

Lady's Mantle

Alchemilla Mollis

Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle) is a popular, hardy, herbaceous perennial with scalloped, dew-collecting leaves and yellow-green flowers, often grown as groundcover. While prized for borders, it can become an aggressive, weedy self-seeder that spreads easily and is difficult to remove due to its perennial, root-spreading nature.

Identification

Leaves: Velvety, soft-hairy, circular, and prominently pleated with 9–11 shallow, serrated lobes.

Water Retention: The leaves are hydrophobic, causing water droplets to collect and shimmer in the center of the leaves, resembling beads of mercury.

Flowers: Small, 1/4-inch wide, star-shaped, petal-less, chartreuse-yellow flowers that appear in frothy sprays above the foliage.

Growth Habit: Forms compact, mounding clumps that spread slowly via rhizomes, but can spread aggressively via seeds in ideal conditions.



Control

Prevent Seeding (Crucial): Cut back flower stems immediately after flowering, before they brown off and disperse seeds. A hard prune to the ground in midsummer keeps it tidy and stops spread.

Manual Removal: Dig up entire plants, including the roots, as left-behind pieces can regrow. This is best done in spring or autumn.

Chemical Control: Apply a systemic weed killer to the leaves, which moves down into the roots, or a broadleaf herbicide. Triclopyr is effective.

Maintenance: Use mulch to suppress seedlings in flower beds.

Disposal: Do not compost or remove the flower heads, as they may contain viable seeds.

