

# White bryony

*Bryonia cretica ssp dioica*

## Notify Council

White bryony is an Unwanted Organism under the Biosecurity Act (1993); propagation, spread, display and sale are prohibited. If you find this plant contact MPI's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

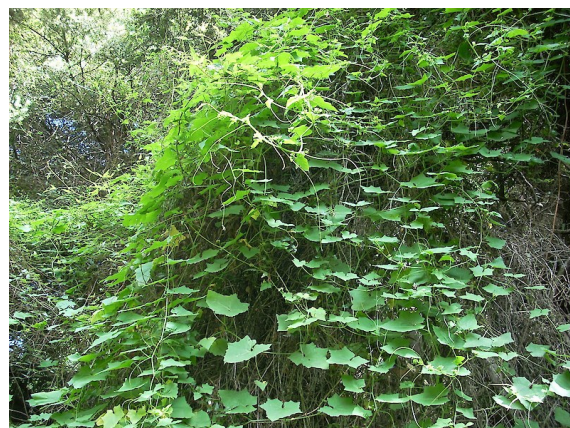
## What is council doing about this?

White bryony is 1 of 9 National Interest Pest Response (NIPR) species that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has identified for either eradication or national control. MPI works closely with the regional councils and Department of Conservation on these programmes.

## What does it look like?

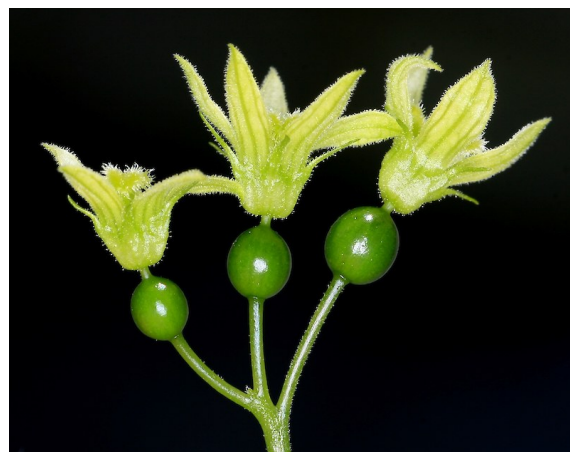
Soft, summer-green, cucumber-like vine (<6 m tall) that dies back in autumn to a huge, branching, brittle, perennial tuber (45-160 x 100-800 cm), oriented vertical to horizontal. Soft slender stems with coiling tendrils arise from the end of the tuber, with thin, 5-lobed leaves (<15 x 15 cm), with the middle lobe being the longest. Whitish tubular flowers (<2 cm long) with green stripes are followed by smooth-skinned, round, succulent fruits (4-8 mm diameter) from January to March that change from yellow to red and contain numerous seeds.

Tuber fragments are spread by water and soil movement. Seed is spread by birds.



## Why is it a problem?

Grows rapidly, has a scrambling habit and persistent tubers, and can tolerate wet to seasonal drought, warm to cool temperatures, a variety of soils, and semi-shade. Poisonous (not browsed by animals). Smothers low canopy and shrubland, and discourages native seedlings from establishing. Likely to invade disturbed and open forest and shrubland, and stream edges.



## Control Methods

If you suspect that you have found white bryony, do not touch it. This pest plant is under an active national eradication programme, and any attempt to get rid of it could accidentally spread the pest. MPI will work with you to control the weed - tuber fragments resprout prolifically. Follow up tuber treatment is probably necessary for 2-5 years until eliminated.

## Related Links

NIPR programme <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/long-term-biosecurity-management-programmes/national-interest-pest-responses-programme/>

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/white-bryony/>

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## Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.