PLANT FACT SHEET

Mandragora officinarum L.

GENUS *Mandragora* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Mandrake, Love apples, Spring mandrake

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are sweet and edible.
CAUTION: The fruit are reported as poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A perennial herb. It grows 12-15 cm high and spreads 20-25 cm wide. The taproot is long and sometimes forked. The leaves are in a ring and are dark green and corrugated. They can be 30 cm long. The flowers are on a single stalk which grows from the centre of this ring. The fruit are round and yellow.

HABITAT

Taproots establish best in deep, moist well-drained soil. It does best in a sunny location and should be protected from cold winds. It can stand frost to -5°C. It suits hardiness zones 5-10.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed. It does not transplant easily.

NOTES

The roots contain many alkaloids. It is used in medicine.

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