

Series: Difficult Weeds

Keywords: Roundup ProBio, Ground Elder

## CONTROL OF



## GROUND ELDER *with Roundup ProBio*

### BACKGROUND

Ground Elder, (*Aegopodium podagraria*) or Goutweed is a common, perennial weed of disturbed ground, gardens and flowerbeds. A member of the Umbelliferae family, it is widely established throughout Great Britain, though it is actually a native woodland plant throughout Europe and temperate Asia. It was probably introduced to Great Britain by the Romans and was grown in the Middle Ages both as vegetable and as a palliative for Gout. Leaves can be used like spinach apparently having an unusual tangy flavour! By the sixteenth century John Gerard wrote: "Once taken roote, it will hardly be gotten out again, spoiling and getting every yeere more ground, to the annoying of better herbes".

Light green ternate leaves emerge in the spring and give rise to white flowers from May to July. Growing 30-80 cm in height it has very pernicious, deep-rooted rhizomes, which are the reason for its persistence as a weed. A planned programme of treatment is required for complete eradication.

### CONTROL METHODS

The rhizomes are very brittle and easily spread by cultivation. Each fragment quickly regenerates with new aerial shoots. Repeated cultivation and removal of top-growth will weaken the plant, but is not an efficient way to eradicate it.

### CONTROL WITH ROUNDUP PROBIO

Roundup ProBio should first be applied when the weed is in flower from late May to July, using a rate of 5.0 l/ha. Applications before this time will kill off the top growth but it will rapidly re-grow. Re-growth may occur in the autumn or in the following season, and this should be sprayed when there is a good emergence of green leaf and shoots (30-40 cm tall), at a rate of 5.0 l/ha.

Where areas are not cropped consider a first application in May, followed by rotavating after a minimum of 7 days. This will encourage all live rhizomes to break dormancy and produce aerial shoots. Then re-spray once the re-growth reaches 40 cm.

As this weed frequently occurs among desirable plant species the spray lance should be fitted with a sprayer hood or guard when working close to shrubs and cultivated plants. Alternatively applications may be made using a hand held weed wiper. The rate of application is 1 part Roundup ProBio to 2 parts of water.



## RATES AND WATER VOLUMES

Dose rates and application tips

### Overall Spray

5 l/ha - Allow to fully grow and spray in flower, typically May. Spray any re-growth at 5 l/ha. Use a sprayer hood.

### Hand-Held Weed Wiper\*

1 part Roundup ProBio in 2 parts water - Useful method when working amongst desirable plants & shrubs.

\*The Microwipe, hand held weedwiper is available from Billericay farm services, telephone 01268 710237

Most knapsack sprayers are supplied with a set of 4 deflector nozzles giving different swath widths but all delivering 200 l/ha of water at 1 bar pressure and a walking speed of 1 metre per second.

## Spot treatment in knapsack

Standard 200 l/ha nozzles



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