

Yellow Archangel

Lamiastrum galeobdolon Mint Family

Identification Tips

- Fast-growing perennial groundcover, trailing or upright depending on conditions, grows year-round in western Washington
- Leaves oval-shaped, toothed, typically variegated with silvery-gray markings, and arranged opposite on square stems
- Flowers small, yellow and tubular; grow on short stalks that rise above the leaves
- Leaves are aromatic when crushed and covered with fine hairs
- "Archangel" name refers to the wing-like shape of the leaves

Biology

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

Impacts

Escapes from residential plantings to become invasive, forming dense patches. Outcompetes native plant species, while providing little or no food and shelter for native wildlife. Will crowd out forest wildflowers and create dense monocultures in shady areas.

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.

What You Can Do

While there is no legal requirement to control yellow archangel, it is highly invasive and control is recommended, especially in forests and other natural areas. Avoid planting it and be careful not to spread it through yard waste dumping.

Control Methods

For best results, control methods should be adaptive and employed throughout several growing seasons. Persistence is the key to successful control of this plant.

Prevention:

The sale of yellow archangel is now prohibited in Washington. If you already have this plant and would like to prevent its spread, contain it in flower beds by regular trimming or dig it up and replant into pots. Because yellow archangel spreads readily by stem cuttings, it is very important to discard plant material in a way that prevents spreading.

**Non-Regulated Class B
Noxious Weed: Control
Recommended**



Leaves are opposite, toothed, usually variegated with silvery-gray markings.



Flowers are small, yellow, and tubular, growing on short stems that rise above leaves.



Yellow archangel grows quickly, reproducing both vegetatively and by seed.

Questions?

King County Noxious Weed Control Program: **206-477-WEED** kingcounty.gov/weeds

Never dump clippings in parks or natural areas, and don't dispose of plants in backyard compost piles. City-provided yard waste bins are OK. Avoid planting near forests and other natural areas where the plant can escape and become invasive.

Manual:

Stems and roots tend to break off when pulled, so hand removal is very time-consuming. Also, plants readily resprout from any fragments left behind, so hand-pulling must be repeated multiple times a season over several years to be effective. Hand-pulling may be a good method for small infestations and areas where the plant is mixed in with desirable groundcovers or wildflowers. This method is easiest from fall to spring when the soil is moist, or in loose forest soils.

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 (laying down cardboard with 3-4 inches of woodchips on top) or covering with weed cloth may be effective. Be sure to cover the whole patch and monitor 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 (e.g. aquatic, terrestrial, ornamental, forestry, or non-crop). Follow the label exactly as written.** The best results have been with a combination of glyphosate and one of the following: triclopyr, imazapyr, or aminopyralid. Glyphosate on its own will usually be about 60% effective, but with repeat treatments can work. Use care when applying herbicides so as 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. For more information, contact the Noxious Weed Control Program.

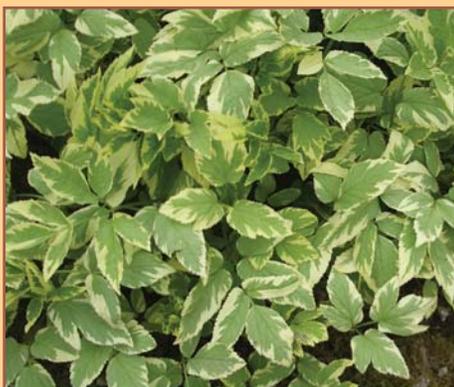


Yellow archangel readily escapes from plantings to invade forests and other natural areas.

Could be confused with:

Bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is an aggressive ornamental plant, often with variegated leaves, that has a similar growth habit as yellow archangel.

The variegated form of bishop's weed is pale at leaf edges and green in leaf centers. Leaves are alternate, divided into leaflets, and not hairy. Bishop's weed can also be distinguished by its umbrella-shaped clusters of small white flowers. Yellow archangel might also be confused with various ornamental cultivars of **spotted deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*)**. You can distinguish these plants by their usually purple, pink, or white flowers, and their distinct patterns of leaf variegation.



Bishop's weed's variegated leaves.



Bishop's weed's flowers.



Spotted deadnettle plant.