

# Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

## DESCRIPTION:

Yellow archangel is a fast growing perennial ground cover. A member of the mint family, this species can grow in a wide range of conditions from full sun to full shade. The variegated form of this species is a popular ornamental plant in yards. When it escapes residential plantings it forms dense patches in woodlands, quickly out-competing natives. Yellow archangel spreads both by underground root and by seed.

**-3**  
**Aggressive**  
**Weed**

## IDENTIFICATION:

This species is usually seen in its variegated form as large monocultures of plants covering the ground. The textured leaves are arranged oppositely on the stem, and are hairy and coarsely toothed. Being a member of the mint family it has stems that are square in cross section. The flowers are small, yellow and tubular with stalks reaching up to 1' tall. Yellow archangel can often be confused with its close cousins the deadnettles, though these species have pink or purple flowers. Deadnettles are also invasive weeds, so land managers need not make a distinction.



## CONTROL METHODS:

**Organic:** Digging is effective for small populations (of a few square yards), since plants pull up easily in moist soil. Care should be taken to remove all of the root mass and runners. If the plants are flowering or developing seeds they should be bagged and disposed of in the trash to prevent seed dispersal.

For populations that are too large for hand pulling, using a mower or weed whip to obliterate the plants late in their flowering period will reduce seed production. Smothering or heat mulching may be another option, if the entire colony can be covered at the same time.

Due to their shallow root system, yellow archangel are intolerant of fire, so repeated prescribed burns or flame weeding can reduce the density of this species. Prescribed burns and the clearing of invasive brush and aggressive trees invigorate our native plants which allows them to better compete with the yellow archangel.

**Chemical:** A foliar application of glyphosate (Round-Up®, etc.) can be sprayed in late fall after most native species have gone dormant or in early spring before native species have become active again. The temperature should be above 45 degrees, and there should not be rain in the forecast for at least 12 hours after treatment. For large monocultures this same treatment can be used any time of year.

Herbicides containing triclopyr such as Garlon® 4, Garlon® 3A (for wetland areas) or an appropriate Weed-B-Gon® formulation can be used where there is a risk of injuring sedges or grasses.

Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and always apply herbicide according to the product label.



## NATIVE ALTERNATIVES:

For ground covers in shade, look to wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), rosy sedge (*Carex rosea*), great waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*) Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) or wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*). Virginia Waterleaf can be somewhat aggressive, so it is best used in contained locations. Overall, a diverse mix of native perennials is the best replacement for a patch of yellow archangel. A variety of woodland and savanna plants will certainly offer more year-round interest and wildlife value than this aggressive Old World brute.

