

## ***Rosa gymnocarpa*, Baldhip Rose**

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### **General Botanical Characteristics**

*Rosa gymnocarpa* is a native, long-lived, deciduous shrub generally 3 feet or less in height. The stems are slender with straight prickles. The compound leaves have 5 - 7 leaflets that are 0.5 inches to 1 inch long and 0.25 inches to 0.5 inches wide. Baldhip rose is rhizomatous and has a shallow root structure. Propagation occurs when the seeds are eaten and dispersed by birds and mammals.



### **Seasonal Development**

Baldhip rose flowers in the late spring and early summer. Hips appear at the end of July and remain on the plant throughout the winter

### **Distribution/Habitat**

Baldhip rose has a range extending from southern British Columbia south to the Sierra Nevada in California and east to western Montana and Idaho. It is found in both mountainous and riparian areas at elevations of 5,000 feet or less. It grows best on eastern and southern exposures.

### **Interesting Facts**

- The hips are high in vitamin C and are also a source of calcium, phosphorous, and iron.
- The leaves were often chewed and applied to reduce pain and swelling by Native Americans and were also used to make tea.

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### **References**

US Forest Service Shrub Database, November 2002,  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/index.html>

Photo from Seattle Rose Society Archives, December 2002,  
<http://www.bmi.net/roseguy/>