



Rosa Carolina – Prairie Rose

COMMON NAME: Prairie Rose, Carolina Rose, Pasture Rose

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Rosa carolina* (*carolina* refers to the state where the plant was first collected.)

FLOWER COLOR: large pink flowers

BLOOMING PERIOD: late May through September

SIZE: 1 – 3 feet, somewhat prickly shrub

BEHAVIOR: Plant is an ascending vine or nearly erect shrub. It spreads by suckers to form loose clusters, not dense thickets.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Will grow in dry to wet-mesic (well-drained) soil. Needs sun or part shade, but the best flowering occurs in full sun. Is tolerant of hot dry weather.

NATURAL RANGE: All of Eastern and Central U.S., from Maine to Minnesota and in the south from Florida to Texas.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Stems have scattered bristles or spines. Foliage is smooth, dark green and turns a dark red in autumn. Flowers are fragrant and have a good supply of nectar, attracting bees and butterflies. Fruit (called rose hips) develop in late summer, are bright red and remain on the plant all winter, providing food for wildlife. Rose hips are high in vitamin C and can be used for making tea or jelly.

SUGGESTED CARE: Water regularly and well during the first season. Once established, the plants require no special care and spread slowly.

COMPANION PLANTS: Smooth Aster, Cream Baptisia, Wild Strawberry, Little Blue Stem, Prairie Dropseed, Bergamot, Yellow Coneflower, and many other prairie plants.