

Botanical Name: Sambucus mexicana

Common Name: Elderberry

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub/tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a multi-trunked, many-branched plant, with ascending and spreading branches forming a full rounded canopy; outermost branches tend to be somewhat pendulous; plant undergoes late summer dormancy in dry locations

Height 8' - 15' (25') Spread equal Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil tolerates most; prefers well-draining clay

Hardiness hardy (zones 14-24): thrives in warm coastal foothill areas

Morphology:

Leaves odd-pinnately compound, opposite, 8"-12" long; leaflets ovate to oblong-lanceolate, mostly 3-5, 2"-5" long, bright green; margins finely serrated

Flowers pale yellow, 5-petaled, tiny (1/4" diameter), in rather flattened, mostly terminal cymes, 3"-6" across; May - September

Fruit a berry; blue-black, 1/4" across; edible

Propagation: seed

Usage: a large accent shrub or small tree used for its profuse flower display; large informal background mass; slope plantings, erosion control; blooms and retains foliage longer with supplemental watering

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak; tolerates regular watering with good drainage; becomes drought resistant after established

Fertilizing little required after established

Pruning as a tree, head high when young and develop the primary framework; thin out in early spring and head back for fuller form

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions foothill woodland areas of

Origin: Cen. & So. CA Family: Caprifoliaceae