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Controlling Wild Garlic and Wild Onion
Michigan State University Extension Service
IPM Facts

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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 aerial bulblets. Wild onion reproduces only by

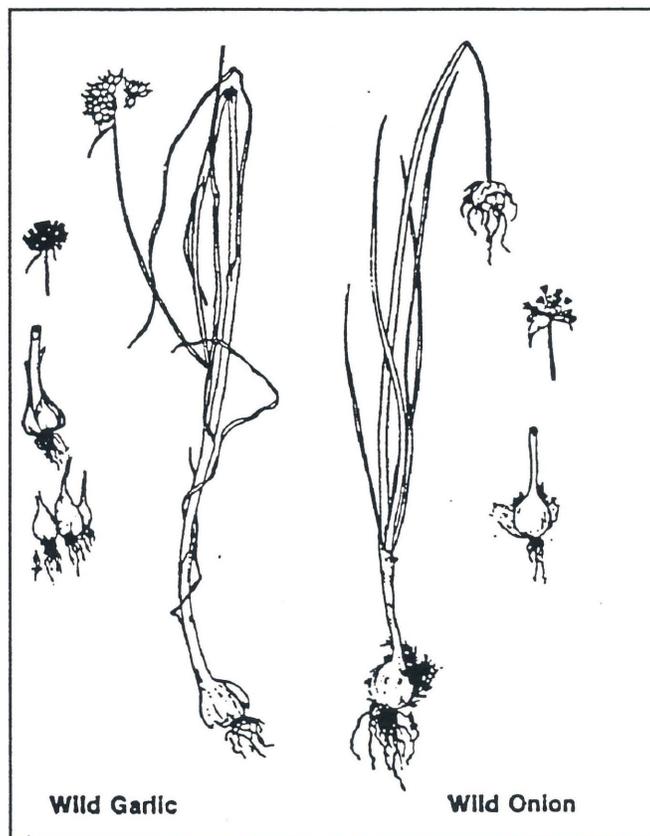
Methods of Control

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</u> ¹	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Timing</u> (Weed height)	<u>Effectiveness</u>
Harmony Extra + NIS ²	0.6 oz/A + 1/4%	POST (less than 12", 2-4" new)	Good
Banvel + 2,4-D ester	0.25 pt/A + 1 pt/A	POST (less than 12", 2-4" new, crop fully tillered)	Fair

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

²NIS = nonionic surfactant.

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

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