



Signs of the Seasons: A Maine Phenology Program

Indicator Species Fact Sheets

Beach Rose, *Rosa rugosa*

Beach rose is a perennial, deciduous woody shrub that forms dense, multi-stemmed plants that can grow to a height of five feet. Native to Asia, it has been naturalized throughout the northeastern states, including along the Maine coast. It has been used as an ornamental in landscapes, and to provide stabilization of sand dunes. However, because it spreads rapidly, it has been designated invasive in many states, though not in Maine.

Leaves: Leaves are dark green and heavily veined, with serrated edges. They appear wrinkled (rugose).

Flowers: Sweet smelling flowers, two to three inches in diameter, emerge all summer long. Flowers can be white, pink or purple with yellow stamens in the center.

Stems: Stems are covered with many straight, spiny thorns.

Fruit: The orange-to-red fruits of beach rose are about 1 to 1.5 inches in diameter. These fruits, often called “hips,” can be made into teas, jams and jellies, and provide food for small animals and birds.

Sources and Additional Information:

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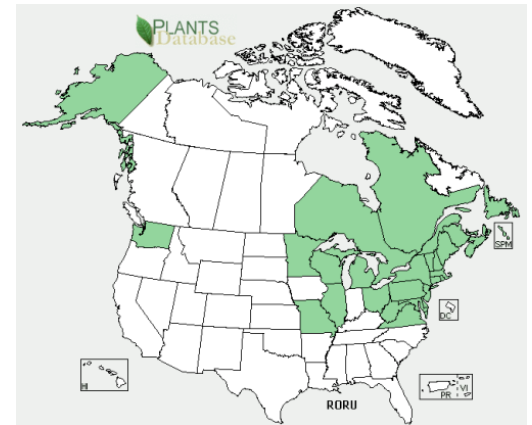
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UMaine Cooperative Extension: Maine Native Wild Blueberries, Woody Weeds, Rugosa Rose,
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http://www.gmri.org/upload/files/V5_Rosa_rugosa.pdf



Rosa rugosa flower.
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Rosa Rugosa distribution in the US and Canada. United States Department of Agriculture Plants Database



Rosa Rugosa hips
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