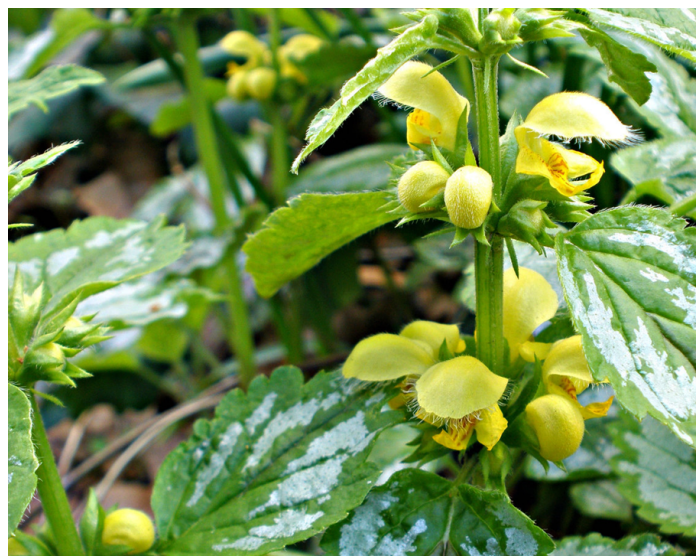


Photo credit: Ansel Oommen, Bugwood.org

Look alike plants

Yellow archangel is in the mint family and looks similar to other mint family ground covers. The bright yellow flowers, somewhat unpleasant smell, and variegated leaves distinguish it from other ground covers.

Removal

Manual removal is preferred. To prevent seeds from spreading, Yellow Archangel should be removed in fall to early spring before flower heads form. It is easily pulled by hand when the soil is moist. Just make certain to remove any root fragments. If you can't remove it in spring, clip off all the seed heads and place those in a bag. Label it Invasive Plant Material: Do Not Compost and dispose of it in the trash.

Remove all above and below ground plant parts carefully. Any small roots left behind will sprout. Monitor the area twice a year to remove any new sprouts. Plant a new native or non-invasive ground cover. Ask another Backyard Habitat friend to help and return the favor to help them in their garden!

