

The Garlic Mustard Challenge



At the Licking Park District

The Garlic Mustard Challenge is an effort to prevent the further spread of the invasive plant garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*). **YOU** can make a difference!

The Facts about Garlic Mustard

- ◆ An aggressive invader that is difficult to control once established.
- ◆ Seeds remain viable in the ground for more than 5 years.
- ◆ Allelopathic, which means it emits chemicals that prevent the growth of other (native) plants.
- ◆ Biennial, 2 year life cycle
- ◆ Strong garlic smell if crushed
- ◆ Clusters of round, kidney-shaped rosettes or stalks of heart-shaped, toothed leaves

Garlic Mustard Identification

1st Year: Clusters of round or kidney-shaped leaves emerge in spring; they look wrinkled, have scalloped edges, grow low to the ground, and remain green all winter.



2nd Year: flowering stalk 1-4 feet tall. Alternate leaves are heart-shaped to triangular with coarsely toothed edges and emit a garlic smell when crushed. Small, 4-petaled white flowers



Garlic Mustard Look A-Likes

During the rosette growth stage, garlic mustard may easily be confused with similar looking plants. Refer to these photos for assistance in correct identification of garlic mustard:



Image from landscape-restoration.com

Get Involved in the Garlic Mustard Challenge

Anyone can participate!

Volunteer!

- April to mid-June. Anywhere in the Licking Park District that garlic mustard is present.

Pull and Bag Plants and Dispose of in the Trash.

- Do not dispose of plants in yard waste, backyard compost, or other sites where it could spread.

Report Your Bags!

- Keep track of your location and how many bags of garlic mustard you've pulled and report it here: <https://tinyurl.com/LPDgarlicmustard>

You will need gloves and trash bags (13 or 30 gallon). Garlic mustard plants pull out of the ground easily unless the ground is hard. Grab the plant at the base and pull firmly to grab the whole plant, including the root.

Questions? Contact Karen.Jennings@lickingparkdistrict.com or 740-587-2535

