



SAMBUCUS NIGRA SSP. CERULEA ELDERBERRY

Also known as *Sambucus mexicana*, this tree has an extensive range from west Texas to California and well into Mexico. Often a large shrub or small tree, the normal height is 10 to 20 feet but larger specimens exist. Older trees develop gnarly, twisted trunks. The compound leaves have slightly toothed, sandpapery leaflets. Considered evergreen in milder climates, extreme drought and heat will cause the tree to defoliate to conserve water. Flattened clusters of yellowish-white blossoms occur in cooler months and blooming may continue well into spring. The edible fruit that follows is a bluish-black color and is quite tart. A favorite of many migratory birds, the seeds pass through them, resulting in seedlings wherever they roost. The trees are quite drought tolerant and will grow slowly unless provided ample water. Elderberry is not particular about soil, drainage or sun.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	10-20 feet x 20 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Creamy White
FLOWER SEASON	Late Winter, Fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low, extra summer water
GROWTH RATE	Slow to Moderate
HARDINESS	0° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune to shape



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