

## White bryony (*Bryonia dioica*)



*Round fruit, yellow, turning red when ripe*



*Flowers are whitish with green veins*

White bryony is a cucumber-like perennial vine that grows up to 6 m high. It is frost tolerant and could grow in open or disturbed forests, forest edges and hedgerows. It is toxic to livestock and humans.

This plant has a long, slender bristly stem that arises from a massive cylindrical tuber. The stem is soft and its tendrils allow it to climb. The leaves are 15 cm by 15 cm, with 5 lobes, dying back to the basal tuber in winter. The flowers are tubular, 2 cm long, whitish with green veins and appear between January and March. Its fruit is round, smooth-skinned, succulent, yellow, turning red.

Spread is by bird dispersed seeds.

**White bryony is of very limited distribution in the wild in New Zealand. Any possible new sighting should be reported immediately to your Regional Council.**