PRE Score: 13 -- Evaluate this plant further
Confidence: 82 / 100
Questions answered: 19 of 20 -- Valid (80% or more questions answered)

Privacy: Public
Status: Submitted

Evaluation Date: October 8, 2017

This PDF was created on June 15, 2018
Plant Evaluated

*Aegopodium podagraria*

Image by Steffen Heinz
Evaluation Overview

A PRE™ screener conducted a literature review for this plant (*Aegopodium podagraria*) in an effort to understand the invasive history, reproductive strategies, and the impact, if any, on the region's native plants and animals. This research reflects the data available at the time this evaluation was conducted.

Summary

*Aegopodium podagraria* spreads aggressively via rhizomes to form large persistent colonies and can reproduce from small fragments. It appears to have limited reproduction and dispersal from seed which reduces its ability to spread into natural areas. The 'Variegatum' cultivar is commonly planted as a groundcover in Illinois, but it often reverts to the species and presents the same risk of invasiveness.

General Information

**Status:** Submitted  
**Screener:** Emily Russell  
**Evaluation Date:** October 8, 2017

Plant Information

**Plant:** *Aegopodium podagraria*

Regional Information

**Region Name:** Illinois

Climate Matching Map

To answer four of the PRE questions for a regional evaluation, a climate map with three climate data layers (Precipitation, UN EcoZones, and Plant Hardiness) is needed. These maps were built using a toolkit created in collaboration with GreenInfo Network, USDA, PlantRight, California-Invasive Plant Council, and The Information Center for the Environment at UC Davis.

Click [here](#) to see the generated climate matching map for this region. This climate match database is hosted by GreenInfo Network and publicly accessible.
Evaluation Questions

These questions are based in an original article published at the University of California, Davis, and can be found on the PLOS One website, here: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0121053

Invasive History and Climate Matching (Questions 1 - 6)

1. Has the species (or cultivar or variety, if applicable; applies to subsequent "species" questions) become naturalized where it is not native?

   Answer: Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
   * The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

   Answer / Justification:
   
   "Goutweed is currently known to occur in twenty-nine states in the mid-Atlantic, Northeast and Northwest (USDA PLANTS map) and is reported to be invasive in natural areas in Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wisconsin (WeedUS Database)."

   Reference(s):
   

2. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being naturalized in the US or world in a similar climate?

   Answer: Yes, which contributes 2 points to the total PRE score.
   * The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

   Answer / Justification:
   
   Aegopodium podagraria is naturalized in Illinois, as well as areas of the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Midwest which have a climate similar to Illinois.
3. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being invasive in the U.S. or world?

Answer: Yes, which contributes 2 points to the total PRE score.

The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

Aegopodium podagraria is prohibited in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont, and restricted in Wisconsin.

Reference(s):


4. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) noted as being invasive in the US or world in a similar climate?

Answer: Yes, which contributes 3 points to the total PRE score.

The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

Aegopodium podagraria is a restricted plant in Wisconsin and prohibited in Vermont, both of which share a climate with Illinois.
5. Are other species of the same genus (or closely related genera) invasive in a similar climate?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

The Global Compendium of Weeds has no citations for other species within Aegopodium.

Reference(s):


6. Is the species (or cultivar or variety) found predominately in a climate matching the region of concern?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

Aegopodium podagraria is widespread in the Northern Hemisphere. In GBIF, occurrences in Central Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the Northwestern United States do not match the climate of Illinois.
Reference(s):


Impact on Native Plants and Animals (Questions 7 - 10)

7. Does this plant displace native plants and dominate (overtop or smother) the plant community in areas where it has established?

- Answer: Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

"Goutweed is an aggressive invasive plant that forms dense patches, displaces native species, and greatly reduces species diversity in the ground layer. Goutweed patches inhibit the establishment of conifers and other native tree species as well."

Reference(s):


8. Is the plant noted as promoting fire and/or changing fire regimes?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Medium confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

There is no evidence of changing fire regimes.

Reference(s):

- [Anonymous] .
9. Is the plant a health risk to humans or animals/fish? Has the species been noted as impacting grazing systems?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Medium confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:
Leaves are edible. Cited as a weed of pastures in The Global Compendium of Weeds.

Reference(s):

10. Does the plant produce impenetrable thickets, blocking or slowing movement of animals, livestock, or humans?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:
As a low-growing herbaceous plant, it is unlikely to produce impenetrable thickets.

Reference(s):
- [Anonymous] .
Reproductive Strategies (Questions 11 - 17)

11. Does this species (or cultivar or variety) reproduce and spread vegetatively?

- **Answer:** Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
- The *screener* has a **Very High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

"Goutweed is vigorous, rhizomatous perennial that spreads mainly by vegetative means."

**Reference(s):**


12. If naturally detached fragments from this plant are capable of producing new plants, is this a common method of reproduction for the plant?

- **Answer:** Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
- The *screener* has a **High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

Small segments of rhizomes can produce new colonies, making eradication difficult.

**Reference(s):**

13. Does the species (or cultivar or variety) commonly produce viable seed?

- Answer: Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

Aegopodium podagraria produces viable seed though the usual means of reproduction is vegetative. "Establishment by seed requires recently disturbed soil and rather bright light conditions" (PDCNR)

**Reference(s):**

- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (0). Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania: Goutweed Aegopodium podagraria.

14. Does this plant produce copious viable seeds each year (> 1000)?

**Answer / Justification:**

No information could be found on quantity of seed produced.

**Reference(s):**

- [Anonymous] .

15. Is there significant germination (>25%) of seeds the next growing season, with no requirement of an infrequent environmental condition for seeds to germinate (i.e. fire) or long dormancy period?

- Answer: Yes, which contributes 1 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Very High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.
Aegopodium podagraria seeds show characteristics of deep complex morphophysiological dormancy, but the climate in Illinois routinely provides conditions needed for germination the next growing season. "In natural conditions, cotyledons of A. podagraria emerged soon after snowmelt in early spring." "Seedling emergence of A. podagraria in the garden was concentrated in the first spring after burial. Emergence of seedlings peaked between 19 February 2008 and 15 April 2008, and 82.7% had emerged by 29 April 2008."

Reference(s):


16. Does this plant produce viable seed within the first three years (for an herbaceous species) to five years (for a woody species) after germination?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

"Plants may reach reproductive stage 5 to 7 years after germination..."

Reference(s):

17. Does this plant continuously produce seed for >3 months each year or does seed production occur more than once a year?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a High confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

In Illinois, Aegopodium podagraria flowers May-June.

Reference(s):

- [Anonymous].

Dispersal (Questions 18 - 20)

18. Are the plant’s propagules frequently dispersed long distance (>100 m) by mammals or birds or via domestic animals?

- Answer: No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The screener has a Medium confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

Answer / Justification:

No evidence of dispersal by animals.

Reference(s):

- [Anonymous].
19. Are the plant’s propagules frequently dispersed long distance (>100 m) by wind or water?

- **Answer:** No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The *screener* has a **High** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

"Goutweed seed is dispersed by gravity, and a few goutweed seeds may be dispersed short distances by wind."

**Reference(s):**


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20. Are the plant’s propagules frequently dispersed via contaminated seed (agriculture or wildflower packets), equipment, vehicles, boats or clothing/shoes?

- **Answer:** No, which contributes 0 points to the total PRE score.
- The *screener* has a **Medium** confidence in this answer based on the available literature.

**Answer / Justification:**

"The primary vector for dispersal to new areas is humans. Most goutweed colonies spread to neighboring natural areas from intentional plantings, or by the dumping of yard waste that includes discarded rhizomes." No other evidence of dispersal by humans.

**Reference(s):**

Total PRE Score

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**Confidence:** 82 / 100  
**Questions answered:** 19 of 20 -- Valid (80% or more questions answered)

PRE Score Legend

The PRE Score is calculated by adding the point totals for each (answered) question.  
< 13 : accept (low risk of invasiveness)  
13 - 15 : evaluate further  
> 15 : reject (high risk of invasiveness)

Questions Answered Legend

It is important to answer at least 16 questions to consider a PRE Score as "valid".  
>= 16 : valid (80% or more questions answered)  
<= 15 : invalid (not enough questions answered)

Organization Ownership and Content Privacy

**Organization:** 2017 Farm Bill PRE Project  
**Content Privacy:** Public
Evaluation Reviewers

The PRE approach is to base decisions on science and make decisions by consensus of diverse horticultural stakeholders. The literature review and process of answering PRE's questions are based on science; the decisions of which plants to prioritize are based on consensus. To ensure this process is in place and that PRE is collaborative, volunteer stakeholders are recruited from each region to review evaluations. The following experts in their profession (plant science, conservation, or horticultural trade) have participated as volunteer PRE reviewers for this evaluation:

- Richard Hawke

This evaluation has a total of 1 reviewer(s).
Evaluation Issues

The following section lists all public issues for this evaluation. Issues provide a way for stakeholder reviewers to communicate any concerns or suggestions they might have with the plant or evaluation. Please email PlantRight@suscon.org if additional action is required to resolve open issues.

There are currently no issues associated with this evaluation.
About PRE and this Plant Evaluation Report

The PlantRight Plant Risk Evaluator -- PRE is an online database and platform enabling those involved in non-native, terrestrial plant production to know before they grow if a plant poses a regional invasive risk. This tool offers many benefits, and we encourage you to visit the PRE website (https://pre.ice.ucdavis.edu) for more information.

If you are a nursery trade association, or involved in the research, development or distribution of horticultural plants we invite you to join the PRE community. If you are a plant scientist, affiliated with a horticultural college or botanic garden, and would like to learn more about becoming a PRE Screener, please drop us an email, PlantRight@suscon.org, requesting a PRE Account.

PRE beta funding is provided by Sustainable Conservation (http://www.suscon.org/) and a USDA Farm Bill grant.