

Rowan

Sorbus aucuparia

Sorbus aucuparia (rowan or European mountain-ash) is an, often weedy, deciduous tree growing up to 12 meters, known for its red-orange berries and ability to colonize, or "smother," native plants in disturbed areas. Birds disperse seeds rapidly, allowing it to invade grasslands, shrublands, and forests.

Identification

Leaves: Deciduous, alternate, pinnately compound, with 9-15 dull dark green, lanceolate leaflets that have serrated edges (toothed).



Flowers: Small, white to pale pinkish, 5-petaled flowers appear in dense, flat-topped clusters (corymbs) in late spring.

Fruit: Distinctive, 5-10 mm diameter glossy berries that ripen from green to bright orange or scarlet/crimson in late summer.

Bark & Shoots: Young shoots are covered in soft, white, fine hairs, later becoming smooth, silver-gray to brown with horizontal lenticels.

Habit: Usually an upright, slender tree, often growing in shrublands, grasslands, roadsides, and open forests.

Control

Cut Stump Treatment: Cut the tree at ground level and apply herbicide (Triclopyr, Glyphosate, or Met-sulfuron-methyl) to the cambium layer within 2 hours.

Basal Bark Treatment: Apply an oil-based herbicide (e.g., Triclopyr ester) to the lower 12-18 inches of the trunk, covering the entire circumference.

Drill and Fill: For larger trees, drill downward-sloping holes (deep) around the trunk and fill with herbicide.

Hand Pulling/Digging: Effective for seedlings, especially when soil is moist. Ensure all root fragments are removed.

