

# Hiking Garfield Trail

## Garfield Trail

**Access:** From Route 3 south, 0.2 miles past intersection of Trudeau Road take a left at the entrance to Gale River Loop Road. The Garfield Trail is located 1 mile in, just before crossing the fourth bridge. Hiker parking is over the bridge and on the right.

**Trail Beginning:** 1520 ft. in elevation (461 m). The Garfield Trail head is located off the Gale River Loop Road (FR rd. #92).

**Trail Ending:** 4200 ft. in elevation (1273 m). The Garfield Trail ends at the junction of the Garfield Ridge Trail.

**Length:** 4.5 miles to junction of Garfield Ridge Trail, 4.7 miles to summit.

**Camping:** to limit resource damage and enhance the recreation experience of all users, the following regulations are in effect:

1. Camping & fires are prohibited above treeline.
2. Camping & fires are prohibited within .25 miles of Garfield Ridge campsite.
3. Camping & fires are prohibited within 200 ft. of the Garfield Ridge Trail.
4. Fire permits are not required to use wood or charcoal fires within non-restricted areas. However, you are responsible for any fire you kindle, and are subject to a fine and any suppression costs if the fire escapes.

The Garfield Trail follows the grade of an old tractor road for most of its length. The trail is level for the first 1.2 miles and crosses three streams. At 0.7 miles, just before the first crossing, the trail bears to the left where an old logging road veers off to the right. The third crossing, at Spruce Brook, is the last sure water. For the next 3.3 miles the trail ascends at a moderate grade with numerous switchbacks following the old road. The trail passes through a mixed forest of northern hardwood & conifers. About 0.5 miles below the junction of the Garfield Ridge Trail there is a view to the west of Mt. Lafayette & North Peak through an area of blowdowns. To reach the summit of Mt. Garfield take a right at the junction of the Garfield Ridge Trail. The 0.2 mile hike to the summit is very steep & rocky. A left at the junction follows the Ridge Trail to Garfield Ridge Campsite at 0.2 miles, Franconia Brook Trail at 0.7 miles and Galehead Hut at 2.7 miles

**Caution:** The summit of Mount Garfield is above timberline. Storms intensify in severity above timberline. If weather conditions turn bad, turn back before its too late.

