



Rose - *rosa*



The best time to spot Roses is in the summer when they are in flower. There are two species of wild rose in our wood - Dog Rose and Field Rose.

The Dog Rose, *rosa canina*, is widespread throughout Selsdon Wood especially in the field boundaries. It is low growing, around head height, and has long slender stems which dangle across the paths and scramble into surrounding trees and bushes (right 1/6/12).



The compound leaves are formed from 5-7 leaflets which are oval in shape and toothed with prominent veining on the back. The pink buds open to scented, pinkish white flowers with 5 petals borne from late May to early July.



The Field Rose, *rosa arvensis*, is less common with several specimens around the perimeter of David's Crook and some low growing ones mingling with the brambles by the Jubilee plantation. It may be distinguished from the Dog Rose by the fact that the flowers are pure white with striking yellow centres. It also flowers later in the year, in late June and July, after the Dog Roses have finished flowering.

The red fruit of both species - the rose hip - is widely eaten by birds and can be used to make a syrup for human consumption. The prickly stems of the Rose make it easy to spot even in the winter. The spines (formed from modified leaves) have points angled downwards which help the Rose climb through other plants.

There may also be a third species of Rose in Selsdon Wood, the Sweet Briar Rose (or Eglantine) - *rosa rubiginosa*, but none have yet been identified.

Take a summer walk through the fields and spot the Roses in the hedgerows.

