

Wild Onion and Garlic



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WILD ONION—*Allium ampletens*
—Showing entire plant.

FEDERAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

OREGON STATE COLLEGE

CORVALLIS

Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, F. E. Price, director.
Oregon State College and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.
Printed and distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Extension Bulletin 761

July 1957

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Wild Onion

Allium ampletens

WILD ONION (*Allium ampletens*) is a perennial that reproduces from bulbs and seed. The bulbs do not divide to form new plants as is the case with wild garlic. This species is found in grain fields, pastures, and meadows. It commonly grows 6 to 18 inches tall. Compact flowerheads are produced, one at the tip of each slender stem. Flowers are pale pink, and flower clusters are from 1 to 1½ inches across. From 20 to 30 flowers are borne in the cluster on individual fine stems about ½ inch long. Several long, slender, grass-like leaves are produced. They grow from papery sheathing bases which overlap and enclose the stem that arises from the bulb and extends a few inches above ground. Leaves appear in the fall or early spring and are generally mature when the plant flowers. Mature leaves are brown, rolled, and withered to about the diameter of string.

There is one bulb to the plant, from ¼ to ⅝ inch in diameter, fleshy, and covered with a purplish or reddish coat. Seeds are black, from ⅓ to 3/16 inch across and often five-sided, somewhat resembling buckwheat. The entire plant has a distinct onion-like odor. If milk-producing animals eat this weed, the milk and butter become tainted.

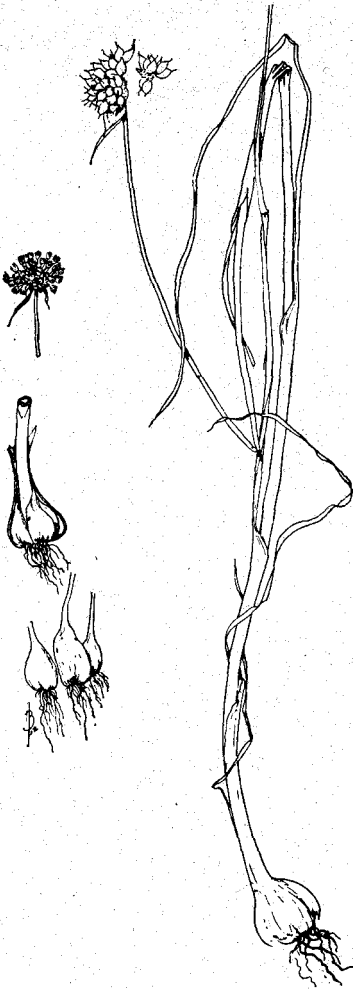
Wild Garlic

Allium vineale L.

Wild garlic (*Allium vineale* L.) is a perennial plant that reproduces from underground bulb offsets, aerial bulblets, and seed. The plant grows 12 to 24 inches tall. The stems are smooth and waxy. The leaves are slender, hollow, nearly round, and are attached to the lower half of the stem. The aerial bulblets form in an oval, smooth, shiny cluster at the top of the stem. The individual aerial bulblets are about the size of a kernel of wheat.

The flower cluster is at the top of the slender stem. The small individual flowers, when present, are greenish white, and grow on short, slender stalks. All or part of the flowers may be replaced by aerial bulblets.

This information supersedes Extension Bulletin 580. The author expresses appreciation to Dr. A. N. Steward, Curator of the Oregon State College Herbarium, for checking the plant descriptions.



WILD GARLIC
Allium vineale L.

The seeds are black, flat on one side, and about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long. The offset bulblets at the base of the plant and the aerial bulblets readily distinguish wild garlic from wild onion.

Wild garlic, like wild onion, when eaten by livestock or poultry, taints meat, milk, and poultry products.

Wild garlic is a prohibited noxious weed in Oregon. Vegetable and field crop seeds cannot be marketed in the State when they contain wild garlic seed.

Control

Wild onion and wild garlic are difficult to control with cultivation. Control by cultivation requires late fall and early spring tillage. Fall and early spring tillage prevent early normal growth of the weed. Clean cultivation for several years is needed for complete control of the plant.

2,4-D sprays are the most effective control method. These sprays can be used selectively in grass and grain crops or nonselectively in fields which are to be later planted.

Fall planted grain and grass and established grass and pasture fields can be sprayed with $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of parent acid of the low volatile 2,4-D ester per acre. Prespray infested fields which are to be plowed and planted with 2 pounds of low volatile 2,4-D ester per acre. Add wetting agents to the spray mixture to help wet the onion or garlic, thus giving better control.

Spray wild garlic and wild onion when the plants are 6 to 8 inches tall. Usually this is in April. Fall sprays are effective when the wild garlic or wild onion make early fall growth.

Complete eradication of wild garlic and wild onion will require annual spraying for 3 to 5 years. Planting grass or grain crops in infested land helps reduce the cost of control.

Use not less than 7 gallons of spray per acre. With ground applications 10 to 20 gallons of spray per acre gives better coverage, thus better weed kill. Air application of sprays is effective.