



Aegopodium podagraria L.

Synonyms: *Aegopodium podagraria* var. *variegatum* L.H. Bailey

(other synonyms at <https://www.itis.gov/>)



Bishop's goutweed, greenyankee.com.

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Bishop's goutweed is a resilient perennial that with small, white, five-petaled flowers that are produced in mid-summer. Flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters on a leafy stem up to about 3 feet tall. The seeds are small and elongate, similar in size and shape to carrot seeds, and ripen in late summer. In contrast to the dense foliage cover produced by goutweed, flowering shoots are uncommon in densely shaded areas. Also called Bishop's Weed and Snow-on-the-Mountain (variegated form). Can grow from seed or from rhizomes.

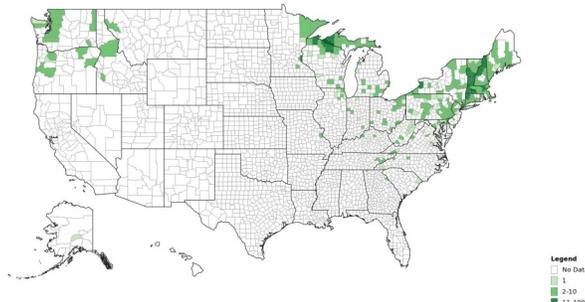
Habitat

In North America, Goutweed appears to do best on moist soil and in light to moderate shade, but is highly shade-tolerant and capable of invading closed-canopy forests.

Introduction and Impact

Bishop's goutweed is native to Europe and northern Asia, and now has spread around the world. Introduced to U.S. as an ornamental, it is currently found in 29 states and is considered an aggressive invader in Upper Great Lakes states and the Northeast.

Aegopodium podagraria spreads quickly over large areas using its underground rhizomes. Once established, goutweed is highly competitive, even in shady areas, with a high potential to crowd out native plants, thus reducing the diversity of ground cover and preventing the establishment of trees and shrubs.



Counties where *Aegopodium podagraria* occurs. EDDMapS. 2018. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed July 5, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

In the United States, Bishop's goutweed has been reported as invasive from New England to the east, across the Great lakes, and out to Washington State.

As an old-world ornamental that grows well in high latitude regions, Goutweed has been introduced worldwide in latitudes beyond 40° in landscaping as a perennial.



New sprout of Bishop's goutweed. Weedalogue.com.



Rhizomes of goutweed can persist underground and make removal efforts difficult. Drahrkrub, Wikimedia Commons.

Prevention, control, management

Once established, goutweed is very hard to eradicate, as the smallest piece of rhizomes can develop into a new plant. Hand pulling is effective only if all pieces are removed.

Fortunately, goutweed has limited seed dispersal and a short-lived seed bank so most of its spread to new areas is due to humans planting it in gardens and from rhizome growth in disposed garden waste. One effective method of control, therefore, is careful handling of plant materials and rhizomes during removal.

Regulatory status

Goutweed is restricted and/or regulated in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

References and Resources

Bugwood Wiki (https://wiki.bugwood.org/Microstegium_vimineum). Updated 17 February 2015. Accessed 26 May 2018.

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