

## **MSU Extension Publication Archive**

Archive copy of publication, do not use for current recommendations. Up-to-date information about many topics can be obtained from your local Extension office.

Controlling Wild Garlic and Wild Onion

Michigan State University Extension Service

IPM Facts

Fred Salzman, Karen Renner, Jim Kells, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

Issued December 1992

2 pages

The PDF file was provided courtesy of the Michigan State University Library

**Scroll down to view the publication.**

## Controlling Wild Garlic and Wild Onion

**Fred Salzman, Karen Renner, and Jim Kells**  
**Department of Crop and Soil Sciences**  
**Michigan State University**

aerial bulblets. Wild onion reproduces only by aerial bulblets; no underground bulblets are produced.

Wild garlic and wild onion are found in grain fields and pastures.

### ***What is a Perennial Weed?***

A perennial weed is any weed capable of surviving for three or more years. Perennial weeds are characterized by vegetative reproduction. Vegetative reproduction in these species is due to (a) rhizomes - underground creeping stems commonly found in perennial grasses; (b) stolons - prostrate stems or runners on the soil surface with roots at the nodes; (c) creeping roots; (d) tubers - underground enlarged storage stems; or (e) bulbs - underground storage organs consisting of a stem axis covered with many overlapping leaf scales.

Perennial weeds may or may not reproduce by seed. They always, however, have the potential to reproduce by vegetative means.

### ***Description of Wild Garlic and Wild Onion***

Wild garlic and wild onion are two related species that grow from bulbs. Plants can reach a height of 1 to 3 feet. Wild garlic leaves are round, hollow, and attached to the lower half of the stem. Wild onion leaves are flat, not hollow, and are attached only to the base of the plant. Wild garlic reproduces by underground and

### ***Methods of Control***

Methods of perennial weed control fall into three categories: (a) cultural, such as crop rotation; (b) mechanical, tillage including various implements such as plows, disks, or cultivators; and (c) chemical, using

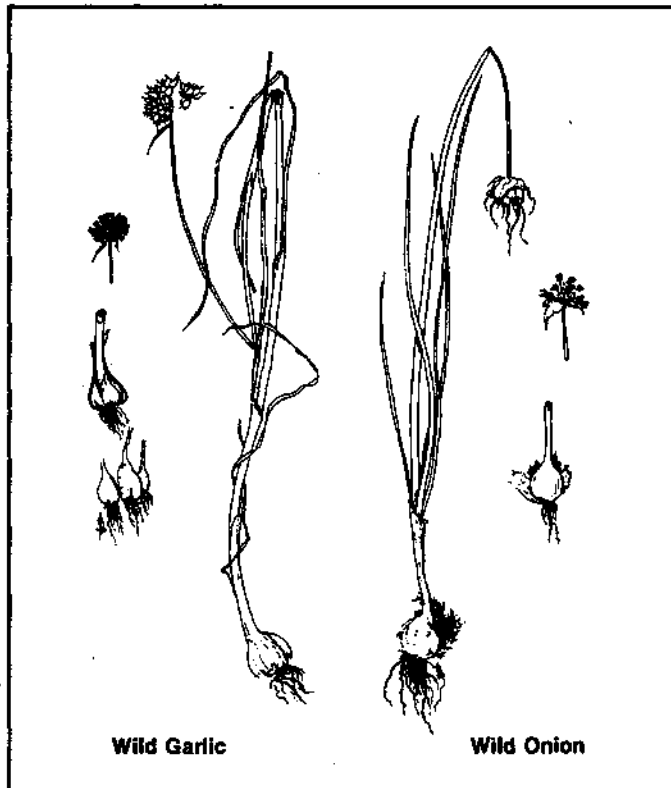
herbicides. Control of perennial weeds may require a combination of all these methods. Consider the energy and environmental implications when choosing a method of control.

### ***Mechanical Control***

Mechanical control may increase or decrease perennial weed infestations. Tillage may increase infestations by moving perennial weeds to new areas of the field or breaking dormancy of underground buds resulting in new shoot growth. Tillage during cool, wet conditions results in reduced control.

Tillage may decrease perennial weed infestations if done frequently enough to deplete underground root

reserves. The field should be tilled every two or three weeks. Warm, dry soil conditions increase the effectiveness of tillage for perennial weed control by drying plant roots on the soil surface.



# Chemical Control of Wild Garlic and Wild Onion

## Winter wheat and barley

<u>Herbicide<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Timing (Weed height)</u>	<u>Effectiveness</u>
Harmony Extra + NIS <sup>2</sup>	0.6 oz/A + 1/4%	POST (less than 12", 2 - 4" new)	Good
Banvel + 2,4-D	1/4 pt/A + 1 pt/A	POST (less than 12", 2 - 4" new, crop fully tillered)	Fair

<sup>1</sup>Harmony Extra is somewhat less effective on wild onion. Use these treatments only in fall-seeded wheat and barley.

<sup>2</sup> NIS = nonionic surfactant.

This bulletin was originally prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grant No. DE-FG0276CS60204. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE.

To protect yourself and others and the environment, always read the label before applying any pesticide.



MSU is an Affirmative-Action Equal Opportunity Institution. Cooperative Extension Service programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, age or religion. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 20, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gail L. Irig, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those not mentioned. This bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company. Produced by Outreach Communications and printed on recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.

This publication contains pesticide recommendations based on research and pesticide regulations. However, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly. Some pesticides mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. If you have questions about the legality and/or registration status for using pesticides, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office.

