

Five-leaf Aralia (*Eleutherococcus sieboldianus*)

Also called: *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'Variegatus'

Family name: Aralia (Araliaceae)

Native range: Eurasia

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

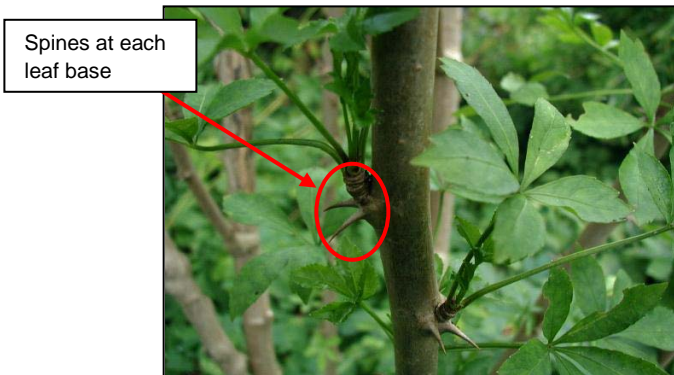
General description:

- Fast growing deciduous shrub
- 6'-8' tall and 6'-8' wide
- Branches arcing
- Short spines at each leaf bud along the stems



Leaves:

- Alternate, toothed
- Palmately compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets
- 1"-2.5" long
- Bright green
- Variegated forms have leaves edged in white
- Leaves remain late into fall (no fall color)



Fruit:

- Small
- Green to black
- Borne in clusters



Habitat:

- Forest, open forest, edge, hedgerow, landscaping
- Highly tolerant of a wide range of conditions

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Goutweed (or Bishop's weed)
(*Aegopodium podagraria*)

- Weedy groundcover-widely planted
- Most leaves are basal with flower stalk protruding (to 3')
- Leaves in groups of 3
- Some varieties may have white edges



Virginia creeper

(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

- Native deciduous vine with tendrils
- Palmately compound leaves, 3 to 5 leaflets
- Purple to red fall color develops early
- Bluish berries
- Lacking spines



Virginia creeper has larger leaves and is climbing or trailing vine.

Flowers:

- Small, greenish white
- Born in clusters
- Blooms May-June