TACKLING

Yellow Archangel *(Lamiastrum galeobdolon)*

Invasive species have significant impacts on the environment, human health, infrastructure and the economy in the Metro Vancouver region.

Yellow archangel (also known as lamium or lamiastrum) was introduced to North America as an ornamental ground cover. It has escaped into natural areas throughout Metro Vancouver mostly due to illegal dumping of green waste, especially from hanging baskets or containers. Unfortunately, many garden centres still sell this plant.

IMPACTS

This fast-growing plant forms dense mats that completely cover the forest floor, smothering native flowers, mosses and shrubs. It also reduces plant diversity, impacting food available for wildlife and pollinating insects.

IDENTIFICATION

- **Lifecycle:** Perennial, evergreen plant that grows along the ground
- **Stems:** Hairy, square-shaped, up to 60 centimetres tall
- **Leaves:** On opposite sides of the stem, hairy, oval-shaped, dark green with distinct white pattern
- **Flowers:** Bright yellow, shaped like helmets, bloom from April to June
- **Seeds:** Seeds are contained in small nut-like structures

Leaves

CREDIT: ISCMV

Flowers up close

CREDIT: B. DOBBS VIA FLICKR

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

To prevent further spread across the region and beyond, it is best not to purchase, trade or grow yellow archangel, including plants in hanging baskets or containers. If this plant is already present, it is critical to ensure it does not invade adjacent yards, parks and natural areas. Effective invasive plant management typically involves a variety of control methods. The following table summarizes the recommended techniques for controlling yellow archangel on private property or where permission has been granted by the land owner or manager. Other methods may be used by professionals.

CONTROL STRATEGY	TECHNIQUES	SUITABLE SITES	NOTES
Manual	**Hold plants gently at the base and pull, removing all stems and roots**	Sites less than 10 square metres or sensitive sites	• Causes minimal harm to surrounding plants • Any plant pieces left in the soil may re-sprout • May take many years to control
	Cover plants with landscape fabric, or thick layers of cardboard/newspaper plus mulch	Sensitive sites with few other plants or other obstacles	• Expensive • Cover should extend beyond the infestation and be secured at the edges • Cover stays in place 4-12 months
Mechanical	**Use a rake or tilling machine to remove the roots and top layer of soil**	Sites with few other plants	• May harm surrounding plants

Regardless of treatment method, follow-up will be necessary to control plants that were missed or regrow. Restore the area with native or non-invasive plants.

How Can You Help?

- Do not purchase, trade or grow yellow archangel, even in containers or hanging baskets.
- Control invasive plants and replace them with a non-invasive alternative. Check out **growgreenguide.ca** for suggestions.
- Do not place invasive plants in your backyard composter as the temperature will not become hot enough to destroy the seeds and roots.
- To reduce the spread of invasive species, dispose of yard waste and soil appropriately. Visit your municipality's website for more information.
- Download the '**Report Invasives BC**' app to identify and report invasive species.
- Join a stewardship group and help remove invasive species from local parks.

Yellow archangel covering the forest undertstory

CREDIT: F. STEELE

For the complete set of best management practices for yellow archangel, and other key invasive species, visit **metrovancouver.org** and search 'Invasive Species'.