**Find Garlic Mustard**

Garlic mustard (*Allaria petiolata*) is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that is spreading rapidly throughout the West, including here in Colorado. It is easily recognized by its white, cross-shaped flowers and leaves that, when crushed, smell like garlic. Garlic mustard is one of few herbs that can dominate forest understories, outcompeting other plants and thus reducing overall biodiversity.

Help the Gardens document the abundance and distribution of garlic mustard by photographing as many plants as possible in the month of June. For large populations, photograph plants every few feet to show the extent of coverage. Post your findings to iNaturalist so they will be automatically added to the Denver EcoFlora Project.

**How Do I Get Started?**

1. Download the iNaturalist app or register online at [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org).
2. Take photos of the plants in bloom that you find on your daily neighborhood walk. It is okay if they are weeds! Avoid taking photos of cultivated plants in gardens or in your home.
3. If you are concerned about revealing the location of sensitive plants or observations at your own house, you can hide the exact location from the public by changing the “geoprivacy” of the observation to “obscured.”
4. Post your findings on iNaturalist via the app.
5. Your observations will automatically be added to the Denver EcoFlora Project.
6. Sign up to be a member of the Denver EcoFlora Project on iNaturalist to receive updates and additional information.

**How Do I Participate Given COVID-19?**

As a participant, it is up to you how much or how little you take part. Please stay close to home and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from others. Wear a cloth mask in public areas. Respect closures and avoid places of high use. Do only what feels safe for you and your family and is in accordance with your local regulations.

**What is the Goal?**

The Denver EcoFlora Project is designed to meaningfully connect citizens with biodiversity and to assemble novel observations and data on the metro area’s flora to better inform policy decisions and conservation strategies.

**What is an EcoQuest?**

EcoQuests are part of the Denver EcoFlora Project. These monthly quests challenge citizens to become citizen scientists and observe, study and conserve the native plants of the Denver – Boulder metro area via iNaturalist, an easy-to-use mobile app.

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*Photo by Scott Dressel-Martin*