



Invasive Plant Pulls:

- **Why is it important?**

Invasive plants outcompete native plants that ecosystems rely on. They outcompete these plants by growing both earlier and later than the native species, growing faster, and having no natural predators.

- **How are they spread?**

Invasive plants are spread by birds and mammals, but are mainly spread by humans.

Garlic Mustard – A European species brought over from settlers as a spice. This is almost entirely spread by human movements and occasional movement of mammals. This plant outcompetes native species by releasing “anti-growth” chemicals from their roots in order to grow unimpeded for sunlight. This becomes a problem even after garlic mustard is eradicated as those chemicals can remain in the soil for years. Garlic mustard is also one of the first plants to sprout in the spring shading out other native plants.

- **Plant Identification:**

Garlic Mustard:





Garlic mustard is an herbaceous understory plant with a distinct garlicky smell. It is a biennial plant meaning it lives for two years. The first year is the vegetative stage where the plant is characterized by a basal rosette of leaves. The second year plant is the flowering plant with small, white 4-petaled flowers. Leaves are heart shaped with a scalloped-edge and wrinkled in appearance.

- **How do you pull it?**

When pulling garlic mustard, pull from the bottom stem as close to the ground as possible. The goal is to pull all of the roots with the plant. If the plant is already in flower, place the pulled plants into a garbage bag, tie tightly, and throw it away. Any plant that has a flower can still go to seed even after the plant is pulled. Wear gloves when pulling the plants.

- **Be part of the 10k Conservation Challenge!**

After pulling the garlic mustard, log it on the link below. Your hours will be counted towards the Upham Woods 10k Conservation Challenge where we are committed to putting 10,000 hours of conservation into the landscape the end of 2020!

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPepiSpnSDzhPSZ