

2021 Garlic mustard management season adapts to Covid-19 restrictions

Continuing management of this highly invasive species is essential to maintaining the health of our waterways, forests, and properties. During the coronavirus pandemic, District staff **are working carefully and cautiously to manage** the highest priority Garlic mustard infestations while following strict social distancing guidelines. We are being very thoughtful about where we conduct field work at this time, and are prioritizing time-sensitive projects that we've committed to, which includes the control of garlic mustard **where it cannot be managed by the property owner.**

How are our staff taking precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19?

Our office is closed and staff are working remotely from home or in the field. When time-critical field work is necessary, we are enforcing strict social distancing protocols by avoiding contact with others and maintaining at least a distance of 6 feet or more at all times. We have also made special travel, meal, and break accommodations such as driving separately and taking mid-day breaks at home. We will not be making any personal contact with landowners except for emergency circumstances. [Read our Response to COVID-19 here.](#)

Will I be contacted when staff plan to conduct their annual garlic mustard visit on my property?

Yes, if you previously received garlic mustard control assistance, we will contact you at least 1-2 days in advance at the phone number or email address you provided. We will not knock or ring your doorbell, but may contact you again just prior to entering your property so that you are aware we are working. If we have no other way of contacting you, we will leave a note at your door.

Why is garlic mustard management considered essential and time-sensitive?

District staff, partnering organizations, state granting agencies, and community members have invested a decade of work into garlic mustard containment. Garlic mustard flowers in April, producing mature seed in June. Each plant can produce several hundred seeds which can live in the soil for 10 years or more. Missing a year of management could set efforts back 10 years. Garlic mustard quickly invades and degrades both urban and sensitive natural areas, displacing native plants and wildlife habitat in the process. To protect the investments made, we are prioritizing management of garlic mustard where we can do so, while practicing social distancing guidelines.

What methods are used to control garlic mustard?

If garlic mustard is found, it will be managed through environmentally-sound and scientifically-backed methods. Small patches or infestations with scattered plants are generally pulled by hand. Larger infestations may be more effectively managed with spot control of an aquatically-approved herbicide, most likely Vastlan (active ingredient: triclopyr choline) (NPIC factsheet: <http://www.npic.orst.edu/factsheets/triclogen.pdf>). If we haven't

been in touch with you about the need for an herbicide, we will manage your site with handpulling only. Landowners can elect to have weeds on their property pulled by hand by contacting Michelle at 503-238-4775 x115 or michelle@wmswcd.org.

Can I opt to pull the garlic mustard on my own?

Absolutely! Thanks to the efforts of many people over the past several years, we have seen far less garlic mustard at many project sites. If you feel comfortable pulling the garlic mustard on your own property, please let us know. District staff can work with you by phone or email to help you identify garlic mustard. Contact us at [info@wmswcd.org to get started](mailto:info@wmswcd.org).

I have not had assistance in the past. How can my property be included?

If you would like your property surveyed and/or controlled for garlic mustard, please fill out our [PERMIT TO ACCESS](#) form. Properties at high risk of garlic mustard infestation are prioritized, including those near other confirmed infestations and previously controlled sites that had a change in ownership.

What if conditions related to the coronavirus change?

We continue to monitor and adhere to CDC (Center for Disease Control) and state and local guidelines. Check back here to stay up to date with our spring garlic mustard response and the precautions we are taking to keep staff, contractors, and our community safe.

Where can I follow up with more information, or special requests?

If you have any questions, comments, or special requests, please reach Michelle Delepine at [503-238-4775](tel:503-238-4775) x115 (voicemail is being monitored remotely) or send email to michelle@wmswcd.org. Thank you!