PLANT FACT SHEET

Melilotus albus Medikus

GENUS *Melilotus* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES White sweet clover, White melilot

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Flowers, Leaves, Seeds, pod, Root

CAUTION: Don't use plants dried. Plants dried in damp poorly ventilated conditions can contain discoumarin.
Leaves and seeds flavour Gruyere cheese.
The young leaves before flowering can be added to salads or boiled for 5 minutes.
The flowers are used as a vanilla like flavouring.
The pea like seeds can be used for seasoning in soups.

DESCRIPTION

An annual or biennial herb. It grows 20-100 cm high. It is tall and bushy. The leaves are made up of 3 leaflets with teeth around the edge. The flowers are small and white. They are pea-like. The flowers and stalk are 5-20 cm long. The fruit is an oval wrinkled pod. It is 3-5 mm long and grey-brown.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows is tussock grassland. Tasmania Herbarium. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds. Plants produce a very large number of seeds and these can remain viable in the soil for many years.

NOTES

It contains coumarin which thins blood. There are about 20 Melilotus species. They are temperate and subtropical.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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