

## CARP Factsheet

### INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT: The Mustard

**COMMON NAME:** Garlic Mustard

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Alliaria petiolata*

**PLANT TYPE:** Biennial Herb

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

**Form** – first year plant is a rosette, second year plant is an erect stem

**Height** – 60cm to 105cm

**Leaves** – simple, alternate, triangular, serrated (toothed)

**NOTE:** on the first year rosette, leaves are more kidney shaped, and round-toothed (less serrate) than on the second year plant

**Flowers** – in clusters, white, small regular flowers, 4 petals in cross shape

**Fruit** – oblong pod (up to 10cm long) containing seeds

**Blooms in** – spring, plants dead by late June

**Other Features** – crushed stem and leaves have garlic odour

**ORIGIN:** Europe

**INTRODUCED (1868) FOR:** food, medicinal purposes

**HABITAT:** moist, shaded soils – forest understories!

**MEANS OF SPREAD:** seed

**PROBLEMS:**

- potential to invade forest undersories, and prevent regeneration of native species
- some studies indicate that this plant may actually produce chemicals that suppress the growth of other plants (allelopathic)

**IF YOU HAVE THIS PLANT ON YOUR PROPERTY:**

- this plant is currently restricted to one known location in the Valley
- learn to identify this plant: if you see it on your property remove it promptly
- if plants have seeds, do not compost (dry and burn, or regular garbage)
- hand cut or dig plants before they go to seed
- report any sightings of this plant to CARP right away



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**Photos:** **First-year Rosette** – Chris Evans, University of Georgia, [www.forestryimages.com](http://www.forestryimages.com), **Infestation** – Victoria Nuzzo, Natural Area Consultants, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org), **Second-year Plant** – Chris Evans, University of Georgia, [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org)