

Flower hunting

In this series, student editor and MSc student of Plant Breeding Julia van der Westhuyzen (photos and text) and professor of Plant Ecology Joop Schaminée (stories) go looking for the loveliest campus flora.



Dog rose

Common name: Dog rose

Scientific name: *Rosa canina*

Flowering time: June to July

Fruiting time: late summer to late autumn

Location on campus: near the roundabout on Droeendaalsesteeg

There are 17 rose species native to the Netherlands. One of these is *Rosa canina*, commonly known as the dog rose. Some see this as a derogatory term because this rose is so common and (slightly) less spectacular than other rose species such as the sweetbriar rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*). Other, much older explanations stem from Roman times when it was believed that the root of this rose could heal bites from a rabid dog.

Pictured here is the fruit formed from the flowers, which stays on the plant into late autumn. This fruit is called a rose hip, and is used for oil, syrup and tea to treat a range of ailments from stomach ache to arthritis.