

Aegopodium podagraria L.

Invasive to Maine

Goutweed
Ground elder

Upland
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



Leslie Mehrhoff, VS contributor



Look for large, oval-shaped leaflets. The leaflets are sharply toothed and are found in either pairs or triplets on the plant. Leaflets can be bluish-green, have white stripes, or be solid green.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



Leslie Mehrhoff, VS contributor



Look for a stout, erect perennial plant that is less than 1 m tall. The plant is low and resembles a cluster of leaves with the flowers extending up on tall stalks.

Stem



Leslie Mehrhoff, VS contributor



Look for a green stem that is rounded.. The stem is hollow and can be either grooved or smooth.

Seasonal Change



Leslie Mehrhoff, VS contributor



During the summer, look for umbrella-shaped groupings of flowers that are large with many small, white flowers. In the fall, look for flattened seed-vessels.

Similar Species

Goutweed can be easily confused with Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot). While the flowers of the two plants closely resemble each other, the leaves do not. Queen Anne's lace has leaves that are lobed and pinnately compound (resembling carrot leaves).

Did You Know?

Linnaeus, the scientist who devised our taxonomy system, recommended eating the young goutweed leaves like a vegetable after they have been boiled.

Researched and created by Jeffrey Rubel

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.