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Elderberry

Sambucus canadensis

Life cycle: Deciduous woody perennial shrub.

Leaves: Compound with 5 to 7 pinnately arranged leaflets with serrated margins.

Stems: Green to gray, 3 to 10 feet tall with any upright or pendulant habit. Pronement soft pith in the middle.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers form in 3 to 10 inch wide flat clusters (umbels) in early to mid summer. Fruit are small shine dark berries that ripen in late summer or early autumn.

Reproduction: Plants spread laterally from buds on lateral roots. Birds eat the berries and disperse seeds widely.

Similar weeds

Red elder is also present in Michigan but berries are red when ripe and mature in the summer.



All photos this page: Eric Hanson