



CIMICIFUGA RACEMOSA (L.) NUTT.

Fam. Ranunculaceae

DESCRIPTION

Perennial herbaceous plant, very spectacular, with beautiful tufts of jagged leaves; it normally grows 60 cm tall, though it can reach up to 2 metres in full bloom.

HABITAT

Native to North America, this plant is widespread and spontaneous in the United States of America and Canada.

DISTRIBUTION

It was introduced in the European continent in the 1700s as an ornamental plant, for its beautiful and showy inflorescences and elegant foliage. Only in the 19th did interest in its medicinal properties re-awaken. In Italy, it is found in public and private gardens.

FLOWERS

Pure-white flowers bundled in a racemose inflorescence, similar to slender spikes (up to 60 cm long) which can remain straight or bend delicately. It blooms in late July.



LEAVES

Reminiscent of ferns leaves, they are wide, alternate, compound, tri-ternate, light-green and they originate from short and sessile petioles.

SEEDS

Very small and black.

STEM

Fragile stem that can grow up to one and a half metres tall.

INTERESTING FACTS

The plant was believed to repel tree bugs thanks to its strong pungent smell (hence its common name "black bugbane"); this belief later turned out to be false.

ROOTS

Trailing, fleshy, dark-brown rhizome with a wrinkled and irregular surface and a rather intense smell.