Invasive Plant Alert[1]

Yellow Archangel

Lamiastrum galeobdolon (L.) Ehrend. & Polatschek

Yellow Archangel is a vigorous groundcover that can spread over large areas.

Figure 1 *L. galeobdolon* flowers. Photo Credit Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden

Where to Look

Yellow archangel can grow in a variety of conditions, but usually prefers moist soil in partial shade. It is often found near gardens.

Native and widespread in Europe, it was brought to North America as a garden plant; it is often used for ground cover. It can be found throughout the coastal Northeast and mid-Atlantic, including New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maine and DC, as well as in the Pacific Northwest. Scattered populations have also been found in the mid-west.

Identifying the Plant

Yellow Archangel is an herbaceous creeping perennial. It has a square, hairy stem and can grow up to 1 to 2 feet tall. Leaves are opposite, serrated, prominently veined and ovate with silver markings and a green trim. Undersides are lighter green. Shade leaves are larger, thinner and darker than sun leaves.

Flowers occur in clusters in the leaf axils, or whorls at the end of the stem. They are helmet-shaped, with a hooded upper petal and a lipped lower petal. Blooming is May-June. Fruit is set June-July and contains 4 nutlets. *L. galeobdolon* is a prolific seed-producer.

Figure 2 Yellow Archangel. Photo by Richard Old, www.xidservices.com

How to get rid of it?

Management of yellow archangel populations can be rather tricky, as it not only produces an abundance of seeds, but it can also produce off-shoots. Successful control will require repeated monitoring and treatment.

Hand-pulling can be used if you pull out all the roots and stolons. Mulching or using landscape fabric with mulch has also been effective. Mechanical treatment should occur during the fall, winter, or spring, before flowering has begun, to prevent propagation.

Chemical treatment with 2.5% triclopyr applied to leaves has been effective. Treat in the summer or fall, as long as temperatures are above 55°F (12°C). Monitor treatments periodically; retreatment may be necessary.

Figure 1 L. galeobdolon leaves. Photo Credit Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden

Resources

Graham, Paul A. and David R. Clements. Invasive Plants of Southwestern British Columbia. Langley Environmental Partners Society. 2003. Web. July 2012. http://www.shim.bc.ca/invasive species/_private/yellowarchangel.htm

Ehrend. & Polatschek. 1983. **Biological Flora of the British Isles.** Journal of Ecology **71:** 975-997.

[1] This species has been identified as a potential or emerging threat to natural areas in the mid-Atlantic region

2012 National Park Service, National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team, Washington, DC.
Written by Chris Traft, edited by Mark Frey and Amanda DuPrey