



COMMON ELDERBERRY

Sambucus canadensis

Large, full shrub produces showy white flowers and edible fruit.
Food source for countless insects, pollinators, songbirds, and mammals.

Growing Information

Sunlight Sun to part shade
Soil Type Best in moist, will tolerate dry
Height 6–10'
Flowering calendar June

Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves Yes
Flowers Yes
Fruit Yes
Seeds Yes

Host to 37 caterpillar species, including:
(common names) White-lined sphinx; Imperial moth; Cecropia silkmoth; Polyphemus moth; White-marked tussock moth; American vine moth; Elder shoot border moth; Maple bud borer

Benefits for People

- Large, showy shrub with beautiful blooms and fruit clusters
- Edible fruit and flowers are historically and culturally significant for wine, tea, and jam, as well as medicine and dyes
- Hard wood is used for arrows, flutes, toys, etc.
- Very easy to grow and adaptable

Natural Habitat

- Riparian woodlands, moist forest openings, streambanks, wetlands, etc.

