



**Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)**



**Mustard Family**

## Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

## Mustard Family

- Herbaceous biennial plant. Strong garlic odor when crushed. First year plants are rosettes of dark green kidney shaped leaves arising from a common base with distinct leaf veins and scalloped edges to 4 inches in diameter. Second year plants with few to several-branched stems to 3 feet tall. Second year plants have alternate triangular leaves, decreasing in size toward the top of the stem. Flowers white, 0.25 inches in diameter, with four petals. Plants flower in April-June with seeds produced June-August. Seeds 8 to 10/pod, shiny-black, cylindrical. Very tolerant of cool temperatures and low light.
- Thrives on the moist, shaded soil of river floodplains, forests, roadsides, edges of woods, trails, and forest openings.
- **Dominates the understory in forested areas. Reduces forage sites for deer and other grazing wildlife.**

