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Scorzonera hispanica

[Synonyms : *Scorzonera taurica*]

SCORZONERA is a perennial. Native to southern Europe it has dandelion-like heads of occasionally purplish-outside yellow flowers.

It is also known as Black oyster plant, Black radish, Black salsify, *Černý kořen* (Czech), Common viper's grass, *Echte Schwarzwurzel* (German), *Fekete gyökér* (Hungarian), *Hadí mord španělský* (Czech), *Hadomor španielsky* (Slovak), *Kara iskorcina* (Turkish), *Kara uskurcina* (Turkish), *Mustajuuri* (Finnish), *Salsifis noir* (French), *Sasefica di Spague* (Italian), *Scarsonere* (French), *Schwarzwurzel* (German), *Scorzonera salseficana* (Italian), *Skorzonero Hispania* (Esperanto), Spanish salsify, *Spanyol pozdor* (Hungarian), *Svartrot* (Swedish), Viper's grass, and *Winterspargel* (German).

Hispanica means 'of or from Spain'.

Scorzonera is still used today in France, particularly in the south-west where the unopened buds are added to omelettes (like asparagus tips (*Asparagus officinalis*) – some say better than).

Because scorzonera root is easier to peel commercially than that of **true** salsify (*Tragopogon porrifolius*) the latter is cultivated commercially for canning.