

Wild Rose (Rosa spp.)

What is Wild Rose?

A few native rose species, and many introduced examples, are present on Prince Edward Island. While identification of individual species can be confusing, almost anyone can identify a rose! For those who are interested, leaves, flowers, and thorns can help with identification to species level.



Figure 1. Rose Hips can be made into many products. © Photo Credit: J.D. McAskill.

What are its uses?

Many birds and mammals feed on the fruit (hips) of this plant, and its pollen and nectar are used by many insects. Rose hips can be used to produce a jelly which has a wonderful flavour and is very high in vitamin C. Tea can be made from dried fruit and/or leaves.

Where is it found?

This thorny shrub grows in various habitats from open woodland to fields, salt marshes, wetland edges, hedgerows, and back dunes.

What are the issues?

Sustainability - The amount of fruit varies over the years depending on weather conditions. Small mammals and various fruit eating birds will compete for the fruit.

Outdoor Etiquette - Few forest boundaries are well marked and few landowners regularly inspect their woodlands. Harvesters could cross boundaries inadvertently or deliberately. Follow rules of outdoor etiquette: If you take it in - take it out! Carry a compass and know how to use it!

Cultivation - These species can be cultivated.



Figure 2 Wild roses are found across the Island.

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