Native Plant of the Month

Nootka Rose
*Rosa nutkana*

- Nootka rose is one of many species of wild roses that grow in the Pacific Northwest.
- Fragrant flowers provide nectar for bees and butterflies, and pleasure for people.
- The fruit is called a “rose hip” and is a favorite food for birds, hares, chipmunks, rabbits, deer, elk, coyotes, and bears.
- The hips are high in Vitamin C and used in teas.
- Rose leaves are important food for morning cloak butterfly larva. The leaf cutter bee cuts little circles from leaves to make its nests.
- Rose thickets are critical habitat for nesting birds and small animals.

Landscape Value

Wild rose species are an excellent addition to any landscape and are especially suited for creating naturalized thickets along banks and in the back of a perennial border.

Nootka rose will thrive in full sun or partial shade. Thickets usually reach about 6’ tall and will spread readily by underground rhizomes.

The flowers arrive in early summer and leave behind attractive orange-red hips that will last through the winter. Our native rose will easily naturalize and endure the drought of summer and cold of winter.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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