



American Elderberry

Sambucus nigra L. ssp. canadensis

Growing Information

- Plant Type: Shrub
- Sunlight: Sun to part shade
- Soils: Wet to dry
- Bloom Time: White flowers in May, June, July
- Size: 5-8ft in height; 3-8ft spread

Plant this native as a hedge or alone. Berries and flowers are edible, but other parts of the plant contain toxic calcium oxalate crystals and are poisonous. Individual plants are short-lived, but root masses produce new shoots. Fast grower. Notice the white flowers on wild elderberry along wetland edges in late spring—it loves the Cape’s acidic soils.

Garden Companions

Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*), American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)

Nature Benefits

- Fruit attracts birds who then spread seeds.
- Berries relished by mammals.
- Attracts pollinators.

Natural Habitat

Occurs in alluvial forests, bogs, ditches, drier old fields.