

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGY for Control of *Garlic Mustard*

NOTE to towns: This control strategy was used in Hanover in May of 2011 and 2012, and is intended to help neighborhood leaders. Your town should think about documentation: Create a topo map marking the known populations (GIS data is good) and an accompanying spreadsheet to record progress. Assign a person to be the contact for reporting. Recruit someone in each *garlic mustard* neighborhood as a lead person for the control effort. This person is **not** expected to do all the work, but to lead, educate and engage others in control efforts. Hanover has developed a handout and poster to help with this effort, which your town can modify.

CONTROL STRATEGY FOR *GARLIC MUSTARD*:

Plan to do the work in mid-May prior to when the plant is likely to be flowering and easily seen; also seeds will not be mature at this time for escape.

Concentrate on the second year plants as not all of the first year plants will survive.

Pull out entire plant including root if possible.

Dispose of plants in plastic bags and take to landfill as leftovers may sprout.

Start pulling at the outer edges of the colony and begin to push back to the colony's core. Look for single plant outliers and satellite populations, and remove before they go to seed.

Plan to return on annual basis, as some seeds can last 5 years or more. There should be some sign of decline after 3 years of control.

Be on the lookout at disturbed sites. *Garlic mustard* is opportunistic, often arriving on equipment or in hay used on construction sites or road work.

For large infestations, herbicides work best if applied on a warm day in late fall after a hard frost, or early spring before other plants have emerged (*garlic mustard* overwinters) --- that way there will be less collateral damage to native plants nearby. A 2% solution of Roundup (glyphosate) has proved effective. Not recommended if there are lots of other good plants nearby. Herbicide work is prohibited near water; professional help is needed there.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD:

Bring in several key neighbors to help you organize the effort and recruit others for the workday. In advance of the workday, these helpers can search away from the street so that you locate the outermost colonies of the plant.

Post a sign (laminated is best) for a designated workday at the meeting place, well in advance of the planned work date. Modify the poster template with the details for your neighborhood. This poster

- Alerts neighbors to the problem, and begins to educate them. Many enjoy walking the streets extra, well-educated eyes are needed.
- Announces when workday is to happen and who the neighborhood leader is.
- Helps bring some volunteers out of the woodwork

Distribute the ID handout to neighbors nearest the garlic mustard colony, and try to engage them, and *obtain permission to search or work* on properties that have the plant.

Think about how to tackle the colony. If there are gullies nearby, look there first. Do you know where the edge is? Have you searched beyond that edge? Look along obvious pathways...streets, trails, etc.

Lookout for poison ivy in the location of the garlic mustard populations—we don't want to cause problems for volunteers. A few sites may have this plant. The Oak-n-Ivy pretreatment and cleanser products are helpful.

Avoid spreading the plant to new neighborhoods: Think about how to avoid spreading seeds when leaving the site – maybe a basin with water in which to dip shoes before leaving the area might help. Or bring extra shoes for doing the work, which get washed at home. Some shoes have terrific tread, and can hold a lot of seed-infested soil.

Keep a record: The town has a spreadsheet and an accompanying map with records annual efforts. We note the leader for the site, the number of volunteers, the number of bags pulled. Leaders report their efforts (and observations) so that progress can be observed over time.

Try to get all the work done in a single workday, so that it doesn't drag on for days. If you can get a good turnout and the population isn't too large, you can pull a lot of bags in a very short time. **Make the workday into a neighborhood party**, to reward volunteers, allow time for visiting and build community. Something to drink and simple snacks go a long way. Work goes quickly with a team.