

# Weed Sheet

Declared weed sheet : Dog Rose & Sweet Briar Rose

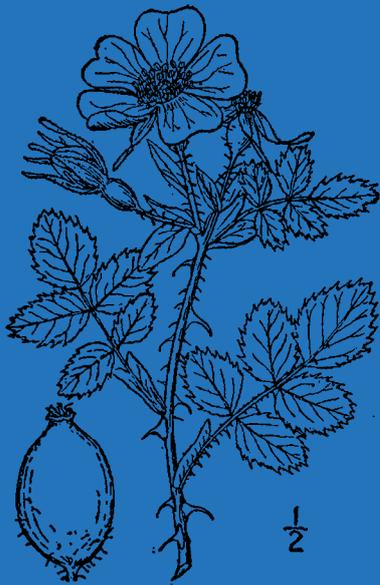


Government of South Australia  
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin  
Natural Resources Management Board

## Dog Rose & Sweet Briar Rose

( *Rosa canina* ) & ( *Rosa rubiginosa* )

Dog rose and Sweet briar rose are spiny perennial shrubs which form dense impenetrable thickets. They are unpalatable to stock, out-compete native vegetation and also provide ideal harbour for foxes and rabbits.



# Dog Rose & Sweet Briar Rose

## Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)

**Growth habit:** Dog rose is a multi stemmed perennial shrub between 2 and 5 metres tall at maturity.

**Stems:** Stems exhibit a green to reddish-brown colour and are smooth other than backward facing spines along its lengths. Arching over of the stems often results in a plant not reaching its potential height but rather increasing its diameter.

**Leaves:** The leaves are composed of a group of 5-7 leaflets, arranged alternately along a central leaf stem. Each leaflet is approximately 20-40mm long, broadly elliptical with sharply toothed margins.

**Flowers:** The flowers are highly variable in colour and range from pink to white. Each flower is 25-50mm in diameter and contains 5 sepals and 5 petals. Flowers are found in small groups at the ends of branches.

**Fruit:** Dog rose produces smooth reddish/orange ellipsoid capsules or hips in which the seed is contained. Seeds are numerous, appear yellow, are 4.5-6mm long and irregularly angled.

## Sweet Briar Rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*)

**Growth habit:** Sweet briar rose is similar to Dog rose although it is slightly smaller, reaching a maximum height of 3m.

**Stems:** Stems of Sweet briar rose are smooth when young and rough and woody when mature, like Dog rose they have backward facing spines although they are more varied in length and closer together. Sweet briar rose usually possess multiple stems arising from a shallow perennial rootstock.

**Leaves:** Leaves of Sweet briar rose consist of 2-4 pairs of shortly stalked ovate grouped leaflets 10-40mm long with small prickles along the leaf stalk. The leaves also contain glandular hairs on the underside and margins that secrete an apple like fragrance. The stems and underside of the leaves have numerous tiny dots which are visible when examined closely.

**Flowers:** The flower of Sweet briar rose vary from white to pink and are slightly smaller than the flowers of Dog rose, measuring from 25-40mm.

**Fruit:** The fruit or hip of Sweet briar rose is very similar to that of Dog rose, however Sweet briar rose fruits possess short spines at the stalk end. Both Dog rose and Sweet briar rose prefer well-drained, moderately fertile soils.

## Why are they a problem?

Given the similarity of Dog rose and Sweet briar rose; the agricultural, environmental and social impacts are almost identical for the two species.

Both species are highly unpalatable to stock and reduce the presence and productivity of desirable pasture species through competition. Both Sweet briar rose and Dog rose have the potential to invade native bushland resulting in a reduction of biodiversity through competition. There is also a potential biosecurity risk from their ability to host fruit fly.

The prickly nature of both species deter stock from grazing near the plants and once dense patches establish, can prevent the movement of stock and humans. Dense infestations of both pest plants also provide food and harbour for pest animals such as rabbits and foxes.

An allelopathic substance contained within the seed of Dog rose aids in the establishment of its own seedlings by inhibiting the germination of other species.

**Land Uses Affected:** Non Arable Grazing, Rangeland Grazing and Native Vegetation.

## How are they spread?

In the past, dispersal of both species occurred mainly through deliberate plantings as ornamentals or hedges, however such activity has long since ceased.

Birds are the main vector for dispersal of Dog rose and Sweet briar rose seed and occasionally other fruit-eating animals e.g. foxes. Both Dog rose and Sweet briar rose seed has the potential to be transported in mud that becomes stuck in the hooves or fur of animals. Seed can be dispersed vast distances by water along waterways, in addition to being transported by water washing off steep slopes.

## How do we control them?

**Physical Control:** Hand removal is an effective method of control for both Sweet briar rose and Dog rose, although it is time consuming and only suitable for young seedlings. Slashing and deep ploughing during winter is effective if accompanied by cultivation throughout winter to keep the roots exposed to the sun, followed by sowing desirable pastures to provide heavy competition.

Goats are known to readily consume both Sweet briar rose and Dog rose, providing continuous pressure to the plants that they have a tendency to prefer over many pasture species. An advantage of using goats to control both species is that they can also provide a cash return.

**Chemical Control:** Chemicals registered in South Australia for the control of Dog rose include 2,4-D and Picloram. Metsulfuron methyl is currently registered for the control of Sweet briar rose.

**Biological Control:** Research into potential biological control agents has taken place in New Zealand. Even though a number of agents have been identified with potential, none possess the essential specificity to ensure ornamental roses are not at risk of damage.

For more advice on recognising and controlling Dog rose and Sweet briar rose, contact your local Natural Resources Management Board Officer.

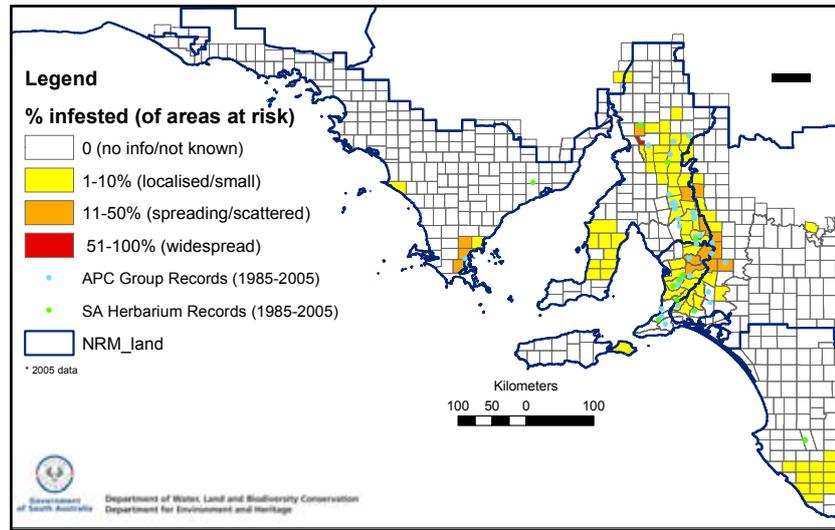
## References:

[www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au)

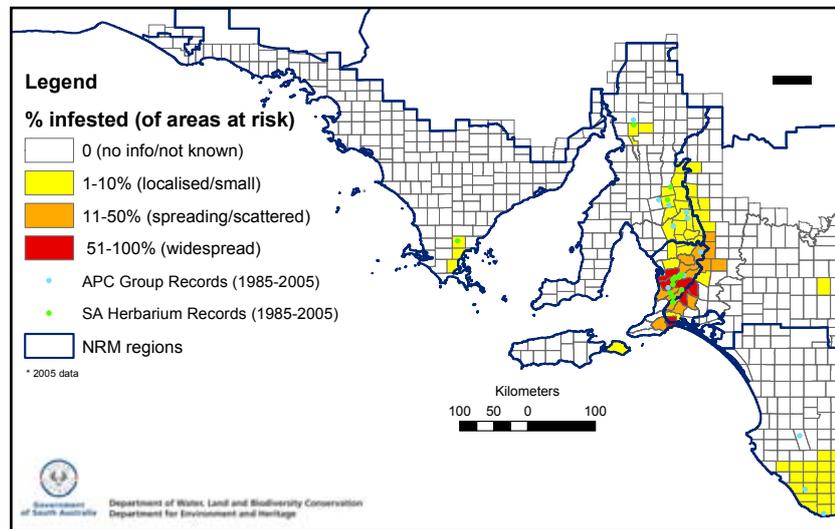
<http://en.wikipedia.org>

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Infestation Level of DOG ROSE ( *Rosa canina* ) by hundreds in the State of South Australia\*



Infestation Level of SWEET BRIAR ROSE ( *Rosa rubiginosa* ) by hundreds in the State of South Australia\*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	1	1				1	1	1	
1	1										1
									1	1	1
		1	1	1	1						

1) General Growth Pattern ( remaining is growth pattern under suitable conditions )

## Yearly Weed Life Cycle of DOG ROSE & SWEET BRIAR ROSE ( *Rosa canina* & *Rosa rubiginosa* ) in SA.

- Germination
- Active growth
- Flowering
- Seed set

# Contact us



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## Legislation

Dog rose and Sweet briar rose are declared under the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Act 2004.

Declared Plant Class:  
Dog rose, 3D(i) and Sweet briar rose, 3D(ii).  
Declared Plant Category: 2

The following provisions of the NRM Act 2004 are to be applied to the whole of the State:  
175(2) - relates to the movement of plants on public roads within a control area.  
177(1)(2) - relates to the sale of plants, or produce or goods carrying plants.

The following provisions of the NRM Act 2004 are to be applied in council areas specified within the 'South Australian Government Gazette':  
182(2)(3) - relates to the obligation of an owner of land to control and keep controlled the plant and take any measures prescribed by the relevant authority.  
185(1) - relates to the ability of the NRM authority to recover costs of control on roadsides from adjoining landholders.



**Natural Heritage Trust**

*Helping Communities Help Australia*  
An Australian Government Initiative

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