

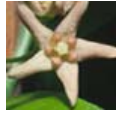


Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results

Allium vineale

(Wild garlic)



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Wild garlic

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Allium vineale L.

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Lily family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Liliaceae

IMAGES



Bulbs



Vegetative propagule
inflorescence

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None.

DESCRIPTION

[Botanical Glossary](#)

Allium vineale is an herbaceous biennial that can grow 0.3 m-1 m (1-3.2 ft.) in height. The bulb of this plant is round to ovoid in shape and has a brown-papery layer surrounding it. This main bulb measures 1-2 cm (0.4-0.8 in.) in diameter, and is often surrounded by smaller bulbils used for asexual reproduction. The leaves are slender and hollow towards their base, and attach to the stem at up to half the height of the plant. They measure 10-20 cm (4-8 in.) in length. In cross-section, the leaves are nearly round except towards the base, where they are flattened. They have a strong garlic odor when crushed.

The flowers of this plant are borne in an umbel on a scape (stem) that is solid and round. Initially, the flower head is covered by a papery bract. The flowers can be red-purple or pink (sometimes greenish or white). The pedicels measure 1-2 cm (0.4-0.8 in.) in length. The fruit (capsules) of this plant contain two seeds which are black, flattened on one side and have a wrinkled texture. Often these flower heads contain vegetative bulbils with the flowers, or an entire head of aerial bulbils can be produced. These small bulbils are ovoid in shape, about the size of a wheat grain, smooth and tipped by a fragile leaf.

Page References Fernald 431, Gleason & Cronquist 832, Holmgren 790, Magee & Ahles 342, Newcomb 348, Peterson and McKenny 296. See reference section below for full citation.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Allium canadense L. (Wild onion)

The leaves of *Allium canadense* are flat and solid in cross-section as compared to the round, hollow leaves of *A. vineale*. The leaves of *A. canadense* also tend to grow from no higher than one third up the stem from the base, whereas *A. vineale* leaves grow from up to half the height of the stem.

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

Allium vineale has the ability to reproduce and disperse in a variety of ways. The least common way is via sexual reproduction and seeds. More commonly, the flower heads produce vegetative aerial bulbils that can either fall from the plant to the ground or fall into a nearby waterbody and float. There are also underground bulbils that are produced from the main bulb, which can be dispersed by small animals, water or by farm machinery.

DISTRIBUTION

Allium vineale is native to most of Europe as well as North Africa and extreme western Asia. In the United States, it has been reported from Washington to California along the west coast and from Maine to Florida and west to Nebraska in the east. It has been reported from all of the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

The exact time and place of the introduction of this plant is unknown. It could have been introduced from ballast waste or it may have been brought from Europe intentionally to flavor food. It was collected in Connecticut as early as 1873. In 1892 it was reported in New Jersey as being a bad pest. Fernald (1950) stated that this plant was "too abundant."

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Abandoned Field
Agricultural Field
Early Successional Forest
Edge
Floodplain Forest
Open Disturbed Area
Roadside
Vacant Lot
Wet Meadow
Yard or Garden

Allium vineale is normally a pest in agricultural situations or in lawns. However, it can often be found along the banks of lakes and streams and other moist soils. It can also form moderately dense stands in woodlands, especially alluvial woodlands where dispersal may be facilitated by flood waters.

THREATS

In the more western parts of the United States, *Allium vineale* is a pest of agricultural fields. In these situations, if livestock eat the plant their meat and dairy products taste like the wild garlic. The underground bulbils can remain viable in the soil from 1-5 years, which hampers control effort. In New England it is most commonly a problem in waste areas, but it can occasionally spread to natural areas, which threatens the growth of native species.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

[Oregon State University Extension Service](#)

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: A photograph or mounted specimen of the stem with leaf bases

Best time for documentation: Summer

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#)

Taxonomic information about the species

[PLANTS Database](#)

General information and map

[Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide](#)

Descriptive information and pictures

[Virginia Tech Weed Identification Guide](#)

Brief descriptions and images

[Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment-Tasmania](#)

<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/RPIO-4ZV285?open>

[Oregon State University Extension Service](#)

Fact sheet with description and control information

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DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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