

RUGOSA ROSE/ BEACH ROSE

(ROSA RUGOSA)

2019 Status in Maine:

Widespread. Very invasive. Perennial deciduous shrub, up to 7' tall. Originates in Japan, China, and Korea.

Identify

Leaves: Compound with 5-9 oval, toothed leaflets. Leaves are heavily veined and appear wrinkled.

Flowers: Large and showy, often dark pink but can be light pink or white. Start blooming in June.

Fruit: Produces large, round, red, rose "hips".

Stem: Densely thorny with straight prickles. Unlike any native rose found in Maine.

Location

Tolerates nutrient poor but well-drained soils and salt spray. Often found in coastal habitats and beach dunes.

Parks of concern: Bug Light Park, Willard Beach, Thomas Knight Park.

Problem

It can quickly form dense thickets that prevent growth of native plants. It is quickly spread by water transportation and animal consumption.

How it spreads: Fruits are occasionally eaten by birds or small mammals but are most often transported by water. Can also spread by root fragments which can float.

Management

Small plants can be pulled when the soil is moist. Plants can also be cut but this must be repeated multiple times per growing season and for several years, as the plant can re-sprout. Care should be taken to dry or burn all plant parts before disposal.



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