



## What is Garlic Mustard?

Garlic mustard is a noxious weed that is native to Eurasia. European settlers probably brought it to North America for medicinal purposes and cooking. Today, garlic mustard is spreading rapidly throughout the Portland area. This plant quickly becomes the dominant understory species in our forests. Its roots secrete a chemical that inhibits native plant growth. That reduces plant diversity and decreases forage for deer.

## How To Identify Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard is a biennial that forms a basal rosette of kidney-shaped, scalloped leaves in the first year, and an elongated flower stalk in the second year. The sharply-toothed, triangular leaves alternate on the stem. Crushed leaves smell like garlic. Garlic mustard typically flowers in April and May. Plants have one flowering stem with numerous white flowers that have four separated petals. Plant height ranges from 12 to 48 inches. The black, oblong seeds are in rows inside a long narrow pod.

## We need your help

The City of Portland is working with several partners to remove garlic mustard before it spreads throughout Oregon forests. Research shows that every dollar spent controlling this plant now, before it spreads more, saves \$33 in future control costs.

The City of Portland has hired licensed contractors to survey and spot-spray garlic mustard plants along roads and stream corridors in west Portland this spring and summer. Contractors primarily use the herbicide glyphosate\* to control garlic mustard plants. They also use a limited amount of the herbicide triclopyr\*. The best time to spray is when the plant has white flowers in late April and early May. The contractors may also hand-pull plants.

**If you received a permission of entry request form, please sign and return it as soon as possible. The signed permission form allows contractors to survey and treat garlic mustard on your property at no cost to you.**

If you don't want herbicides used on your property because you would prefer to remove the plants yourself please indicate your preference on the form. Forms are available at [www.portlandonline.com/bes/garlicmustard](http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/garlicmustard).

**[IMPORTANT: Hand-pulled plants still may flower and set seed, so be sure to bag them and put into trash.]**

**If you have questions about this project, please contact Mitch Bixby at 503-823-2989 or [mitch.bixby@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mitch.bixby@portlandoregon.gov)**

\* The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that glyphosate and triclopyr have low toxicity to animals for inhalation, ingestion and skin absorption and have been deemed non-carcinogenic. Glyphosate is rated low toxicity for eyes while triclopyr is rated moderate toxicity for eyes. Herbicide is applied in dry and non-windy weather conditions so that it does not enter streams. Herbicides are applied with a surfactant, which is similar to a soapy detergent. For more information about herbicides, see [npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm](http://npic.orst.edu/npicfact.htm).



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