

ELDERBERRIES

Sambucus canadensis

Elderberries are extremely hardy, handsome, and easy to grow. Well suited to many garden styles, they grow best in moist, fertile, well drained soil with at least half a day of direct sun. The fruit is rich in phosphorous, potassium, and vitamin C, lending a complex flavor to pies, preserves, cordials, and wine. Highly attractive to bees, butterflies, and birds as an important food, shelter, and nectar source. As the plants flower in June, they are seldom damaged by late frosts. USDA Zones 4-9.

VARIETIES EXPECTED FOR 2026

ADAMS	Strong, vigorous shrub to 6-10', with lovely fall color. Huge clusters of big, sweet, purple-black berries in early August. Wonderful in jam, pies, juice, and wine. Productive and hardy, not bothered by pests or disease. Requires cross-pollination with another variety.
BOB GORDON	Newer variety from Missouri, with clusters of large, purple-black berries ideal for syrup. To 6-8', with uniform clusters resistant to shattering.
RANCH	Smaller variety at only 6' makes harvesting fruit easier. Vigorous, fast growing, not bothered by pests or disease, not picky about soil either. Bigger crops with a pollinizer.
YORK	Similar to 'Nova' but with berries ripening a few weeks later. Carefree and adaptable, one of the few fruiting plants that will produce in partial shade. Self-fertile but will bear larger crops if planted with a pollinizer.

Questions? Stop by our Information Desk. *We're happy to help!*

