



# FRIGHTENING FACTS

South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *ALLIARIA PETIOLATA*  
**COMMON NAME:** GARLIC MUSTARD  
**\*KNOWN TO OCCUR IN SC AND NC\***

## WHAT IS GARLIC MUSTARD?

**Plant Type:** biennial herb

**Family:** Brassicaceae (mustard)

**Form/Size:** first year plant is a rosette, second year plant is an erect stem (single or multiple), average height of 1m

**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

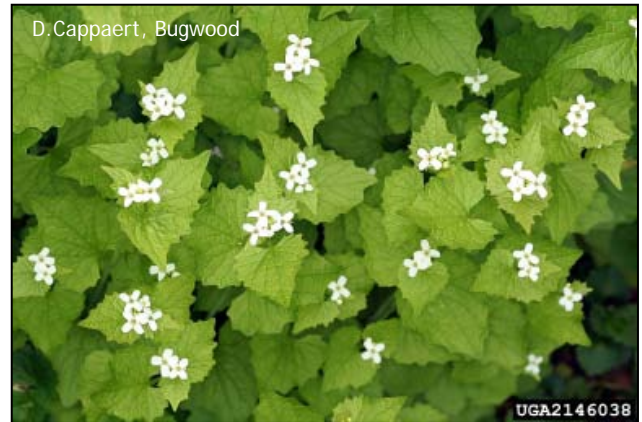
**Flowers:** in clusters, white, small regular flowers, four petals in cross shape, blooms in early spring

**Fruit:** oblong pod containing seeds, many pods on a single silique (fruiting structure)

**Means of Spread:** seed only, mainly by anthropogenic means, but also by animals and limited movement in water

**Similar Native Species:** several white-flowering, including toothworts (*Dentaria* sp), sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza claytonii*), early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginica*); rosettes resemble violets (*Viola* sp)

**NOTE:** easiest way to distinguish garlic mustard from similar plants is by the garlic odor from crushed stem and leaves



## WHERE DID GARLIC MUSTARD COME FROM?

**Origin:** Europe

**North American Introduction:** first record is from Long Island, NY, 1868

**Reason:** food, medicinal purposes

## WHERE AM I LIKELY TO FIND GARLIC MUSTARD?

**Habitat Type:** moist, shaded soils - forest understories (disturbed and undisturbed), rich river valleys, disturbed areas, roadsides, ditches, gardens

**Distribution in SC:** unclear, listed on the USDA Plants Database, but not mapped in EDDMapS or the SC Plant Atlas

**Distribution in NC:** Rockingham, Madison, Buncombe, Haywood, Swain Cos.

Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Species



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**Non-native Distribution:** AK, AR, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV and Canadian Provinces BC, NB, NS, ON, PE, QC

## WHY IS GARLIC MUSTARD A PROBLEM?

**Environment:** potential to invade forest understories and prevent regeneration of native species (herbaceous and woody); some studies indicate that this plant may produce chemicals that suppress the growth of other plants (allelopathy)

**Economy:** potential impacts to forest industry unknown



## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND GARLIC MUSTARD?

**Report:** take a photo, report the observation to EDDMapS: <http://www.se-eppc.org/> (location, size of infestation, etc.). **In SC:** Send digital photo to John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: [plantman@herbarium.org](mailto:plantman@herbarium.org) for verification.

**Control:** hand-pull small populations; mow/cut to prevent seed production; glyphosate-based herbicides are effective; minimum 5 years follow-up required to deplete seedbank; **NOTE:** it is illegal to use a pesticide in any way that is not specified on the product label

**Disposal:** if plants have flowers or seed, do not compost (dry and burn or double-bag for regular garbage)



## CURRENT LISTINGS:

Federal: none

State Noxious Weed: AL, CT, MA, MI, NH, OR, VT, WA

SC-EPPC Ranking: Watch B/Herbs

NC-EPPC/NCNPS: Rank 1 Severe Threat

NCDOT: Threat - herbaceous plants

## LEARN MORE!

Invasive.org (images):

<http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=3005>

USDA Plants Database: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ALPE4>

Natureserve:

<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Alliaria%20petiolata>

Bugwood Wiki (Invasipedia): [http://wiki.bugwood.org/Alliaria\\_petiolata](http://wiki.bugwood.org/Alliaria_petiolata)

Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group (National Park Service):

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEN/fact/alpe1.htm>

Prepared for NC-EPPC by Marika Godwin - September 2009

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