

GARDEN VALERIAN

A non-native invasive plant of wetlands and roadsides.



Garden valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) is a perennial non-native invasive plant of sunny wetlands and roadsides. Untreated, this plant can form dense infestations that replace native vegetation and harm wildlife habitat. This plant is particularly abundant around the city of Bergland in Ontonagon County, Michigan. The US Forest Service is concerned about the spread of garden valerian along road shoulders, ATV routes, and the gas pipeline onto National Forest land.

In 2006, the Ottawa National Forest and Ontonagon County Road Commission began measures to try to control the spread of the invasive plant garden valerian. The Road Commission does extra mowing along M28, Forest Road 400, and Old East Shore Road, to keep this weed from going to seed. The US Forest Service hand-pulls all the populations on National Forest land. If you have any of this plant on your property, please consider replacing it with something else, or keeping it contained to your flower beds and removing seed heads after flowering before seeds are dispersed. For more information, contact Ian Shackelford, Botanist with the Ottawa NF, at 906-932-1330 x331.

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