

Elderberry

The elderberry tree (*Sambucus nigra*), despite its name, has a shrub-like growth. It can be identified by its serrated leaves that grow in groups of three to nine leaves on each side of a stem. This tree has a moderate growth rate of 6 to 12 feet in the first few years of its growth. You may have to wait 2 to 3 years after planting before it bears fragrant, waxy white flowers in the spring and fruits in the autumn. Raw elderberries can be toxic to humans, dogs, and cats.

Elderberries are not finicky plants, and the shrubs tolerate many environments. Choose an open area that gets plenty of full sun a day for the best flowers and berries. An open area will also help the plants benefit from better air circulation.

