



Figure 1. Mature Vintage Germplasm common elderberry with fruit production.

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF

VINTAGE GERMPLASM COMMON ELDERBERRY

A SELECTED CLASS
OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

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ABSTRACT

A selected germplasm of common elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli [Caprifoliaceae]) has been released for intended use in streambank stabilization and improvement of wildlife habitat in the Great Lakes region.

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KEY WORDS

Sambucus nigra L. ssp. *canadensis*, Vintage Germplasm, Caprifoliaceae

NOMENCLATURE

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Photos by Sergio A Perez



Species | *Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli
Common Name | Common elderberry
Plant symbol | SANIC4
Accession number | 9084126

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announces the naming and release of Vintage Germplasm common elderberry.

A selected germplasm of common elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli [Caprifoliaceae]) has been released for intended use in stream-bank stabilization and improvement of wildlife habitat in the Great Lakes region. As a selected release, this plant will be referred to as Vintage Germplasm common elderberry. It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9084126. Another common name for this species is American black elder.

JUSTIFICATION

Selection and availability of plants able to serve the purposes outlined for this release have been limited. Vintage Germplasm will be able to fill the niche within this region of the US.

COLLECTION SITE INFORMATION

Dormant vegetative material was collected in 1998 from Tipton County, Indiana (lat 40°17'30"N, long 86°12'00"W) by Glenn Hartman. The collection site was in Major Land Resource Area 111a, Plant Hardiness Zone 5B. The mean annual precipitation was 96 cm (38 in). The original plants were grown from this vegetative material and then outplanted into evaluation plots.

DESCRIPTION

Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is a stoloniferous, multistemmed, native perennial shrub that exhibits 3-y growth up to 22 dm (88 in) tall and 35 dm (137 in) 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 (Gleason and Conquist 1991). Compound leaves are set oppositely in pairs in a feather-like arrangement. Leaflets are oval to lance-shaped and up to 15 cm (6 in) long and 2.5 cm (1 in) wide. The



Figure 3. Vintage Germplasm common elderberry plant structures.

leaf scars are large, opposite, and connected by a ridge. Buds are opposite and protrude from the stem (Gleason 1963). Fragrant white flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters measuring 10 to 25 cm (4 to 10 in) across and are arranged in branched clusters of five. Fruit ripen from late July to September (Voss 1996).

METHOD OF SELECTION

Thirty-one collections of common elderberry were assembled from 5 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-y evaluation of survival, vigor, plant height and width, disease resistance, and flower abundance. Accession 9084126 was selected for further testing based on the results of those initial replicated field experiments.

Accession 9084126 underwent additional observations in field plantings and through Plant Materials Program Inter-Center evaluations for survival, height, spread, and fruit abundance. Seed germination procedures were developed for this accession.

ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is a selection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Based on the environmental evaluation process adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program, Vintage Germplasm did not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive.

ANTICIPATED CONSERVATION USE

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

ANTICIPATED AREA OF ADAPTATION

The anticipated area of use of Vintage Germplasm is within the Great Lakes region and upper Midwest US, which is well within the species' range. Vintage Germplasm inhabits well-drained soils near streams, adjacent bottomlands, as well as in forests and muck soils.

AVAILABILITY OF PLANT MATERIALS

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

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