

Garlic Mustard has invaded Hanover

--- so far, only a few neighborhoods are affected.



This plant has appeared on:

- Rip Road (middle block)
- Trescott Road (near Dana Street)
- Brook Road (near Dayton)
- Buck Road, at end near UVLT
- Maple Street (near River Ridge Road)
- Other spots may exist

Garlic mustard is capable of dominating the understory of forested areas, suppressing the growth of native wildflowers. It grows fast, produces many seeds, and has no native predators (insect or disease) - a truly efficient competitor.

Fortunately, it is possible to contain this plant by diligent effort and frequent monitoring. If the invasion is small, there is a chance of preventing its spread through education and prompt control, thus protecting our native woodlands.

A few facts about the plant:

- It is a biennial (lives for two years) - first year forms a low rosette. Second year forms flowers and seeds. May reach 3' in height. First year leaves are rounded, second year leaves are heart-shaped.
- Seeds can remain viable for five years in ground.
- Leaves smell like garlic when crushed.
- Flower is white, with four petals, in clusters at end of stalk. Blooms in late spring.
- Plant tolerates shade, can invade woodlands, and dominate the herb layer.
- Tap root is white, with curious "S" curve at top.
- Seeds in long slender pods, average 800/plant; mature by August.

What can you do?

These plants are easy to remove by hand. Remove plants before they form seeds; grasp stem near ground, to be sure of removing the tap root. Place in plastic bags and put into trash (not compost); or let them rot in the plastic bags in the sun. Large infestations can be treated with Roundup, early in season, before other plants are up.

For information on the Web:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/allipeti.html>

For local assistance with identification or control contact:

Nina Banwell, Hanover Garden Club (rnbanwell@valley.net 643-3750)

Judith Reeve, Hanover Conservation Commission (judith.reeve@valley.net 643-5002)

Barbara McIlroy, (b.mcilroy@valley.net 643-5844)