

## PRESS RELEASE

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

### Contact

Caitlin Stewart

Office phone: 518-548-3991

Email: [hcswcd@frontiernet.net](mailto:hcswcd@frontiernet.net)

### For Release

For Immediate Release

### If You See it, Pull it!

A non-native invasive plant is one that is introduced outside of its historical range, reproduces rapidly, displaces native species and decreases biodiversity. Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), a biennial herb native to Europe, invades deciduous forests and edge habitats. Emergence occurs in late spring and in the first year, seedlings form basal rosettes in the summer. In the spring of the second year, small, white flowers in the form of a cross appear. Leaves of second year plants are triangular, alternate, toothed, and smell like garlic when crushed. Early emergence allows this plant to become established before native understory plants have a chance to grow. Garlic Mustard decreases the integrity of Adirondack flora because it kills soil fungal networks that assist native vegetation in nutrient uptake. In addition, phytotoxins in root tissue prevent growth of nearby plants. In late June, the plant dries up and seedpods remain; seeds are still viable. Management efforts should take place before Garlic Mustard goes to seed as a single plant produces thousands of seeds that are viable for years in soil – now is the time! Grasp the plant near the ground and gently pull until the roots are fully removed from the soil. Plants regenerate from root fragments – please be sure to remove all pieces that fall on the ground. Place plants in black heavy-duty plastic garbage bags, allow contents to liquefy in the sun for a few weeks, and dispose of in a landfill or transfer station. After management efforts, brush off clothing, shoes, and pets to prevent establishment in new locations. For more information, contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District at 518-548-3991 or visit the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program website at [www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com).