

# SWEET BRIAR/BRIAR ROSE

*(Rosa rubiginosa)*

Jackie Miles/Max Campbell



Weed: sweet briar

Jackie Miles/Max Campbell



Weed: sweet briar  
Leafless during winter

Zoe Wood



Weed: sweet briar

Zoe Wood



Weed: sweet briar  
Note the backwards curved thorns

## Why is sweet briar a weed?

- An extremely invasive plant, sweet briar has spread into pasture, native grassland and bushland
- It is a common sight in both the ACT and surrounding tablelands
- Tolerant of frost and most soil types
- Reduces carrying capacity
- Can prevent vehicle access and restrict movement of stock
- Harbours rabbits

## Description

**Plant:** erect, deciduous, woody shrub, to 2m, with flat, backwards curved thorns

**Leaves:** roughly oval, bright green or blue-green. Compound in structure (made up of two or more leaflets attached to the leaf stalk, similar to ferns/some wattles) with 5 to 7 leaflets in opposite pairs and a single terminal leaflet

**Seeds:** multiple yellow seeds found in 'rosehips'

**Flowers:** fragrant, found at the branch ends, to 5cm across, soft pink with 5 petals, starting in November and continuing into early summer

**Fruit:** smooth, leathery 'rosehips' approximately 2cm long ripen from green to orange and then red

## Dispersal via

- Birds and foxes eat the fruit and pass it through their system, spreading it over a large area
- Regeneration via suckering from the roots

## Status

Sweet briar is listed as a class 4 noxious weed in all council areas within the Molonglo Catchment. The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled in accordance with local management plans published by each local council. In the ACT, sweet briar is a class 2 and 4 Pest Plant which must be suppressed and whose supply is prohibited.

### *Look-alikes*

Native plants can often be confused with weed species. The following information aims to assist you with accurate identification to prevent the loss of our declining natives. If you are unsure what species you are dealing with, take advantage of the identification services on offer from your local weeds officer (either at your local council or the ACT's Parks, Conservation and Lands) before carrying out any controls.

There are a number of other similar plants, some of which are natives and should not be removed and some of which are also weeds. **Blackberry** is one of the most similar weeds in the Molonglo Catchment and should also be controlled. See the blackberry fact sheet for more information.

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*Weed: blackberry*

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*Weed: blackberry*

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*Native: small leaved bramble.*

### *Control methods*

For advice on what time of year to implement the following management options, see the Molonglo Catchment Weed Control Calendar.

Plants can be dug out however it is essential to remove the entire root system or the plant will regenerate. Good pasture management can control this weed. A woody weed specific herbicide can be used in either the spray or cut and paint methods. Seek advice on chemical application from your Council Weeds Officer or local 'bush friendly' nursery. Always use chemicals as directed on the label. Goats can also be used as a control measure however, they can cause significant damage to any native vegetation present and require good fencing to prevent escape.