

Dog rose

Rosa canina

Growing up to six metres tall, the dog rose is one of the largest native wild roses. This common rose is a magnificent sight during its flowering season, when the shrubs are covered with hundreds of pink flowers measuring up to five centimetres in diameter. Like all roses, this species attracts visitors – bees, bumblebees, beetles and others – with a rich supply of pollen. Its rosehips can be used to make delicious teas, preserves and wines. Due to its high levels of vitamin C and other vitamins, it is also a time-honoured home remedy for colds.



Glaucous dog

Rosa vosagiaca

This species, also known as the Vosges rose, prefers to grow in cooler upland areas, where it is found mainly on stony soils. Its blue-green, glossy foliage and dense, compact growth make it easier to recognise than many other types of rose. The flowers are bright pink in colour and grow tightly clustered on short stems.



Round-leaved dog rose

Rosa tomentella

In Germany, the round-leaved dog rose is classified as an endangered wild rose species. It is an upright shrub with dense growth and strong, hook-shaped thorns. The puckered leaves are covered with glandular hairs. One of the most striking features of this rare wild rose are its large, white flowers. Here in Rheinland-Pfalz it is mainly found in the higher areas of the Hunsrück, where it grows along sunny forest edges and hedgerows, but can also be found as a solitary plant. It does not grow in the Middle Rhine Valley.



Thicket dog rose

Rosa corymbifera

The thicket dog rose is a large plant, notable for its rounded, non-glossy leaves. A dense covering of hairs on the leaflets and leaf stalks robs the leaves of their lustre. The hairy coat protects the leaf surface from the drying effect of the wind. At the same time, the pale, dead hairs reflect some of the sunlight, reducing the build-up of heat on the leaf's surface.

Thus well adapted to dry locations, the thicket dog rose is mainly found in vineyards, on the margins of dry woodland and on dry scrubland.



Rough-leaved

Rosa jundzillii

Growing to a maximum height of just two metres, the rough-leaved rose is one of the smaller species of wild rose. Its leaves are rough and leathery, hence its name. The bright pink flowers are quite striking and give off a pleasant fragrance.

The rare rough-leaved rose only grows in sunny locations with shallow soil. Where growing conditions are more favourable, it is quickly outcompeted by taller and thus more competitive rose species.



Small-flowered sweet

Rosa micrantha

The small-flowered sweet briar, which has now become rare, grows to above head height with long arching branches. It also produces suckers. The small, pale pink flowers that give the species its name only bloom towards the end of early summer. During the ripening stage the flowers develop small, egg-shaped rose hips. Outcompeted by most other roses, the small-flowered sweet briar only grows where conditions are too dry for the others. In the Upper Middle Rhine Valley, it can be found in dry, warm locations such as rocky outcrops, scree slopes, calcareous grasslands or at the margins of dry scrubland and forests.



Burnet rose

Rosa spinosissima

The burnet rose is the most unusual of all the native wild roses. Rarely growing to a height of more than 1.5 metres, it is also the smallest species. Its stems and side shoots are covered with prickles that are sometimes long, sometimes very short, but always straight. The flowers, which appear early in May, are brilliant white. The most remarkable feature of this attractive wild rose is its fruit. The hips of the burnet rose are small, spherical and black. This species, which is also known in Germany as the rock rose, avoids shade and usually grows near rocks or on nutrient-poor grassland, where it forms dense thickets by means of basal shoots.



Sweetbriar

Rosa rubiginosa

The sweetbriar is undoubtedly one of the most attractive species of all the wild roses. It prefers dry, sunny locations near rocks, on slopes or at the edges of dry scrubland and forests. In the past it was used as part of 'living pasture fences' and is still very common today.

One of its most striking features is the intense, dark pink colour of its flowers, which can grow up to 3 centimetres in diameter. The leaves of the sweetbriar rose are covered with numerous glandular hairs which, when touched, give off a pleasant aromatic scent.



Cinnamon rose

Rosa majalis

The cinnamon rose is a low-growing wild rose native to southern Germany. Its underground suckers enable it to form dense thickets. Because of its vibrant red flowers and shiny round rose hips, it was once a popular ornamental plant in cottage gardens, which is how it arrived in our region. In the Middle Rhine Valley it can occasionally be found growing wild. It grows on dry rocky slopes as well as in the floodplains of river meadows.



Apple rose

Rosa villosa

The apple rose is a small wild rose named for its apple-scented leaves. Its leaves have large, elongated leaflets, and the pleasant scent is produced by numerous glandular hairs. In spring, the shrub produces large, deep pink flowers with a pale pink centre. However, the most striking feature of the apple rose are its rose hips. They are almost spherical, sticky, densely covered with bristly glandular hairs and capped with long sepals. Due to its large, early-ripening rose hips with their high content of aromatic fruit acids and vitamin C, this plant was cultivated and popularised very early on.

This species, also known as the European mountain rose, can be found on sunny rocky scrubland, warm forest edges and scree slopes.



Field rose

Rosa arvensis

The field rose differs from all other wild roses on account of its climbing habit. Thriving in light shade, it grows towards the sun by hooking its prickles onto other plants. With its young, flexible stem sections, it can cover considerable distances in order to reach the next suitable support. In June and July, its large white flowers stand out above the other plants at the edges of woods and thickets. In the absence of suitable climbing support structures, this species will sprawl across the floor of open deciduous forests.

