

# Plants of the Lake Tahoe Basin- Woods Rose, *Rosa woodsii*



By, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

## Woods Rose, *Rosa woodsii*

### Description & Growth Characteristics -

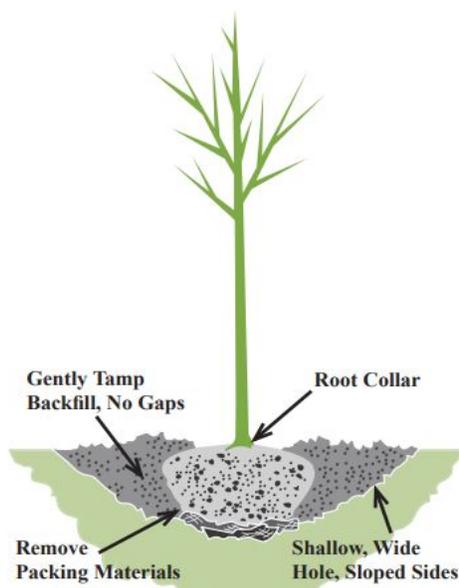
Woods rose grows throughout the western states and portions of British Columbia. Within the Sierra Nevada Mountains it is generally found growing as thickets on moist sites under coniferous forests. Woods rose is a stout deciduous shrub which generally obtains heights between 3 - 6 feet. The reddish-brown stems are armed with numerous bristles. The flowers are usually solitary at the ends of branches, are 1-2 inches wide and vary in color from pink to red. Flowers bloom from June to July. At maturity the sepals and other flower parts fall away leaving behind the bare reddish rose hip (fruit).



Photo Credit, Jen Cressy, UC Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

### Establishment & Care -

Woods rose may be propagated from either seed, vegetative cuttings or suckers. Seed may be collected during the early fall months. Seed should be cleansed of any residual pulp and allowed to dry. Seed may be directly planted and allowed to 'over winter' in the soil. However, for better results seed should be pretreated by cold stratification to break dormancy and sown in the spring when soil temperature and moisture are more favorable. Stratification may be accomplished by mixing the seeds in moist sand and storing them in plastic bags in the refrigerator for 3-6 months. Seeds should be planted approximately 1-1 ½ inches deep in well-drained soils in sunny locations.



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Watering requirements will vary with the weather, nature of the soil and the age of the plant. Seedlings and younger plants may require weekly applications of water during the first growing season. Once plants become established, less frequent applications of water will be necessary. When under water stress, plant growth will slow and older leaves will yellow and wither prematurely. If these conditions occur, increase the frequency of water applications.

Container grown plants may be available from local nurseries. Such plants would allow for a more rapid establishment of Woods rose than any of the previous methods. Container grown stock should be planted in holes which are twice as wide as and 6 inches deeper than the root mass. The roots should be extended positioned so that they are not curled or twisted. Backfill the hole half way with soil and then fill with water. The water will help settle and firm the soil around the roots eliminating air spaces and

provide good root-soil contact. After the water has drained, finish backfilling the hole so that the upper level is even with the soil surface. Tamp the soil to eliminate air pockets and prevent settlement.

When completed, the root collar should be level with the solid soil surface. Form a shallow saucer around the plant by building a ridge of soil around the edge of the hole. This will contain the water and allow for deeper penetration of the water. Applying a mulch around the plant will help retain the soil moisture and thus reduce the watering requirement.

Uses of Woods rose -

Woods rose will grow in dense thickets and has deep spreading roots, making it a good plant for slope stabilization and erosion control. Additionally, the attractive blossoms and fruit make it a good choice as a screening plant in landscape plans. The fruit of Woods rose are valuable food source for a variety of birds and other wildlife found in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Information provided by

Plants for the Lake Tahoe Basin created in partnership from the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Services.