

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Sambucus canadensis

## Elderberry



Also called common elder. Spectacular flat-topped clusters of creamy-white fragrant flowers in June-July, followed by purple-black berries on red stems. A very showy plant. Fruit makes good jelly and wine. Does best in moist soils, but will tolerate almost any soil. Suckers freely.

**Suggested companions:** Joe Pye weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), boneset (*Eupatorium maculatum*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), swamp goldenrod (*Solidago patula*), moisture-loving sedges (*Carex* sp.), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)

Photo Credit: copyright USDA, NRCS 1999. The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

Plant Type: Shrub  
Size: 5-12' H  
6-12' W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Woodland Margin  
Shrubby Wetland  
Wet Meadow  
Swamp/ Bog

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Sandy/ Gravelly  
Rich Moist  
Very Damp/Wet  
Clay

Exposure: sun  
filtered  
shade

Flower Color:  
White

Bloom Time:  
June  
July

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Other Attributes:

Fragrant  
Butterfly attracting  
Bird attracting  
Wildlife attracting  
Edible fruit