Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata

Preferred habitat: Garlic mustard thrives in shady habitats and spreads quickly along stream corridors. This plant invades moist forests, wooded stream banks, roadsides, and trail edges. It cannot tolerate extremely acidic soils.

Description: Biennial herb, with basal leaves that are dark green and kidney-shaped. Stem leaves are alternate, toothed, and triangular or deltoid. In the spring and early summer, leaves and stems produce a distinctive garlic odor when crushed. Flowers consist of four white petals that narrow abruptly at the base. Seeds, black and oblong, are contained within siliques, which are narrow, four-sided, linear capsules from one to four-and-a-half inches long. Plants usually produce a single unbranched or few-branched flower stalk, and can range in height from 5 to 46 inches.