

EUROPEAN ELDER

SAMBUCUS NIGRA

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS

Size

8' - 20' high, 8' – 20' wide

Sun/Shade

Full Sun to Part Shade

Water

Medium to Wet

Maintenance

High

Life Span

Perennial Shrub, Zones 5-8

Description

Sambucus nigra, also known as European Elder and Black Elder, is a deciduous shrub that can become invasive and unattractively weedy if not continuously pruned. It blooms in June and July with bunches of tiny white flowers with a musky fragrance. The leaves have an unpleasant odor when cut or bruised. The flowers turn to glossy black elderberries in late summer which are used to make jams, jellies, pies and wine. The American Elder (*Sambucus Canadensis*) is thought to produce better flavored berries. The European Elder attracts butterflies and the fruits attract birds. It is also used for hedges and rain gardens and is also attractive in open areas if allowed to naturalize.

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)



Have questions or need help?
Contact us at GreenHelpLine@gmail.com.

