



# THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

## 2015 Native Woody of the Year



### *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis* Common elderberry

Large flat-topped clusters of small white flowers appear in late spring to mid-summer followed by masses of small purple-black fruit, which are edible when cooked. Good for erosion control in moist sites. Its large flower clusters can be battered and fried to make fritters or dried to make tea. The ripe berries are used to make jams and jellies and wine.

- Hardiness:** Zones 3–8  
**Light:** Sun to part shade  
**Soil:** Average to wet  
**Size:** 8–10' tall  
**Foliage:** Deciduous pinnate, elliptical leaves  
**Flowers:** Clusters of tiny white flowers form broad flat heads  
**Fruit:** Dark purple when ripe  
**Bloom Time:** Late spring to mid-summer  
**Wildlife Value:** Birds and mammals eat the berries



Photos: Sally and Andy Wasowski, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (top); Carolyn Summers