

# *Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum'

Variegated Bishop's Goutweed (*Apiaceae*)

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*Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum' is a poor soil-tolerant, variegated, deciduous groundcover that performs best in partial shade in evenly moist soils, and is vigorous in its establishment when given a large shady area to cover.

## FEATURES

### Form

- herbaceous perennial
- spreading groundcover, 8-10 " tall
- medium-sized herbaceous perennial groundcover foliage rises to 1' high from the many basal crowns, while the plant spreads indefinitely at its perimeter
- upright mat growth habit
- medium growth rate (at its perimeter by underground stolons)

### Culture

- partial sun to full shade
- tolerant of a wide range of soils, but prefers moist soils
- maintenance of variegated habit may require removal of all-green leaves that occasionally develop
- should be given boundaries as it is quite aggressive and can overwhelm a mixed bed; propagates by underground stems
- susceptible to leaf blights in hot, humid conditions (prefers cooler, drier air)

### Foliage



-ternate (3 leaflets per compound leaf) or biternate (7- 9 leaflets per compound leaf, with the lower leaflets sometimes fused together) foliage rises directly from the crown

-ovate serrated leaflets are pale gray-green with white- or cream-edged variegation making a good contrast to the otherwise gray-green foliage in shady situations

### Flowers

- white, non-showy flat-topped inflorescences (umbels)
- 1.5-3" wide
- late spring to early summer
- presence makes the plants look untidy

### Fruits

-ornamentally insignificant; the small brown seeds are borne on flat-topped fruiting stalks, and should be deadheaded after flowering to prevent self-sowing

## USAGE

### Function

- edging, border, foundation, raised planter, or focal point groundcover
- should only be used in a restricted root zone area (for example, between a sidewalk and a foundation) due to its rapid spread out-of-bounds by underground invasive stolons

### Texture

- medium texture
- thick density

### Assets

- wide environmental tolerances
- variegated foliage (the predominant form in cultivation) lightens up shady spot
- aggressive spreading growth (if this is desired)

### Liabilities

- can be invasive and take over
- MUST be restricted or the plant will overwhelm other plants, especially in rock gardens or in mixed borders
- summer leaf scorch under sunny and/or dry conditions

### Habitat

- Zone 4
- Native to Europe

## SELECTIONS

### Alternates

-other variegated groundcovers (*Ajuga reptans* 'Burgundy Glow', *Hedera helix* 'Gold Heart', *Liriope muscari* 'Monroe White', *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Variegata', *Vinca minor* 'Ralph Shugert', etc.)