

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Five-leaf Aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*)

Also called: *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'variegatus'



Family: Aralia (Araliaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

General: Fast growing deciduous shrub 6 to 8 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide. Branches arching with short spines at each leaf bud along the stems

Leaves: Alternate, toothed, palmately compound leaves with 5 to 7 leaflets; 1 to 2.5 inches long, bright green. Variegated forms have leaves edged in white. Turning yellow in autumn.

Flowers: Small, greenish white borne in clusters. Appearing May through June.

Fruit: Small, black borne in clusters.

Look-alikes: Goutweed also called Bishop's weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is a highly invasive, non-native *groundcover* or *creeping* plant with 9 leaflets on lower leaves. Upper leaves may be variable. Some varieties of this plant may have white edges. Goutweed is widely planted in landscaping. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Habitat: Forest, open forest, forest edge, hedgerow, garden. Highly tolerant of a wide range of conditions.



Threats to native

habitats: Five-leaf aralia can form thickets that displace native plants and prevent growth of native trees, shrubs, and herbs.

NJ Status: Five-leaf aralia is uncommon. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Five-leaf aralia is widely planted for landscaping.



Sources: <http://en.wikipedia.org>
<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/campus/vermont/5/21/21.html>



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

