Rosa eglanteria L.; sweetbriar rose
(=*Rosa rubiginosa* L. [Jepson Manual 2012])
Rosa canina L.; dog rose
Rosa multiflora Thun. ex Murr.; multiflora rose

Sweetbriar, dog and multiflora roses

Photo courtesy of Richard Old

Family: Rosaceae
Range: Sweetbriar rose is reported from all western states except Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. Dog rose is reported in British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah and California. Multiflora rose has been reported in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California and New Mexico. The only known location in Idaho was eradicated.
Habitat: Sweetbriar rose is present in grass and shrublands, while dog rose is found in riparian areas within grasslands and shrublands, within the inland northwestern United States. Multiflora rose occurs in successional fields, pastures, and roadsides. It also may occur in dense forests, particularly near disturbances, such as treefall gaps.
Origin: Sweetbriar and dog roses are both native to Europe, northern Africa and western Asia. Multiflora rose was introduced from Japan, Korea, and eastern China in 1886 as rootstock for ornamental roses. In the 1930s it was widely promoted as a "living fence" for soil conservation and in wildlife programs.
Impacts: Sweetbriar rose can form dense stands that exclude livestock and larger grazing animals from grasslands and shrublands because of their curved thorns. Dog rose can also form dense thickets in grassland riparian areas. Multiflora rose forms dense thickets on disturbed sites, roadsides and improperly grazed pastures.
Western states listed as Noxious Weed: *Rosa multiflora*, South Dakota

Sweetbriar rose develops distinct shrubs up to 9 ft tall, even when in dense thickets. Dog rose can have less distinct individuals in riparian areas and can grow to 9, and occasionally 12 ft, tall. Sweetbriar and dog rose both have large thorns that curve towards the base of the stem. Both also have odd-pinnate leaves, with 5 to 9 leaflets for sweetbriar and 5 to 7 leaflets for dog rose. Unlike the other weedy roses, sweetbriar rose has gland-tipped hairs on the underside of leaves.

The flowers of sweetbriar and dog rose are white to pink and have 5 petals in a single whorl. The stamens and pistils are numerous. The sepals of sweetbriar rose have glandular hairs, but dog rose either has no hairs or only a few glandular hairs on its sepals. The flowers of both species can be solitary or in clusters on the branches.

Multiflora rose grows to 9 ft tall and can form dense thickets. It also has curved thorns that make the thickets impenetrable. The leaves are odd-pinnate with an average of 9 leaflets (range of 5 to 11) that lack hairs on the top of the leaf but are pubescent on the underside. The flowers of multiflora rose are white to pink, about 1 inch across, and arranged in clusters. The sepals on the flowers are pinnately lobed and the lobes are fringe-like.

Roses reproduce by seed and vegetatively from stems that root at the tips when in contact with the soil. Hips remain on plants through winter and into the following spring. Animals sometimes consume the fruits and disperse the achenes. Unconsumed fruits become leathery and eventually fall off. Ingestion by animals probably enhances germination. It is not known how long the seedbank can survive.

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, disking)	A weed wrench can be used to remove smaller plants. Removal should be conducted when soil is moist and care should be taken because of the sharp spines (technically prickles). A single mowing or cutting to the base will not control any of these rose species, as they all are capable of resprouting from the base. If 3 to 6 mowings are done each year for 2 to 4 years, control may be possible. After stems have died from an herbicide application, mowing will allow site access to livestock or wildlife. Repeated cultivation effectively controls these species.
Cultural	Burning may remove canes but is not considered an effective control option as shrubs will resprout from the base following the burn. Competitive grass communities may slow establishment of new shrubs but likely will not prevent increasing shrub densities.
Biological	Because of the commercial importance of roses and the numerous native rose species in the western United States, there are no biological control agents available.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

The following specific use information is based on published papers and reports by researchers and land managers. Most of the information was obtained for the control of multiflora rose, but it is expected that these methods would also be effective on the other weedy roses. These are the products that provide effective control. Those that do not provide sufficient control have been omitted from the table. Other trade names may be available, and other compounds also are labeled for this weed. Directions for use may vary between brands; see label before use. Herbicides are listed by mode of action and then alphabetically. The order of herbicide listing is not reflective of the order of efficacy or preference.

GROWTH REGULATORS	
Aminopyralid *Milestone*	**Rate:** 7 oz product/acre (1.75 oz a.e./acre) or with 2,4-D as 1.5 pt/acre of *Forefront HL* herbicide with 1 to 2 pt/acre of *Garlon 4 Ultra*/*Remedy Ultra* herbicide **Timing:** Postemergence, to plants after full leave expansion, generally around the flowering period. Preemergence control can also be achieved with seedlings. **Remarks:** Aminopyralid is a broadleaf-selective herbicide and will injure or kill most members of the Asteraceae and Fabaceae.
Aminopyralid + metsulfuron *Opensight*	**Rate:** 3.3 oz product/acre **Timing:** Applications can be made from spring leaf development through plant senescence in fall; optimum timing is during flowering. **Remarks:** This herbicide combination is not registered for use in California.
Dicamba *Banvel*, *Clarity*	**Rate:** Foliar spot treatment: 2% v/v solution with a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant, thoroughly wet leaves **Timing:** Postemergence, to rapidly growing leaves and before killing frost in fall. Best applied when plants are flowering. **Remarks:** Dicamba is selective against broadleaf plants and should not be used if desirable broadleaf vegetation is present.
Picloram *Tordon 22K*	**Rate:** 1 qt/acre (0.5 lb a.e./acre). Picloram can also be mixed with 4 pt 2,4-D (2 lb a.e./acre), use 0.5% v/v non-ionic surfactant **Timing:** Postemergence, to fully expanded leaves in late spring to summer. **Remarks:** Picloram can also be used alone but is best applied in combination with 2,4-D or fluroxypyr (*Surmount*). Picloram and the combination can injure or kill a wide range of species. It is well suited for control of dense thickets with few non-target species. Picloram is a restricted use herbicide. Picloram and its formulations are not registered for use in California.
Triclopyr	**Rate:** Spot treatment (spray-to-wet): 2% v/v solution plus 0.5% non-ionic surfactant. Basal bark

Garlon 3A, Garlon 4 Ultra	treatment: 25% *Garlon 4 Ultra* in a weed or basal oil. Cut stem treatment: 25% *Garlon 3A* in water; apply to cut surfaces immediately after cutting. **Timing:** Treatments can be made to foliage, stems, or cut stems. For foliar treatments, the best timing is when leaves are fully expanded. For basal bark application, treatments should be made to dormant plants in fall after frost. Cut stem applications are best in fall. **Remarks:** Triclopyr is a selective herbicide for broadleaf species and will not damage desirable grasses growing nearby. Fall applications during the dormant period can reduce effects on non-target species. Triclopyr can also be used in a premix with fluroxypyr (*PastureGard*) at 1.5 to 4 pt product/acre or in a tank mix with aminopyralid (*Milestone*) at 7 oz product/acre.
AROMATIC AMINO ACID INHIBITORS	
Glyphosate *Roundup*, *Accord XRT II*, and others	**Rate:** Spot treatment: 1 to 2% v/v solution of *Roundup ProMax* or similar product plus 0.5% non-ionic surfactant; thoroughly wet all leaves. Cut stem treatment: 25 to 50% v/v product in water; apply to cut surfaces immediately after cutting. **Timing:** Both foliar and cut stem treatments are best applied when leaves are fully expanded, especially when the flowers are in full bloom. **Remarks:** Glyphosate can also be mixed with dicamba to achieve good control with foliar applications. Glyphosate is a nonselective systemic herbicide with no soil activity. Use a low pressure and coarse spray pattern to reduce spray drift damage to non-target species. Application to cut stems may minimize non-target effects.
BRANCHED-CHAIN AMINO ACID INHIBITORS	
Imazapyr *Arsenal*, *Habitat*, *Stalker*, *Chopper*, *Polaris*	**Rate:** 2.5% v/v product **Timing:** Postemergence in mid- to late summer. Applications should be made before a killing frost occurs. **Remarks:** Imazapyr requires special mixing and a specialized hand applicator or applicator mounted on a spray boom. Apply to leaves but stop application before product runs off foliage. A low volume application without runoff reduces the non-target effect of imazapyr.
Metsulfuron *Escort*	**Rate:** Foliar treatment: 1 to 3 oz/acre (0.6 to 1.8 oz ai/acre) broadcast to dense infestations, or 1 to 2 oz per 100 gal of water as a spray-to-wet treatment. **Timing:** Apply to fully expanded leaves before a killing frost occurs. **Remarks:** Can injure or kill herbaceous plants and other shrubs, so care should be taken to minimize non-target injury. Metsulfuron can also be used in premixes with aminopyralid (*Opensight*) or 2,4-D + dicamba (*Cimarron Max*). Metsulfuron and its formulations are not registered for use in California.
PHOTOSYNTHETIC INHIBITORS	
Hexazinone *Velpar L*	**Rate:** 2 to 4 gal product/acre (4 to 8 lb a.i./acre) **Timing:** Preemergence in late winter through summer before bud break until new growth hardens off. **Remarks:** Hexazinone is soil mobile and should not be used in areas with a shallow water table. It has a fairly long soil residual. High rates of hexazinone can create bare ground, so only use high rates in spot treatments.
Tebuthiuron *Spike*	**Rate:** 10 to 20 lb product (*Spike 20P*)/acre (2 to 4 lb a.i./acre) **Timing:** Preemergence anytime except when the soil is frozen or is saturated with moisture. For optimum control, apply just before the active season of growth in spring. **Remarks:** Tebuthiuron is applied as a pellet at the base of the target plant. It has a very long soil residual and will control most plants around the base of the target species. Rainfall is necessary to move the herbicide into the root zone of the plant.

ECOMMENDED CITATION: DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013. *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States*. Weed Research and Information Center, University of California. 544 pp.