

The Irony of Invasive Plant Control

Spring is HERE! As we enjoy the burst of blooms from the first tulips, hyacinths and daffodils to budding trees (crab apple, red bud) and bushes (forsythia and lilac) we also observe 'seas' of dandelions and garlic mustard.

- <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/garlic-mustard.aspx>
- <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/life/home-garden/2015/05/17/gardeners-can-control-garlic-mustard/27321401/>
- https://www.google.com/search?q=garlic+mustard&rlz=1T4RVEB_enUS629US632&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=U3lbVceuFYmzyAT-t4GYDw&ved=0Cl0BEIke&biw=1847&bih=869

While some recipe books embrace the values of these weeds we generally want to keep them out of our flower beds, vegetable plots and lawns. Invasive plants take over and alter our well-intended garden plans. They soak up the nutrients provided by the sun and water thus, depriving these benefits to other plants.

Weed Removal Solutions:

- Dig or pull out the plant including the entire root system.
- Burn (not environmentally wise), Dry, Bag, Bury? OR take to local land fill
 - <http://www.oasiss.ca/disposingofinvas.html>
- DO NOT place in your compost pile as your compost will germinate new weeds. Weeds belong in Yard Waste containers for pickup. Below are local sites.
 - <http://www.lakesdisposal.com/our-services/yard-waste-collection>
 - <http://www.waukeganweb.net/index.aspx?NID=347>
 - <http://www.gurnee.il.us/waste/landscape>
 - <http://www.lakebluff.org/departments-services/public-works/117-sanitation>
 - <https://www.groot.com/services>

Toxic Weed Removal:

- A fast and easy way in which to eliminate weeds is to 'Kill Them'. Unfortunately, we are now aware of the damage certain herbicides/pesticides do to our environment and ultimately to us. Research now indicates the 1994 introduction of GEs (Genetically Engineered) crops and GMOs (genetically modified organisms) has alarming effects.
- <https://www.organicconsumers.org/news/driving-gmos-and-monsantos-roundup-market>