

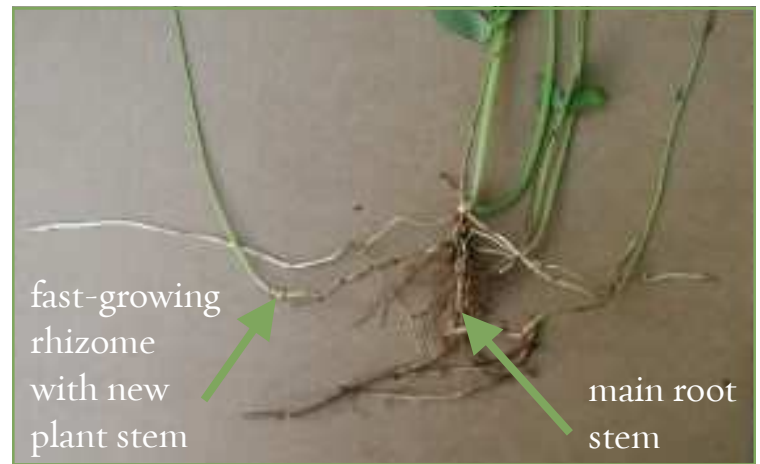
# GOUTWEED

invasive  
fact sheet



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Goutweed invades Vermont's fields and floodplain forests. It is easy to see in July when its white flowers are in bloom.



© Leslie Mehrhoff/ IPANE



goutweed



small white flowers found on tall stalks rising above leaves

© IPANE

variegated-leaved variety



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leaf with 3 sets of 3 leaflets

## DID YOU KNOW?

Goutweed, or Bishop's Weed, (*Aegopodium podagraria*) spreads quickly by fast growing underground roots called rhizomes. Even a small piece of a rhizome can re-sprout a new plant, so hikers and gardeners alike should take care to brush their shoes carefully after walking through a patch of goutweed.


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## goutweed

For new infestations:

 New infestations should be treated rapidly before an extensive root system is established. Hand pull and grub-up all stems, roots, and rhizomes. Bag all plant material and allow to sit for one week before disposing. Re-check site each year.

For large infestations:

 Cover the patch with thick black plastic in the spring as soon as new growth appears. Lay plastic on an area larger than the patch and secure edges with sandbags or bricks. Leave in place for a full year.

 Goutweed may also be cut in late summer, after leaf-out, and then covered with plastic.

DO NOT COMPOST THIS PLANT! Plant fragments can re-sprout



## non-invasive alternatives

© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



christmas fern  
*Polystichum acrostichoides*

© Phyllis Weyand/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



bearberry  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

lowbush  
blueberry

*Vaccinium  
angustifolium*



© Allan G. Austin/Canadian Museum of Nature

sweet  
fern

*Comptonia  
peregrina*



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