

Aegopodium podagraria,
Bishop's Goutweed

Goutweed is native to Europe, and northern Asia. It can easily spread to form dense patches, displacing other plants and reducing the areas biodiversity. Called gardeners-plague in some literature, goutweed does extremely well in garden beds and disturbed areas.

Description: The leaves are basal, with three leaflets attached to the stalk. The leaflets are toothed and irregularly shaped. The foliage of goutweed is a medium green in color, although in landscaping it is commonly variegated. Small, white petaled flowers are arranged in compound umbels, typically appearing on a tall stem reaching three feet tall.

Control: There are a variety of methods for removal, including chemical, manual, mechanical, and physical. Chemical herbicides, such as glyphosate, may be used to target the plant. Small patches of Goutweed may also be controlled by digging, pulling, or frequent mowing. Preventing the growth of Goutweed in early spring can be done by covering it up with plastic sheets though the summer months or after cutting fully leafed out plants (solarization).

Look-alikes: Bishops Goutweed may be confused with the native plant Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), although this plant will have yellow flowers and a smaller stature.

Flower Time and Description: Flowers are produced in the mid-summer, often appearing in June. These white flowers form umbels that are 2-5 inches in diameter, each umbel having 15-25 rays.

