

Eleutherococcus pentaphyllus,

Five-leaf Aralia

This invasive shrub has been used in landscape in shade gardens and shrub borders for its sharp thorns that keep out deer and intruders.

Population Status: Confirmed- Greene Co.

Description: This shrub has small green-white flowers that grow in umbels that appear in umbels in the spring. The species is dioecious, which means it needs male and female plants present to reproduce. When pollinated, it grows small black berries. The thorns appear beneath the stem nodes present at the base of the leaf's petiole. Those leaves are palmate compound and sometimes variegated, while its stems smell like gin when broken. Average height for the shrub is seven to ten feet tall when fully grown and at that height it is known to reproduce by suckering.

Control: Dig pick beneath the base of the root system and completely remove the shrub from the soil. Be wary of the plant's sharp thorns.

Look-alikes: Though sharing a name with *Aralia* species such as Japanese Angelica Tree, the plant does not look much like it at all.

Flower Time and Description: Small green-white umbels that bloom in the spring. The flowers are not the best identifying feature of this shrub due to their inconspicuousness.

