

Dog rose *Feirdhris*



Conservation Volunteers
Northern Ireland

Rosa canina



DESCRIPTION

A deciduous, suckering shrub with strong arching stems, usually 1-2m long, but capable of reaching 3m or more. They have hooked thorns, which enable them to hold on to other shrubs for support. Dog rose is found throughout Europe.

The flowers open in June and July, with the hips forming in late summer but not ripening fully until October.

It is found along the edge of woodland, in hedges and scrub, and on a wide range of soils that are not waterlogged or very dry.

The plant is very variable over short distances. For this reason, it is best grown from locally collected seed.

PROPAGATION

Dog rose is relatively easy to propagate, but patience is needed.

Collect the hips in October and remove the flesh by mashing. The separated seeds are mixed with compost, placed in pots, labelled and stored outside for 18 months. Protect from mice. Water during dry weather.

Sow the seed in March onto seedbeds or trays and cover with 5mm of grit or compost.

The emerging seedlings will grow rapidly, but watch out for mildew.

INTERESTING FACTS

- The fruits of dog rose are rich in vitamin C and can be used to make rose-hip syrup. This was used during the Second World War as an alternative to oranges.
- Dog rose makes a fine addition to any wildlife hedge. It is useful to birds, bees and small mammals.
- Dog rose is the ancestor of our cultivated roses.
- The flowers can vary from almost pure white, through cream to pink.
- Rose hips have also been used instead of itching powder!

Tree Nursery
Dendron Lodge
Clandeboy Estate
BANGOR
BT19 1RN

Tel (028) 9185 3570
Fax (028) 9185 2225
Email CVNI-Nursery@cvni.org.uk

Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund



**ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE**