

AMERICAN ELDERBERRY

Sambucus canadensis

A familiar deciduous native shrub or small tree, American elderberry is commonly seen along stream banks and roadsides and in moist woodlands and thickets throughout eastern North America. It has pinnate leaves with toothed leaflets and small white flowers borne in large flattened clusters in summer. Purple-black, round fruit comes next, attracting wildlife to the garden. Elderberries typically grow to about 12 feet high, but they tolerate pruning to a smaller size. Fruit is edible when cooked. Give it plenty of room as it is very fast-growing and quickly fills a large space. Expect to host a wide array of insect pollinators.

