

# Bob Gordon Elderberry



## *Sambucus canadensis* 'Bob Gordon'

- **Use:** The Bob Gordon American Elderberry was identified and collected from the wild by Robert Gordon, Charlotte Cooper, and Andrew Thomas near Osceola, MO, on September 29, 1999. The berries are dark purple, ripen uniformly in the cymes, and are resistant to shattering. It has large clusters of fragrant, white flowers that appear in spring which are followed by clusters of large, dark, purple to black berries in late summer to fall. Fruit can be harvested for making elderberry wine and jam, or left on the plant to provide seasonal forage for wildlife. Grow it as a shrub, or cut it back each year and use it as a bold perennial. In the wild, it is typically found naturalized along streambeds, in moist woodland settings, in thickets and along roadsides throughout the eastern part of North America. You'll be surprised to find out how versatile this native plant cultivar can be in modern landscapes.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun to sun, but part sun better in the hot South.
- **Growth:** Grows 10-12' tall and 10-12' wide. They are best pruned after blooming.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 3-9 Shrub; Protect from hot summer sun.
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. The green pinnate leaves are borne on long pithy stems which grow in a suckering clump.
- **Flower:** Sweeter and bigger berries than other elderberries. Contain more than four times the antioxidant value of cherries. Strong, productive plants are easy to maintain and produce large, ¼" elderberries for pie, jam, wine and syrup. Some resistance to Japanese beetles. Bird damage is somewhat naturally mitigated by the hanging flower heads, but it's wise to net the plants before fruit ripens in July. Partially self fruitful means it will fruit without cross pollination, but will fruit MORE with cross pollination with another variety of *S. canadensis*. Best pollinator: any other elderberry variety.

## Uses:

- **Border Plant**
- **Good for screening**
- **Mass Planting Specimen or Focal Point**



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