

Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun To Partial Shade

HEIGHT

5–12 ft

ORIGIN

North American native

AT A GLANCE

American elderberry is a vigorous, suckering native shrub that thrives with minimal care in zones 3-9. It requires two different cultivars for good fruit production. The raw berries, bark, and leaves are mildly toxic -- cook berries before consumption. It will spread aggressively; plan space accordingly.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/elderberry-care/>