

Sambucus nigra

(Elderberry, Black Elder)

Elder is a deciduous shrub growing to 4-6 m. The leaves are pinnately compound. The flowers are born in a cluster, white with a very nice fragrance and visited by bees. The fruit is a dark purple or black berry appearing in the fall eaten by birds plus very important fruit for people mainly in Europe. All parts of the plant except for the flowers and ripe berries (but including the ripe seeds) are poisonous. Grow on any soil, with good drainage. The plant likes sunlight but cannot tolerate extreme drought and any salt. It can be used as a specimen in a woodland landscape. The flower and the fruit are edible and syrups, jams are made out of it.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Pronunciation: sam-BYOO-kus NY-gruh

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Europe

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Hardiness Zones: 6, 7, 8, 9

Uses: Specimen, Container, Edible, Wildlife

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Moderate

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m

Spread at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Odd Pinnately compound

Leaf Blade: 10 - 20

Leaf Shape: Ovate

Leaf Margins: Serrate

Leaf Textures: Smooth

Leaf Scent:

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Yellow

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Spring, Summer

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 0 - 1.5

Seasons: Spring, Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: High, Moderate

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxity: Yes

Invasive Potential: No

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: Fruit

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image