

## WILD GARLIC

(*Allium vineale*)



Wild garlic (4) is a perennial which reproduces by aerial bulblets, bulbs (2), and rarely by seed. Its persistent hardshell bulbs are dormant, making it difficult to eradicate even though it is susceptible to common phenoxy herbicides. Found in lawns, grain fields, and pastures in sandy or gravelly soils, wild garlic is considered noxious in many dairy states because when eaten by cattle it imparts an onion flavor to milk. Wild garlic is sometimes found in blank spaces in lawns where disease, insects, or misuse have damaged the lawn. Vigorous competition of well-kept lawn grasses may partially alleviate the problem.

Beneath the ground each bulb (3) produces one stem. The stem is hollow, just like the common onion, and covered around the base with a sheath from the bulb. Leaves are slender, hollow, and emerge mainly from the bulb but also some come from the lower part of the stem. Leaves are grooved and without hairs.

Flowers (1) are borne in an umbrella-like pattern atop the main stem and are greenish pink to greenish white. Flowers frequently develop into small green aerial bulblets which can produce another plant.

Roots are fibrous and emerge from the bottom of an underground bulb which is covered with a thin membranous layer. Bulbs often produce smaller offset bulblets which are hard and dormant and add to eradication problems. Dormant bulbs may persist three years in the soil before producing a new plant.

A similar species which differs only a little is wild onion, *Allium canadense*. Wild onion has no dormant hardshell bulbs and is easier to control. Both species are less common west of the Mississippi Basin, but thrive in both the Northeast and Southeast.

Wild onion bulbs have a matted netlike covering. Wild onion will often have only two leaves arising from the base of the stem in the bulb and no more. Leaves of wild onion are flat but not hollow. Pinkish flowers also form small bulblets.

Both wild garlic and wild onion are susceptible to 2,4-D which gives a top kill, but will not destroy the bulbs. Bulbs resprout several months later and must be treated again with 2,4-D. Adequate control from re-treatments with phenoxy compounds may take 3 years.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

(DRAWING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PUBLICATION NO. 36, USDA EXTENSION SERVICE)

## Rutgers Turfgrass Field Days Set for April 23-24

Noted for its up-to-date information on turfgrass production and maintenance, Rutgers University again invites turfmen, applicators, and others associated with the turfgrass industry, to attend its two-day turfgrass equipment and products field show scheduled for April 23-24.

Lectures and other educational programs are slated for this annual spring session being held on the campus in New Brunswick, N. J. The first day's sessions are directed to the professional man who associates himself with golf course maintenance, parks, school grounds, industrial, and plant research. The second day is for the general public.

Newest products of manufacturers and suppliers will be displayed.

For more information about this event write to Dr. Henry W. Indyk, College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

Manufacturers and suppliers who may still be interested in displaying products during Rutgers Field Days, may write Dr. Indyk for necessary application forms.

## Tordon Weedkiller Report Heard by Calif. Ranchers

Successful eradication of three persistent weeds, in Tordon brush control tests conducted by University of California, Berkeley, were revealed at one of the past meetings of the Central California Brush Range Improvement Assn.

Not yet registered for use on crops or range, Tordon has shown effectiveness against Canada thistle, morning-glory, and Russian knapweed, William A. Harvey, weed control specialist in the Agricultural Extension Service, said. According to Harvey, it killed old chamise with a broadcast foliage treatment of one pound per acre. It also had good effect on some trees where treatment of a single axe cut produced an 80-90% foliage kill. Tordon is a product of The Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich.