Cornell Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

Horticulture Program
Eisenhower Park
East Meadow, N.Y. 11554

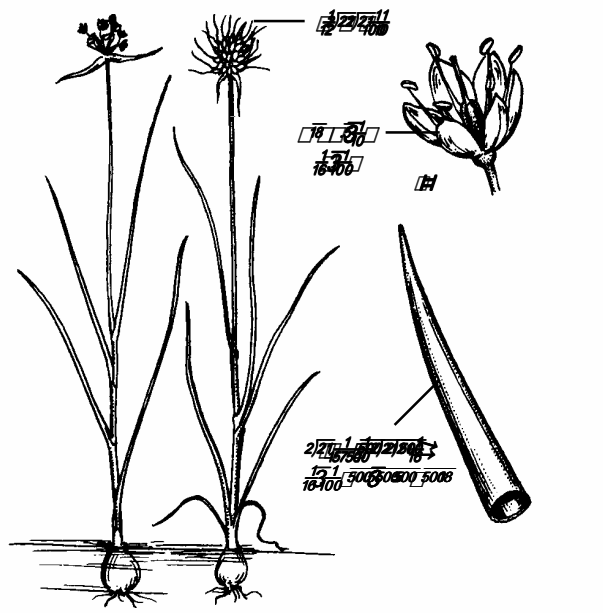
Home Grounds Fact Sheet

Wild Onion, Wild Garlic

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls. As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

** A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g.* ***insect****icide,* ***fung****icide,* ***herb****icide, etc.*



Wild Garlic, Wild Onion - Allium vineale

Wild onion or garlic (*Allium canadense* or *Allium vineale*) are unsightly weeds in turfgrass areas; both in lily family; both poisonous. Leaves are slender, hollow, nearly round and are attached to the lower half of the stem which emerges from a basal bulb. At maturity, the bulb splits and produces many bulblets making control of this weed rather difficult. Wild onion and wild garlic are propagated by bulbs, aerial bulblets and less frequently by seeds. Some bulbs may remain dormant in the soil for several years making control very difficult. Deer will not eat this plant.

In turf areas, wild onion stands out by its height, different texture and darker color, especially before the grass mowing season begins. The entire area will smell like garlic or onions just after mowing. Setting the mowing height very low before turf has resumed active growth is one way to decrease unsightliness.

The best time for treatment is in the early spring before the grass needs mowing, when the wild onion foliage is 6-l0 inches tall. This gives a good leaf surface for absorbing the herbicide. Spray in late March or early April. Incorporate a spreader sticker. Infested areas must be treated again the following year at the same time. Treatment and clean up the second year is essential because the plants regrow from bulbs.

If you choose to use a pesticide, please contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE, ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS.

C-2-10 MTC:re revised TTY 10/00

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