

Weed Information Sheet:

goutweed

Aegopodium podagraria

Identification:

Common Perennial forb

Height: 12-30" Width: 12-∞"

Leaf Arrangement: alternate

Flower: White

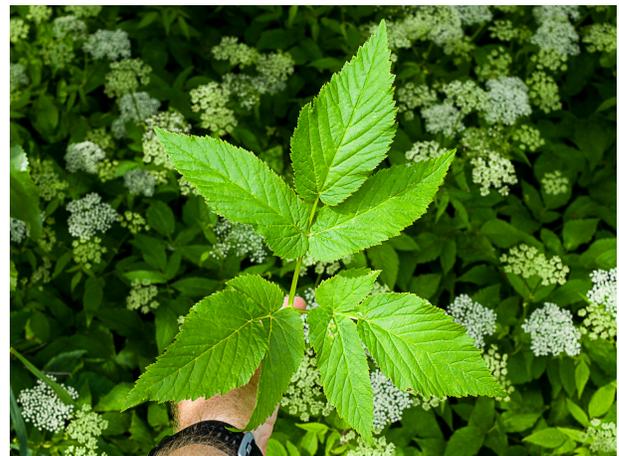
Blooms: Late spring to Early

Fruit: naked seed

Fall Color:

Apiaceae (Carrot family)

Goutweed grows in ever-expanding colonies and its basal leaves grow to a height of up to 12". The leaves of this plant can be variegated (fringed with white) or solid green in color. These leaves are divided into 3 (occasionally 5) leaflets and there are distinctive sheaths on the leaf stalks. In early summer flower stalks sprout and reach a height of up to 24". The pale white flowers are born on umbels and are similar in appearance to other members of the carrot family. These are followed by pale green seed pods.



goutweed

Aegopodium podagraria

AKA: Bishop's goutweed, bishopweed



NR-40 Restricted

Description & Impact:

Also known as bishop's weed or snow-on-the-mountain, goutweed is a perennial in the carrot family (Apiaceae). It typically invades woodlands and other shady areas from adjacent horticultural beds. It primarily spreads vegetatively by a network of rhizomatous roots. This species spreads aggressively in both natural areas and gardens, forming dense colonies that can exclude all other vegetation.

Control Methods:

Organic: Even small fragments of goutweed root can resprout into a new plant, so care must be taken to remove the entire root system when digging. These roots are typically within the top 6" of soil. Sift through the uprooted soil to remove additional root fragments. Be sure to dispose of the stems and roots in the trash or a burn pile so they do not have the chance to resprout elsewhere. Inevitably, you will miss some root fragments, so plan to dig out any resprouts that occur over the next year.

Smothering can be successful if you are able to cover the entire goutweed colony. First cut mature plants to ground level. Then lay down a tarp or landscaping cloth over the entire plant colony. Cover this material with something to weigh it down, such as bricks, mulch or soil, and leave this covering in place for one full growing season. Once you remove these materials the goutweed should be dead, leaving the area ready to plant.

Chemical: Goutweed's extensive root system makes it somewhat resistant to herbicide, it will resprout from unaffected portions of the root after a single herbicide application. Still, a foliar application of herbicide (Round-Up®, etc.) is the most efficient method of goutweed control. It will be most sensitive early in the growing season while the leaves are still tender, or mow the goutweed at any time during the growing season and apply herbicide to the resprouting leaves a few weeks later. Repeat application as needed until the entire colony is eradicated.

Always read herbicide labels carefully before use and always apply according to the instruction on the product label.

Revegetation Recommendations: Virginia waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*) is a native groundcover which can be fairly aggressive in a garden setting so it is best to plant it in a contained area. It's attractive lavender flowers in late spring and provides food for bees and other pollinators. Great waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*) is similar but less aggressive, and less commonly available for sale. Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is another excellent native ground cover for shady areas. For partial shade to full sun try Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) and/or wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*). Both species have attractive flowers (yellow and pink, respectively) and interesting foliage.

Citations: