

Ranch Elderberry



Sambucus canadensis 'Ranch'

- **Use:** A large shrub that produces white flowers in the spring and large clusters of small, black fruit in late summer. The tree is drought hardy, winter hardy and attractive during blooming and fruiting. The small berries may be eaten raw when fully ripe or made into jelly, pies or wine. The berries should be picked when they are fully ripe and the color is dark purple-black, but well before the time the berries begin to wither. **Green berries and stems are toxic and must not be eaten.** Sambucus tolerates both wet and dry sites, and provides an important source of fall food for birds. It would be more attractive as an addition to the landscape if cut back hard every spring. Fast-growing, it's a fantastic choice for growing along a fence, as a garden back-drop, or as a hedgerow to create privacy.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun to sun, but part sun better in the hot South. Plant in well-drained or damp soil (can be in a rain garden) that has been limed to a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. Plant the bushes at least 5 ft apart and scatter a small amount of fertilizer (1/2 lb of 10-10-10) (or we prefer a slow release fertilizer) evenly under each bush every spring.
- **Growth:** Grows 5-6' tall and 5-6' wide, shorter type for easier harvest. They are best pruned after blooming. Need limited pruning to remove dead and/or broken canes. They are easily propagated in the dormant season by transplanting sucker plants growing around the base of the other bush.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-9 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:** The flowers are large flat white cymes blooming in June and July, covering the tips of the arching branches. They are followed by purple black edible fruit in August and September. Not self-pollinating, so we recommend planting with the any other wild Elderberry (Wlydewood, Nova, York for example) for best pollination.



Uses:

- Border Plant
- Good for screening
- Mass Planting, Specimen, or Focal Point
- **Known as an ingredient in wines and jams but now the medicinal world has reported the use of elderberry helps mitigate colds and flu virus because of its antiviral properties. It is also a great source of vitamin C and has been used for antibacterial properties as well.**



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