PLANT FACT SHEET

Bryonia alba (L.) Bull.

GENUS *Bryonia* **FAMILY** Cucurbitaceae

COMMON NAMES White Bryony, Tetterberry, Wild hops

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Root, Leaves

The starch of the root is a famine food for extending bread flour after removing the acrid element.
The young shoots are eaten. They are boiled and then fried.
Caution: It is probably very poisonous.

DESCRIPTION

A pumpkin family plant. It is a vine that keeps growing from year to year. It grows 2 m high and spreads 2 m wide. The rootstock is large and fleshy. The stem is weak and climbing. It has prickly spiral tendrils. These are opposite the leaves. The leaves are rough and have 5 leaflets like fingers on a hand. They are heart shaped. The flowers are green, white or yellow. They are small and of one sex. They are in the axils of leaves. The fruit are small, round berries.

HABITAT

It is a Mediterranean plant. It is best in a moist, rich soil. It needs an open sunny position. It is resistant to drought and frost.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are about 10 Bryonia species. It is used in medicine.

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PARMENTIER

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