



photos: Dan Jaffe

# COMMON ELDERBERRY

*Sambucus canadensis*

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

## Benefits for Wildlife

- Roots and foliage create overhanging banks on streams, creating cover for aquatic life
- Song birds, game birds, rodents, and bears devour the berries

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

- Very easy to grow and adaptable
- Large, showy shrub with beautiful blooms and fruit clusters
- Edible fruit and flowers were historically used for wine, tea, jam, medicine and dyes
- Wood can be used for arrows, flutes, toys, etc.

## Growing Information

|                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Sunlight</i>           | Full to part sun                 |
| <i>Soil Type</i>          | Best in moist, will tolerate dry |
| <i>Height</i>             | 6-10'                            |
| <i>Width</i>              | 6-10'                            |
| <i>Flowering calendar</i> | June                             |

## Natural Habitat

- Riparian woodlands, moist forest openings, streambanks, wetlands

