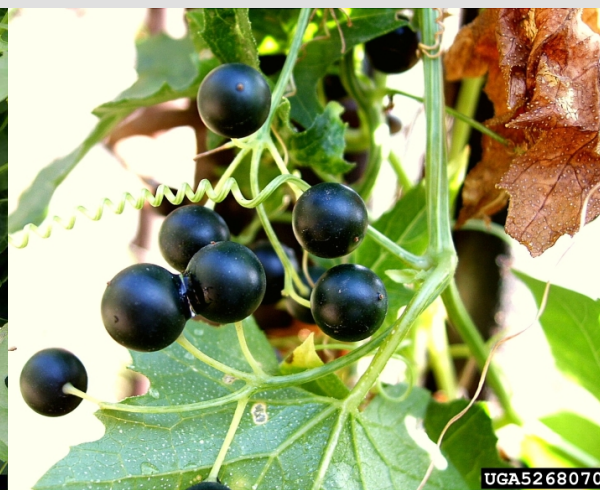


Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

White bryonia
Bryonia alba

Other common names: white bryony, wild hops, devil's turnip, western kudzu

USDA symbol: BRAL
ODA rating: A



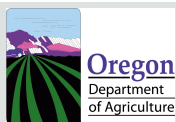
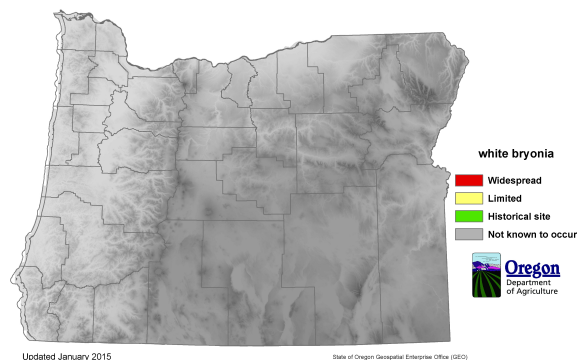
Introduction: White bryonia is native to Europe and northern Iran. It is documented in the U.S. in Montana, Nez Perce and Latah counties in Idaho, as well as the southeastern counties of Washington State. Reports indicate that it is spreading rapidly in all areas.

Distribution in Oregon: This plant is not known to be present in Oregon at this time.

Description: White bryonia is a vigorous herbaceous perennial vine resembling kudzu. Mature plants smother small trees and shrubs with dense growth shading out any vegetation it grows on. Vines emerge each spring from a large fleshy parsnip-shaped tuber growing up to 30 feet each season. The herbaceous vines sport tendrils and alternate, palmate, lobed leaves. Flowers are small, greenish-white, five petaled and produced in clusters forming dark-blue berries later in the summer. When crushed, the berries emit a bad odor. The plant leaves and vines resemble the native western wild cucumber, though the native cucumber has a golf-ball sized fleshy pod, very unlike the black berries of white bryonia. Seed dispersal is rapid, aided by birds that ingest the blue-black seeds transporting them short and long distances.

Impacts: White bryonia aggressively climbs and smothers small trees and shrubs commonly found along riparian areas and springs. Thick growth excludes all other vegetation. Many important geographic areas are at risk especially Hells Canyon and other river canyons of the Pacific Northwest where it can be expected to compete with native plants. Control and removal costs currently represent the largest economic cost attributed to white bryonia invasion. Vines present a problem in yards, fencerows on farms and in parks. Control is difficult and often takes several years. All parts of the plant contain bryonia, which is poisonous to humans. Poisoning cases have been reported from this and related species worldwide. Livestock are also poisoned.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. The weed will be targeted for eradication.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol Street NE • Salem, OR 97301
503-986-4621 • www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/Default.aspx

Photos by Jan Samanek, SPA,
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