



American Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

Height: 5-12' | Spread: 6-12' | Light: ☼-• | Moisture: moist - well-drained

Elderberry blooms fragrant, ivory white flowers during the spring and summer. Afterwards, purple-black fruit develop that attract birds that spread the seeds. Elderberries, inedible when fresh and raw, are used for making jelly, preserves, pies, and wine. Prune heavily in winter to maintain thick form. Elderberry is a fast grower and aggressive competitor with weeds and herbaceous species. Individual plants are very short-lived, however root masses produce new shoots.



Photos courtesy of Bugwood.org (Clockwise from top left): John Cardina, The Ohio State University; James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service; Chris Evans, University of Illinois; Theodore Webster, USDA Agricultural Research Service