

Dog rose

Rosa canina



WOODLAND
TRUST

What to look for

A scrambling shrub

Long arching stems armed with curved thorns

Produces beautiful pink or white flowers in summer

Has striking red "rose-hips" in autumn

Where found

In woodland, hedgerows and on scrubland

Found throughout the UK, although more common in the south. Prefers heavy soils

When to look

First flowers in May and June

Ripe fruit in September

Not to be confused with...

The commonly planted *Rosa rugosa*, which flowers earlier



Did you know?

'Robin's pincushion', caused by the gall wasp *Diplolepis rosae*, is commonly found on *Rosa canina*

The term 'dog' means 'worthless', presumably by comparison with cultivated roses

The ancient Greeks believed that the roots of the dog rose could cure a person bitten by a mad dog - another possible explanation for the term 'dog' rose

The long stems of the dog rose have hooked thorns which help them to climb and scramble over other shrubs

The hips are high in vitamin C and were traditionally used to make a valuable syrup, especially in times of scarcity such as wartime

The fine hairs found inside the hips used to be popular with children, who extracted them for use as 'itching powder'

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