

## *Aralia elata*, Japanese Angelica Tree

This tree looks like something a super villain would decorate a secret lair with. Can grow up to 40 feet tall, most likely an escaped ornamental from old estates.

**Population Status:** Confirmed– Saratoga Co.

**Description:** This tree forms dense patches and is easily identified from the sharp thorns covering the bark and even sprouting vertically from the leaflets. It is pinnately compound, unlike Tree of Heaven which is singularly compound. The fruit itself is small purple-black berries which grow out of the umbel in late summer. This plant is most often found in direct sunlight and can grow in very little soil.

**Control:** No manual control. Pulling up stimulates it.

**Look-alikes:** Tree of Heaven (invasive but wide-spread) Devil's Walking Stick and Prickly Ash (native)

**Flower Time and Description:** Flowers in a large white umbel out of the top of the tree in August. The umbel can be 18 inches wide and begins to turn red as fruit comes to maturity.

