Elderberry – *Sambucus canadensis*

Climate								*Soil*						
Min Optimal Temp (°F)	**Max Optimal Temp (°F)**	**Min Absolute Temp (°F)**	**Max Absolute Temp (°F)**	**Growing Degree Days (__°F base)**	**Chilling Hours (32-45 °F)**	**Min Rainfall (in/year)**	**Max Rainfall (in/year)**	**Min pH**	**Max pH**	**Optimal Soil Texture**	**Absolute Soil Texture**	**Optimal Soil Drainage**	**Absolute Soil Drainage**	**Soil Depth (in)**
-49 [a, b, j]	95 [b, f, j]	-45 [a, b, j]	100 [b, f, j]	N/A	N/A	30 [b, d]	70 [b, d]	5.5 [b, e, n]	8.0 [b, e, n]	clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay loam, loam, silt loam, sandy loam [b, k, n]	clay, sandy clay, silty clay, loamy sand, silt, sand [b, k, n]	well drained [b, k, m]	excessively drained, somewhat excessively drained, moderately well drained, somewhat poorly drained [b, k, m]	10 [c, l, n]

	Key Months for Crop Development and Thresholds											
	DEC	**JAN**	**FEB**	**MAR**	**APR**	**MAY**	**JUN**	**JUL**	**AUG**	**SEP**	**OCT**	**NOV**
Stage of growth *(under current conditions)*	Dormant	Dormant	Dormant	Bud Break	Leaf Out	Flowering	Flowering	Flowering, Fruit Development	Fruit Ripening, Harvest	Fruit Ripening, Harvest	Leaf Drop	Leaf Drop

Key Cultivars: [g, h, i]

While there are several European elderberry varieties available in the U.S., the plants typically do not do as well in the Midwest and the berry quality is not as good as American varieties. The following are promising American varieties that have been trialed across the Midwest.

- 'Ranch' (earliest ripening, high flower production, drought tolerant, stocky plant)
- 'Cherokee' (high yielding)
- 'Coop' (high yielding)
- 'Barber' (high yielding)
- 'Dandy' (high yielding)
- 'Wyldewood' (late ripening, high yielding)
- 'Bob Gordon' (late ripening, high yielding, umbels droop which protects berries from birds, drought tolerant)
- 'Pocahontas' (late ripening - ripens 10 days after Bob Gordon, high yielding)

Climate Risk Notes: [i, n]

Elderberry is not drought tolerant and needs consistent precipitation or irrigation (i.e., 1 inch per week) throughout the growing season to produce high yields.

Elderberry has a shallow root system, and young plants do not compete well with weeds. Proper weed control is vital to successfully establish a planting.

Elderberry can tolerate some shade, but it will not produce well. Elderberry should be cultivated in open areas for the best yields.

Elderberry can withstand occasional flooding, but it will not survive standing water for more than a day or two.

References

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