

## **White bryony**

*Bryonia Alba*

White bryony is a vigorous perennial vine resembling Kudzu in its growth habit. It forms dense mats which shade out all vegetation it grows upon. It has major destructive potential to native vegetation, forest communities, and urban horticulture. The berries are toxic to humans.

White bryony is an herbaceous perennial vine with climbing stems that grow 12 feet long, or more. It has thick, fleshy, light yellow roots. This plant is monoecious (separate male and female flowers are found on the same plant). Flowers are greenish-white and up to 0.5 inch across. It has black mature berries with 3 to 6 ovoid to oblong seeds in each one. The berries are especially poisonous (though all parts of the plant are). White bryony reproduces by seed that is spread by birds. Plants can also resprout from the roots.

The leaves are simple, triangular, alternate, broadly toothed and 3 to 5 lobed. The upper and lower surfaces have small white glands.

White bryony stems are vines that can grow over and blanket other plants. It occurs as a climber in trees and fence rows and when disseminated in an area where there is nothing to climb, it will form dense mats shading out all other vegetation. It grows in disturbed areas, riparian areas, and roadsides.

Washington distribution maps show that it has only been found in 7 counties in the SE corner of the State. It is well distributed in Asotin County but is not yet abundant. This plant threatens CREP plantings and other riparian vegetation. Using herbicides puts the underlying vegetation at risk. It is possible to kill the plant by chopping off the top couple of inches of the root. Franklin County received a grant from WSDA that allows them to experiment with different herbicides to try and control the white bryony without killing the supporting vegetation. This spring will be their first trials. Information on control will be available as it is received.



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