



Dog Rose



Latin: *Rosa Canina*

Irish: *Feirdhris*

The dog rose is the most common wild rose in Ireland and Britain. It flowers in June and July.

The dog rose is known by numerous other names, such as dogberry, briar rose, wild briar, witches' briar, hip fruit, and hogseed.

Habitat: This plant is usually found in hedges, woodland edges and scrubland habitats.

Height: The dog rose is a tall plant and can grow from 1-3 meters in height. It can sometimes grow even taller if its curved prickles can latch onto a tree for support.

Flowers: Delicate white/pink flowers appear on the dog rose in June and July. Each flower has five petals that are lightly scented.

Leaves: Between 5 and 7 oval leaflets with toothed edges grow on the stem of the dog rose. These are 15-40 mm long. The leaves produce a pleasant scent when crushed or rubbed.

Seeds: Red, egg-shaped fruits, known as hips, ripen from October to December. These hips are rich in vitamin C and are an important source of food for birds during the winter. The hips usually need two cold winters before they will start to grow.

Other: The petals of the dog rose can be used to make a scented jam. During World War II, when citrus fruits like lemons and oranges were unavailable in Ireland, rose-hip syrup was taken instead because of its high levels of vitamin C.