

# Have you seen this invasive plant?

Garlic mustard is a shade-tolerant, biennial plant that grows up to 3 feet tall and has a distinctive garlicky smell when crushed.

*Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)*



First year garlic mustard plants have a rosette of kidney-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves.



Flowers bloom in early spring, are 1/2 inch across, and have four petals.



Second-year plants have heart-shaped or triangular leaves that are coarsely toothed.

## Why is garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) a noxious weed?

- This invasive, non-native plant can completely cover forest floors, eliminating important native plant species.
- Garlic mustard is already a serious problem in the Eastern U.S. and is becoming increasingly problematic in the Puget Sound and Columbia Gorge regions.
- Forested areas in both western and eastern Washington are vulnerable to garlic mustard introductions.

## Where do you find garlic mustard?

- It thrives in both shaded and open forests and woodlands, streambanks, urban areas, along hiking trails, and in vacant lots, especially in moist areas.

## What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class A noxious weed. Please note that eradication of this plant is required in Washington to prevent it from gaining a foothold here.
- Help prevent its spread! Check footwear, clothing, pets, equipment, and vehicles for seeds after outdoor activities.
- Please report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).

