PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Sambucus racemosa* L.

**GENUS** *Sambucus* **FAMILY** Viburnaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Red Elder, Alpine elder, Red-berried elder

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Flowers, Fruit

The ripe fruit are eaten after cooking. They are cooked with sugar. They are used for juice, jellies and jams.
The fruit are cooked and dried and stored.
The flowers are used for flavouring. They are used in jams and jellies.
Caution: Immature fruit can contain cyanide so should be ripe and cooked.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It loses its leaves during the year. It grows 2.5-3 m high and spreads 2.5-3 m wide. The stem is erect and branching. The bark is dark brown. The leaves are compound divided into leaflets along the stalk. There are 5-7 leaflets. The leaves are yellowish-green. There are teeth along the edge. The flowers are cream. They occur in dense flat topped clusters at the ends of the branches. The fruit are scarlet berries. They hang in clusters.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It does best in moist, well-drained soils. It needs a protected shady position. It is frost hardy. It is sensitive to drought. It suits hardiness zones 4-9. Arboretum Tasmania.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by hardwood cuttings.

## NOTES

There are about 25 Sambucus species. They are also put in the family Caprifoliaceae. Also put in the family Sambucaceae.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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