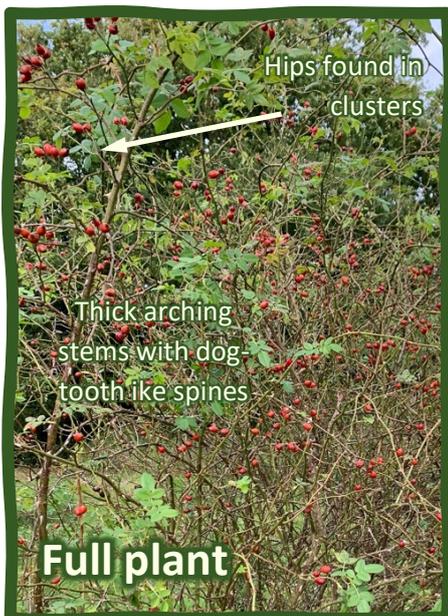


PLANT ID: dog rose

Rosa canina L. (agg.)



Fruit

The fruits of the dog rose are known as 'hips' or 'rosehips' and come in a variety of sizes and shapes. If they aren't eaten by birds, they can be seen throughout autumn and into early winter.

Cooks prize the hips, and use them for jams, jellies and infusing syrups and alcohols such as gin!



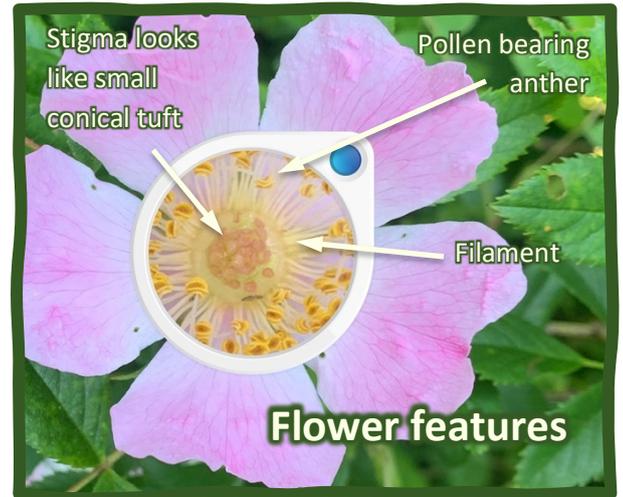
England's national flower – the rose – is sadly *not* one of its native wild roses.

PLANT ID: dog rose *Rosa canina* L. (agg.)

Helpful ID tips:

- ✓ Are the leaves hairy or not?
- ✓ What's the arrangement of the styles/stigmas on the hips?
- ✓ Are there any glands on leaves or fruit stalks?
- ✓ What does the plants habit look like? Describe the nature of the stem prickles and sepal lobes.

Scratches from the sharp thorns are a plant forager's 'rite of passage'!



Flower features

Look for 'whiskers' on each sepal

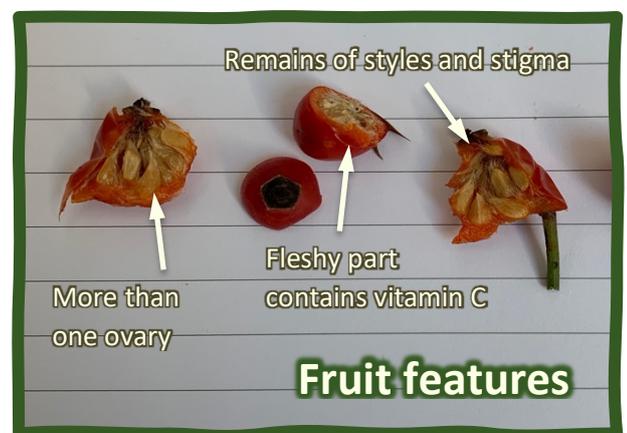


Robin's pin-cushion

Caused by gall wasps chemically distorting a leaf bud

Fruit features

Rose galls – known as Robin's Pin-cushion (*Diplolepis rosae*) were used in the distant past as amulets, believed to ward off whooping-cough.



Reproduction strategies:

Pollination: the plant is pollinated by insects. Dog roses are not choosy about the source of their pollen and so are known to hybridize with each other, which is why they always appear to have so much variability and create so much confusion when trying to identify them accurately.

Seed dispersal: the seeds are spread by birds and mammals.

PLANT ID: dog rose

Rosa canina L. (agg.)

Fact File:

CURRENT STATUS: Least Concern of becoming extinct
LOCATION: Found across the U.K, Europe and beyond

Plant Description (aka Taxonomy)

It is a member of the Genus – *Rosa*, which forms part of the rose family (*Rosaceae*). It grows as either a ground scrambling plant up to 3 – 4 metres, or as a climber reaching high up into the canopy (9m high) - resembling a rainforest vine. Known for its delicate pink to white flowers followed by bright red fruits (hips).



Flowers: June - July.

Flower Structure:

Flower colour is variable between white to pale pink and typically 4-6cm across, existing in groups of up to 6 individuals. Immediately beneath, are five pinnately lobed sepals that spread outwards (initially) before reflexing downwards against the fruit (hip) then falling away before the hip ripens. The stigma is likened to a small conical tuft.



Fruits:

September, October, November.

Fruits are called Hips and are 1.5 to 2cm long. Their size and shape range between round to elongated egg shape. Their surface is smooth and red when ripe.



Leaf:

A pinnate toothed leaf comprising 2-3 pairs of ovate leaflets that are glossy and hairless above, but sparsely hairy or glandular on the main veins of the underside of each leaflet. Leaf teeth are usually **twice serrate**. An elongated stipule extending from stem along a spiny and usually reddened petiole.



Habitat:

It is found growing in hedgerows, scrubby areas, woodland edge, waste ground, cliffs and railway embankments.

ALIASES

Also known as the cock bramble, wild rose, hip rose, dog rose and referred to as 'eglantine' by Shakespeare

What to look for



The leaves and the ripe fruits (hips) provide the most reliable way of identifying them.

Best time to see it and use it

- Fruits or 'hips' as they are commonly named, are ripe for picking from September onwards, especially after frosts or a night in the freezer.
- If the birds don't get to the hips too early, then they can be seen throughout autumn and into winter.
- June to July: summer walks to smell its blossom and see its interstellar like flowers glow brightly from the deepest and darkest of hedges.

Stem and trunk

A climber which often has thick and reddened (in places) arching stems that usually have robust curved/hooked spines (5mm wide at base) appearing like an old-dog's tooth.

FOOD WEB

Nectar gathered by insects. Rosehips are eaten by birds, mammals and humans. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of moths and leaf mining

IMPERSONATORS :

There are three other common wild roses that you will encounter ...
Field-rose (*R. arvensis*) also a scrambler, but only growing to 1m and has narrow-based arching prickles and weak green stems.
Sweet-briar (*R. rubiginosa*) leaflets and flower pedicels covered in brownish sticky glandular hairs that are apple scented when rubbed.
Burnet rose (*R. spinosissima*) stems with many long straight narrow bristles of different lengths and a black globose fruit. Typically found on the coast.



PLANT ID: dog rose *Rosa canina* L. (agg.)

What's in a name? Dog rose's Latin name, *canina* is derived from the ancient Greek belief that a tincture from the root was a cure for the bite from a rabid dog! The physical characteristic of the plant's sharp spines that in fact resemble an old dog's canine tooth and have the potential to inflict as much damage to the skin is probably more plausible.

Botany glossary (part 1)

Anther pollen-bearing part of the Stamen (male) found at its tip.

Filament a slender stalk that is part of the stamen.

Gall abnormal swellings of plant tissue

Hips name given to the fruits of Roses.

Leaflet smaller sub-component of a compound leaf; a smaller leaf.

Botany glossary (part 2)

Ovary a fused case in which there are one or more chambers in which the ovules are attached.

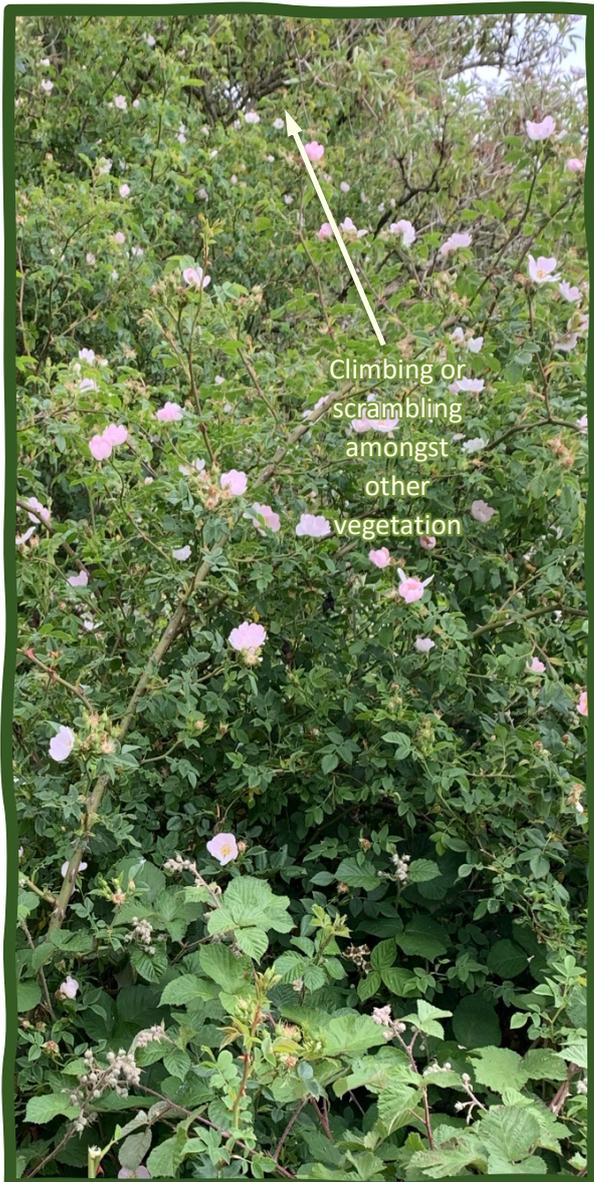
Pedicel the stalk of a single plant flower.

Petiole a stalk of a leaf.

Stamen male part of the flower, each comprising a filament and anther.

Stigma female part of the flower that transfers pollen collected from pollinators (e.g. bees) to the ovary.

Get up close to the Dog rose by taking a virtual tour using the Pappus film library.



Climbing or scrambling amongst other vegetation

The Dog Rose folk riddle:

The Five Brethren of the Rose is still today useful in helping identify the roses of the very variable '*canina*' group:

*"On a summer's day, in sultry weather,
Five brethren were born together.
Two had beards and two had none
And the other had but half of one."*

What does the riddle mean?

The Brethren refers to the five sepals of the dog rose, of which two have whiskers on both sides, while two are quite smooth and the fifth one is whiskered on one side only.

Global distribution

A native species that exists throughout almost all the UK and extends across Europe.



www.GBIF.org
bsbi.org

Global species risk of extinction

(IUCN – Red Data List)

Dog rose's existence is classed as of 'Least Concern'

