

## **How to help heal Massachusetts wooded areas infected with Garlic Mustard**

**Seed them with Golden Groundsel (*Packera aurea*) seeds. This plant is also known as Golden Ragwort.**

The best method is to remove as much Garlic Mustard as you can, concentrating first on clearing small areas of just a few plants & then making large areas smaller by working from the perimeters in. More on how to remove it at [WildCohasset.org/garlic-mustard-resources](http://WildCohasset.org/garlic-mustard-resources).

But even if you can't do this, you can help by adding in a native plant that's beneficial to wildlife and has been shown to 'hold its own' or even outcompete Garlic Mustard: Golden Groundsel.

While planting growing plants is the most effective, this may be impractical for large wooded environments. Luckily, Golden Groundsel seeds germinate easily in a wooded environment with little prep.

### **A. How to Successfully Scatter Them**

To mimic nature but maximize your success rate, use the "**Scratch, Scatter, and Stomp**" method.

#### **1. Choose the Right Spot**

Golden groundsel prefers **moist to average, rich woodland soils** and partial to full shade. Look for low-lying areas, woodland edges, or spots near streams or damp depressions.

#### **2. Prep the Ground (The "Scratch")**

Find a few patches in your woods and use a hard rake to clear away the thick layer of fallen leaves and twigs. You want to expose the bare, dark forest soil underneath. Lightly scratch the surface of the dirt to loosen it up just a bit.

### 3. Sow the Seeds (The "Scatter")

Scatter your seeds directly onto the exposed soil. **Do not bury them.** Ensure good contact with the soil as follows:

Walk over the area where you just scattered the seeds, or press them firmly into the dirt with your hands. This presses the seeds securely into the damp soil without burying them, ensuring they stay put and get the moisture they need while still receiving light.

### B . Timing is Important

Best time to scatter your seeds:

**Late October – early December** (Thanksgiving is typically the sweet spot) This is the easiest method. Golden groundsel seeds naturally require a period of cold, damp weather (called cold stratification) to break their dormancy.

If you scatter them in late fall, winter snow and rain will naturally press them into the dirt and trigger them to pop up first thing in the spring.

### C. Sources to purchase seeds:

-PrairieMoon.com (seeds are called Golden Ragwort here)

-BlueStemNatives.com

**\*If you wish, you may scatter a selection of seeds for better diversity in the woods; just note that some seeds take longer to germinate.**

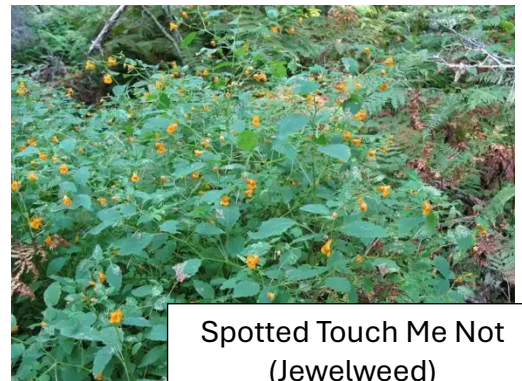
**The best mix for many South Shore woodlands: Golden Groundsel, Spotted Touch Me Not, and Wild Columbine.**



Golden Groundsel



Columbine



Spotted Touch Me Not  
(Jewelweed)