

Dog Rose

Rosa canina

Plants · In flower Jun–Jul · hips Sep–Nov



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A vigorous, arching, thorny shrub of hedgerow, scrub and woodland edge, with pinnate leaves and single flowers of five pale pink or white petals around a boss of yellow stamens. The hooked, downward-curving thorns let it scramble up through other shrubs. In autumn it carries glossy scarlet hips. Dog rose is common in hedges throughout the Dumfries area.

BEHAVIOUR

The thorns are not for defence so much as for climbing — they hook over other branches and let the long, whippy stems haul themselves up into the light. The hips are rich in vitamin C and were gathered nationally for rosehip syrup during the Second World War. Robins, blackbirds and finches feed on them, and the seeds are dispersed after passing through.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Roses (Rosaceae)
HEIGHT	Scrambles to 3 m or more
STATUS	Native; common in hedgerow and scrub

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