



***Sambucus nigra* ssp. *cerulea* (syn. *S. mexicana*) Mexican Elder, Elderberry**

This interesting little tree grows along streams and lower elevation woodlands through much of the Southwest. Although considered evergreen, drought stress will often cause plants to defoliate during summer months. Creamy white flowers in flattened clusters appear in late winter, early spring or anytime after heavy rains. The flowers are followed by small, blue-black fruit that are covered with a whitish powder. The fruit is edible, both sweet and juicy, and is sought by birds and wildlife. The compound leathery leaves are 12" or more long, with 3 to 5 serrated leaflets. Mexican Elder rarely exceeds 15 feet in height and is normally wider than tall. Occasionally a specimen will reach 30 feet, developing a gnarled and deeply furrowed trunk.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY

SIZE (H X W)	15 feet x 20 feet
FLOWER COLOR	Creamy white
FLOWER SEASON	Spring, intermittent rest of year
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Slow to moderate
HARDINESS	0° F, USDA Zone 7
PRUNING	Prune to shape and to remove dead wood



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