

American Elder

Sambucus canadensis



Mature



Native Range

General Attributes

Type	Deciduous Shrub
Height	6 - 12 Feet
Spread	6 - 12 Feet
Form	Rounded
Utility Lines	Compatible
Growth Rate	Fast
Life Expectancy	Short
USDA Zone	3 - 10
Root Pattern	

Plant Community

Sun	Full Sun, Partial Sun, Shade
Orientation	North, South, East, West
Soil Texture	Sand to Clay
Topography	Upland, Lowland (Flood Prone), Lowland (Stable Water), Wetland
Plant Community	Forest, Bog, Savannah, Old Field, Grassland
Succession	
Origin	MSA Zone 1, MSA Zone 2, MSA Zone 3, MSA Zone 4, MSA Zone 5, MSA Zone 6, Minnesota, North America

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Flowers/Foliage/Fruits

Flower Color	White
Flower Season	Summer
Fruit	Drupe
Fruit Color	Purple
Fruit Season	Summer
Summer Texture	Medium
Winter Texture	Coarse
Spring Foliage	Green
Summer Foliage	Green
Fall Foliage	Yellow Green
Winter Foliage	Not Applicable

Planting Ease

Spring Bareroot	Easy
Fall Bareroot	
Spring Container	Easy
Fall Container	Easy
Spring Seed	
Fall Seed	

Pests/Problems

Allergens	males 4, females 4
Invasiveness	Non-Invasive
Toxicity	Has toxic Roots, Stems, Fruit
Cold Injury	Susceptible
Storm Damage	Not Susceptible
Biological Control	
Mechanical Control	
Chemical Control	

Comments

Best for naturalizing; freely suckers & scarcely woody. Planted for fruit and profuse flowers. Fruit good for jelly, pies, and wine if cooked. Bark is poisonous to children if chewed. Leafs out early in the spring. Borers can be a problem.

Soils

Salt Spray Tolerance	Sensitive
Soil Salt Tolerance	
Compaction Tolerance	Tolerant
Water Table	0 Inches
Drainage	Poor, Excessive, Moderate
Flood Tolerance	
Drought Tolerance	Tolerant
Moisture Regime	Dry, Moist, Wet
pH	6.0 through 7.0
Windbreak Group	

Maintenance

Formal	High
Informal	Low
2,4-D Tolerance	Sensitive
Dicamba Tolerance	Sensitive
Picloram Tolerance	Sensitive
Clopyralid Tolerance	
Artificial Light	
Sulfur Dioxide	
Ozone Tolerance	Sensitive
Hydrogen Flouride	Moderate
Nitrogen Oxide	

Miscellaneous

Wildlife Rating	High
Insect Concerns	Minor
Disease Concern	Minor
Wildlife Concerns	

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Flower



Fruit