

Yellow Archangel

Lamium galeobdolon

Mint Family

Non-Designated Noxious Weed: Control Recommended

Identification Tips

- Fast-growing perennial ground cover that may be either trailing or upright depending on conditions
- Leaves are typically variegated with silvery-grey markings and are oval-shaped and toothed
- Flowers are small, yellow and tubular; they grow in pairs of clusters close to stems between leaves
- Oils in leaves have a distinct odor

Biology

- Flowers between April and June
- Reproduces vegetatively from nodes on stems as well as stem fragments; also spreads by seed
- Grows in dense patches and tends to be viny; may also climb up and over other plants or stand upright when grown in full sun
- Will grow back more densely after being cut

Impacts

- When it escapes from residential plantings, becomes invasive, forming dense patches
- Outcompetes native plant species
- Provides little or no food and shelter for native wildlife

Distribution

- Found in ravines, greenbelts and forested parks as well as residential settings such as flower gardens, rockeries and ornamental borders
- Can grow in a wide range of conditions from full sun to full shade



Variegated variety has silvery-grey markings on leaves. Flowers are yellow, small and grow on short, upright stems.



Once this plant escapes into natural areas, it forms dense patches and crowds out beneficial native plants.

What You Can Do

While there is no legal requirement for controlling yellow archangel in King County, the King County Noxious Weed Control Board recognizes that this plant is invasive and is collecting information and providing education on control. The Board encourages and recommends control of existing populations especially in natural areas and forests.

Control Methods

For best results, control methods should be adaptive and employed throughout several growing seasons.

Prevention: This plant is still available for sale at nurseries and other retail outlets, but it is recommended that landowners choose other ground cover plants. If you already have this plant and would like to minimize its invasive nature, contain in flower beds by regular trimming or dig up and replant into pots.

Because yellow archangel spreads readily by stem cuttings, it is very important to discard plant material in such a way as to prevent spreading. Never dump clippings in parks or natural areas. Furthermore, avoid planting near forests and other natural areas where it can escape and become invasive. Don't dispose of plants in backyard compost piles (okay to put into city provided "Clean Green" recycling bins since the yard waste is taken to a commercial composting operation).

Manual: Stems and roots tend to break off when pulled, so hand removal of yellow archangel is very time-consuming. Also, plants readily re-sprout from any fragments left behind so hand-pulling must be repeated several times a season over several years to be effective. Hand-pulling might be a good method for small infestations and for areas where yellow archangel is mixed in with desirable groundcovers or wildflowers. Easiest to do from fall to spring when the soil is moist.

Mechanical/Covering: Cutting alone will not control this plant, but may be useful in combination with chemical control as a way to reduce the amount of old leaves and produce fresh growth. For dense patches, sheet mulching (cardboard with 3-4 inches of woodchips on top) or covering with weed cloth might be effective if the whole patch is covered and it is monitored closely for growth along the edges or through gaps in the covering.

Chemical: Herbicides can be effective on yellow archangel if combined with monitoring for surviving plants and follow-up control as needed. **Choose a formulation that is appropriate for the site (for example: aquatic, terrestrial, ornamental, forestry or non-crop). Follow the label exactly as written and only use at the rate that is prescribed on the label.** Products containing triclopyr (e.g. Garlon, Ortho Brush B Gon, Lilly Miller Blackberry & Brush Killer), imazapyr (Habitat, Arsenal), metsulfuron (Escort, Ally), sulfometuron (Oust), and dichlobenil (Casoron) show the most promise in controlling this plant. Glyphosate products (e.g. Roundup) are less effective and will usually require several applications. Timing varies by product so make sure to follow the label recommendations on when to treat perennial weeds. Use care when applying herbicides to avoid off-target damage to native plants and trees as well as other desirable plants. Chemical control options may differ for private, commercial and government agency users. The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. For questions about herbicide use, contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program.



Prevention is one of the best ways to keep this plant from becoming a problem in parks and natural areas; avoid planting near such sites or choose a different ground cover. Call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224 for suggestions on alternatives or visit www.kingcounty.gov/gonative.