

Bishop's goutweed

Aegopodium podagraria

Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental.

Habit

A rhizomatous herbaceous creeping perennial that can grow up to 3 ft tall.

Leaves

Long-petioled, divided into leaflets, arranged in groups of 3. Leaflets are toothed or irregularly lobed, green or variegated green and white in color.

Stems

Leaf stems arising from the rhizomes are about 1 ft tall and typically far outnumber the fertile, flower-bearing stems. Fertile stems grow 2-3 ft tall.

Flowers

Small, attractive, white in color, 5 petaled; blooms in mid-summer.

Fruits and Seeds





Brown seeds are produced in late summer and are small and elongate.

Habitat

Native to Europe and northern Asia; grows well partial sun to full shade, with a preference for well-drained, moist, shaded areas such as forest edges and disturbed forests; infestations can be traced to ill-kept gardens.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by rhizomes.

Similar

Canadian honewort (*Cryptotaenia canadensis*), but the flowers of honewort are smaller in size and its compound leaves have only 3 leaflets, rather than 3 groups of leaflets.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull is not affective because it is difficult to remove the rhizomes and stolons. Dig up entire plants along with rhizomes, bag and discard. Frequent short mowing may control or slow the spread. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Contact herbicides are usually ineffective, repeat applications may be necessary.

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