

# Invasive Species Impacts

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Garlic mustard is one species that grows earlier in the spring than other native species. This is a problem because they dominant resources and are believed to release toxins into the soil that will kill the soil fungi other plants and hardwood tree saplings depend on. This doesn't only impact other plants, the West Virginia White Butterfly has been found to lay eggs on garlic mustard instead of native plants that have been outcompeted by the aggressive garlic mustard, greatly decreasing caterpillar survival rates because the plant is toxic. (Humans can eat garlic mustard however, so go collect some next spring after confirming it is the right plant!)

This butterfly also depends on moist woodlands for habitat, increasingly rare with higher temperatures.

