



# WHITE BRYONY

## Have you seen this pest plant?

**The threat:** White bryony poses a threat to New Zealand's environment with its ability to smother and shade whatever it grows on.

### Where is it found?

White bryony (*Bryonia cretica subsp. dioica*) is limited to a location along the Rangitikei River near Mangaweka and around Aria and Mokauiti Valley in the King Country. This limited distribution means we have a real chance of achieving national eradication before it spreads any further.

White bryony grows in diverse habitats such as hedges, fence lines, rank grass, native forest and scrub and it also occurs in paddocks, and exotic plantations. Plants are usually found under places where birds perch.

### What is white bryony?

White bryony is a garden plant introduced from Europe, Western Asia and North Africa that has become a weed pest in the wild. It is a soft green cucumber-like vine which climbs up to six metres. It produces clusters of small cream flowers in spring, and berries in bunches of 5 to 8 that ripen to light red from January to April. Seed is spread by birds. The shoots die back in autumn to a persistent perennial tuber. The fruit and tubers contain toxic alkaloids, which may be poisonous when consumed in quantity.

### Why is white bryony a pest?

White bryony smothers and shades out many of New Zealand's native and desirable introduced species. It has the potential to impact economic, biodiversity and landscape values.

It is one of the pests the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), in partnership with regional councils and the Department of Conservation, is working to eradicate under the National Interest Pests Programme. It is an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and is banned from sale, propagation and distribution.



### What you should do if you find white bryony

You can help us get rid of white bryony. If you have seen it or suspect you have seen it, please contact:

Waikato Regional Council:  
**0800 246 732**

Department of Conservation,  
Palmerston North Office:  
**06 350 9700**

In all other regions please contact the **MPI Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline**  
**0800 80 99 66**

[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)