



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2006

CONTACT: Village of Bayside
9075 N. Regent Road
Bayside, WI 53217
Phone: (414) 351-8811

Garlic Mustard Invasive Plant Suppresses the Growth of Native Foliage

What Is It? If a green leafy plant with tiny white flowers has mysteriously appeared on your property, you may be experiencing an invasion of *Alliaria petiolata*, more commonly known as Garlic Mustard. Although this plant is edible, it is actually quite deadly to forested communities and habitats where it quickly spreads and displaces native plants and other foliage. Garlic Mustard is also very difficult to control.

How does it Grow? Garlic Mustard seeds germinate in April and have a two-year life cycle. Clusters of 3-8 rounded to kidney-shaped leaves develop at the ground level during the first year. Second year plants grow between one and four feet tall. When mature, Garlic Mustard can produce more than 100 seeds per plant and remain viable for up to seven years.



When/How to Rid of it? For smaller infestations or where large groups of people are involved, hand pulling or digging garlic mustard can be effective. Garlic Mustard seeds can still ripen after plants are uprooted. Garlic Mustard should be bagged and disposed of properly. In addition, other methods of control and prevention include cutting plants before the flowers have opened, use of herbicides, and weed torching (for wet conditions).

Additional Resources: The Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, an experienced native plant resource, is offering private sessions on garlic mustard management. Sessions are just over an hour long and will include tools and hands-on experience in different kinds of infestations. For more information about the program, contact the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center at (414) 352-2880.

For additional information about Garlic Mustard, please visit the Department of Natural Resources web site at [HTTP://DNR.WI.GOV/INVASIVES/FACT/GARLIC.HTM](http://DNR.WI.GOV/INVASIVES/FACT/GARLIC.HTM) or call (608) 267-7494 for a publication on Garlic Mustard. For direct links to the DNR website and/or DNR pamphlet please visit the Village web site at www.bayside-wi.gov.

###