"B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

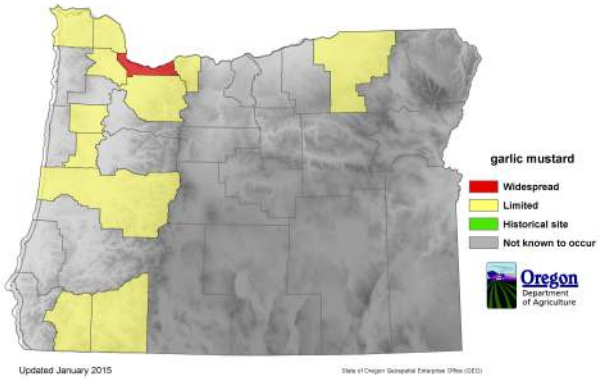
Garlic mustard
Alliaria petiolata

Other common names: Hedge garlic, sauce-alone, jack-by-the-hedge, poor man's mustard, garlic root, garlicwort, mustard root

USDA symbol: ALPE4
ODA rating: B and T



Introduction: This European native was first planted in North America in the 1800s. It was cultivated for food and medicine by pioneers who valued its garlic flavor. It is predominantly a weedy species of deciduous woodlands in the east and Midwest and is now well established in Oregon. Its an early bloomer and easy to identify in our woodland environment.



Distribution in Oregon: Garlic mustard was first documented in Oregon in 1959 in Multnomah County. An additional garlic mustard introduction occurred in the upper Umatilla River in the early part of the 20th century. The north Willamette Valley is the epicenter of garlic mustard in Oregon. Another infestation occurs along the Rogue River.

Description: Garlic mustard is a biennial. The rosettes form by midsummer the first year, overwinter, then bloom April through June the second year. It grows an average height of one to three feet tall. Basal leaves are dark green, kidney shaped, scalloped and two to four inches in diameter. Stem leaves are alternate, sharply toothed, triangular, and get smaller towards the top of the stem. Garlic mustard produces a distinct garlic odor when crushed. Flower stalks are usually single, branched or not branched. Flowers are ¼ inch wide with four white petals that are narrow at base. The plant is quite showy.

Impacts: Garlic mustard displaces native forest understory species, reducing diversity and decreasing forage availability for deer. Invaded habitat types include forest openings, forest edges, roadsides, streamside, trails, and pasture land. It thrives in the partial shade of oak woodlands. This plant is difficult to control once established due to seed longevity.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available at this time.

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www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Glenn Miller, ODA