



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

Vintage Germplasm Common Elderberry

Sambucus nigra L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI



Fruit of the Vintage Germplasm common elderberry

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center released a selected ecotype of common elderberry for the Great Lakes region in August 2010 for the intended purpose of streambank and shoreline stabilization.

Description

Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is a multi-stemmed, native perennial shrub that exhibited three year growth up to 88 inches tall and 137 inches wide. The thick, roughened and furrowed bark is yellowish-brown to brown. Twigs are stout, light brown to gray, covered with numerous small wart-like bumps (lenticels) and have white pith. Compound leaves are set oppositely in pairs in a feather-like arrangement. Leaflets are oval to lance-shaped and up to 6 inches long and 1 inch wide. Fragrant white flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters measuring 4 – 10 inches across, and are arranged in branched clusters of five. Fruit ripens from late July to September.

Source

Thirty-one collections of common elderberry were assembled from five states. Dormant vegetative cuttings from each collection were planted in the greenhouse to establish plants for field testing. In 1998 plants from the greenhouse were placed in replicated field experiments in Michigan for a 3-year evaluation of survival, vigor, plant height and width, disease resistance, and flower abundance. Vintage Germplasm (accession 9084126) was tested in field plantings and Plant Materials Program inter-center evaluations for survival, height, spread, and fruit abundance. Vintage Germplasm was selected for release due to its excellent growth characteristics, fruit production, and ability to regrow after cutting.

Conservation Uses

Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is intended for use in streambank and shoreline stabilization. It can be used for enhancement of riparian corridors and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Area of Adaptation and Use

The anticipated area of use of Vintage Germplasm is within the Great Lakes region and the upper mid-west United States, which is well within the species range. Vintage Germplasm inhabits well drained soils near streams, and in adjacent bottomlands. It also grows well on gray forest soils and muck.



Vintage Germplasm common elderberry bush

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Establishment in conservation plantings is best done using dormant hardwood cuttings or 1-2 year old rooted cuttings. Plants should be placed 6-8 feet apart. Protection from deer browse may be necessary to ensure establishment.

Ecological Consideration

Economically important insects or diseases have not been observed on Vintage Germplasm common elderberry.

Seed and Plant Production

Vintage Germplasm common elderberry can be propagated vegetatively or by seed. Vegetative propagation is the preferred method in order to avoid potential cross pollination with other elderberry plants. Vegetative propagation can be done using dormant hardwood cuttings. Harvest 1-2 year old dormant stems and cut them in 18-24" lengths. Each cutting should have several buds. Place cuttings vertically in the ground or in containers so that 2/3 of the cutting is below the soil level. Root and shoot formation will occur within a few weeks of planting, depending on soil and weather conditions.

Availability

Vegetative material of this release will be maintained by the USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI and is available in limited quantities to interested parties for increase purposes.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 517-641-4421

Citation

Release Brochure for Vintage Germplasm common elderberry, *Sambucus nigra ssp. Canadensis*. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI 48823. Published August 2010, Revised January, 2012.

For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>



Vintage Germplasm common elderberry in container

Helping People Help The Land

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Helping People Help The Land

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER