



Fruit



Flowers



Height range 6-12'



8-14"

# Elderberry

*Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis*

The Honeysuckle Family (Caprifoliaceae)

**Basic Description:** Elderberry is a tall, multi-stemmed bush with compound, opposite, deciduous leaves, clusters of small, white flowers and small purplish-black drupes.

**Interesting Facts:** Ripe berries, which contain high levels of vitamin C, flowers and young shoots can be eaten; but the roots, stems, unripe berries and leaves have chemicals that can be mildly poisonous. Medicinal uses of elderberry include treatment of colds and flu; as a purgative, laxative and antiseptic; in addition it has been used as an insect repellent.

**Flower:** Small, white, flat-topped clusters up to 8" across, appearing in summer.

**Fruit:** Small, purple-black, berrylike drupe, up to .25" in diameter.

**Wildlife Value:** Berries are a common food source for more than 50 birds and many mammals, and the flowers attract native bees and beneficial insects.

**Habitat:** Alluvial forests, bogs, ditches, common to riparian zones.

LEAF TYPE  
COMPOUND



POLLINATOR  
INSECTS



WILDLIFE VALUE  
HIGH

