PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Mandragora autumnalis Bertol.

GENUS *Mandragora* **FAMILY** Solanaceae

COMMON NAMES Autumn Mandrake

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Fruit, Medicine

CAUTION: It contains alkaloids that are mildly poisonous.
The fruit are eaten raw.

DESCRIPTION

A low herb. It does not have a stem and it is hairless. It has a thick fleshy branched rootstock and keeps growing from year to year. The leaves form a large flat ring. This is 60 cm across. The leaves are oblong and stalked and have a wavy edge. The flowers are violet or purple and 30-40 mm across. They have 5 triangle shaped lobes. The flowers are produced in the ring of leaves. The fruit is an orange or yellow berry.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean climate plant. It can grow in cultivated land or on stony and waste places.

NOTES

There are 6 Mandragora species. The roots contain alkaloids which help sleep.

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