

Solanum nigrum

COMMON NAME

black nightshade

FAMILY

Solanaceae

AUTHORITY

Solanum nigrum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

SOLNIG

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1853

ORIGIN

Eurasia

ETYMOLOGY

solanum: Derivation uncertain - possibly from the Latin word sol, meaning "sun," referring to its status as a plant of the sun. Another possibility is that the root was solare, meaning "to soothe," or solamen, meaning "a comfort," which would refer to the soothing effects of the plant upon ingestion.

nigrum: Latin meaning black

POISONOUS PLANT

Often mistaken for deadly nightshade. Recorded as being moderately toxic if eaten. The black berries are not very toxic.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/solanum-nigrum/>



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Solanum nigrum. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth