

## Sweetbriar rose

### *Rosa rubiginosa*

#### Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental or hedge plant.

#### Habit

Medium to tall shrub, 1-3 m tall, usually thicket-forming, stems erect, armed with scattered, flattened, unequal, curved or hooked spines, sometimes also with short straight prickles; mature stems olive-green.

#### Leaves

Alternate, deciduous, odd-pinnately compound, the axis fine-prickly and densely glandular; leaflets 5-7, broadly elliptic to nearly circular, 1-2.5 cm long, hairy and stalked-glandular beneath, coarsely double-saw-toothed, the teeth gland-tipped; aromatic.

#### Stems

Usually many (up to several hundred) stems rising from rootstock; erect or scrambling; up to 3 m high; green to brown; smooth and somewhat





roughened; woody; branched; spreading and sometimes trailing; heavily covered with down-curved prickles up to 1.5 cm long.

### **Flowers**

Small clusters or solitary; on short, stout, glandular-bristly pedicels; 5 sepals; 1-2 cm long; stalked glands and some slender lateral lobes; spreading; deciduous at maturity; 5 petals, 1.5-2 cm long; bright pink; stamens numerous; pistils many; densely short-hairy.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Achenes bright red, enclosed by the fleshy hypanthium, ripens into a scarlet, globe- to egg-shaped hip 1-1.5 cm long, seeds are yellow, 4 to 7 mm long and irregularly shaped.

### **Habitat**

Native to Eurasia. Found in lowland and steppe zones.

### **Reproduction**

By seed, roots and suckers.

### **Similar**

Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), though the flower stalks are without prickles and the apex of each leaflet is acutely pointed.

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling, tractor pulling, bulldozing or ripping; Herbicides.

### **Credits**



Midwest Invasive Species  
Information Network

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