

Wild Garlic/Onions

Wild garlic and wild onion are cool-season perennial broadleaf weeds. Both have slender, smooth leaves that produce a strong odor. Wild garlic has hollow stems, while wild onions are not hollow and tend to be more flat.

Both emerge early in the spring, growing faster than the turf (image 1). They grow in little clumps, (image 2) and soon begin to flower (image 3). Below the ground, both form bulbs (image 4) with garlic having a membranous papery coating and onion having a fibrous reticulate coating. They not only show up in the yard, they can also be found in the landscape.

Seeds germinate in the fall and small plants overwinter, reshooting in the early spring. Bulblets that are produced at the tips fall to the ground and sprout right away.

Star-of-Bethlehem (image 5) looks very similar but has a whitish stripe down the stem and the blossoms can have a green stripe. The stems of this do not have a strong odor. Controls that work on wild garlic and onion work for this as well.

Control

It's tempting to try hand pulling as a control but this often makes them spread more rather than reduce the population.

Since they emerge early in the spring when it is cool to cold, **ferti•lome® Weed Free Zone** is the best choice for control in the yard. You can add a little **Hi-Yield® Spreader Sticker** to the mix to help it stick to the very waxy stems, however, as temps rise into the upper 70's, skip the **Hi-Yield® Spreader Sticker** as it can lead to burning.

As temperatures get warmer, **ferti•lome® Weed-Out with Crabgrass Killer** is a great choice for the yard. This method of control needs **Hi-Yield® Spreader Sticker** added, again due to the waxy stems.

Finally, in the landscape, **ferti•lome® DECIMATE** is a great choice because it doesn't fume like the others, so can be used close to desirable plants. DON'T spray on the plants you want to keep. You can also mix this up and use a foam paint brush and daub it on the stems. This can be made to work better with the addition of the NEW **Hi-Yield® Herbicide Enhancer**, a product that helps it stick, penetrate and stay in solution.



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