

BLUE ELDERBERRY, BLANCHARD ORIGIN

Scientific Name: *Sambucus cerulea*(Raf.)

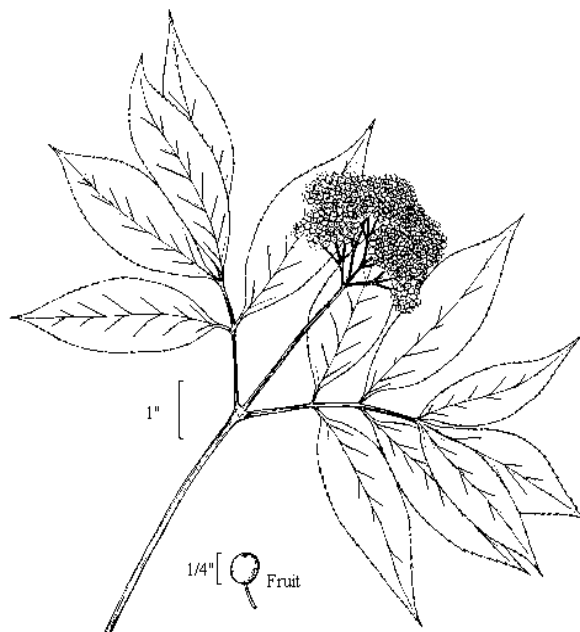
Common Name: Blue Elderberry

Release Name: Blanchard Origin

Selected By: Pullman PMC, USDA-NRCS

Release Cooperators: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service and Washington State University Agricultural Research Center

Release Date: 1995



ORIGIN: From native plants growing near Blanchard, Idaho; in Bonner County. Average annual precipitation is 30 inches. Elevation: 2560 feet. Soils are deep, well-drained gravelly silt loams, with effective rooting depth of 20 to 40 inches. This accession was assigned a temporary plant number, 9023971, by the Pullman PMC.

DESCRIPTION: A native deciduous shrub growing to 15 feet high and 15 feet wide in 10 growing seasons at Pullman, Washington. Leaves are opposite, pinnately compound, with usually 5-9 serrate leaflets. Flowers are $\frac{5}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ across, in flat-topped cymes 1 and a $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 inches wide. Fruit is bluish-black with a waxy bloom, appearing pale powdery blue. Individual berries are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter, with 3 to 5 seeds per berry.

DISEASE AND INSECT PROBLEMS: No particular problems were noted with disease or pests.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS: Plants with adequate moisture usually produce abundant fruit. Plants will coppice freely. Average date for spring recovery is April 3, bloom is June 15, fruit matures August 26 and plants are dormant October 22 at Pullman, Washington. It is a superior performing phenotype when compared in an evaluation planting which consisted of 110 collections. Fairly rapid growth rate. Plants grew about 1.5 feet per year at Pullman.

SEED PRODUCTION:

SEEDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Usually by seed. Cold stratification of seed at 40 degrees F. with gibberellic acid reduces dormancy. Minimum 18 inches effective precipitation.

CONSERVATION USES: Riparian area rehabilitation, wildlife habitat, increase of native plant diversity, eyebrow vegetation in the Palouse region, native plants in disturbed areas in the interior Pacific Northwest.

AVAILABILITY: Limited quantities of seed/plants will be available to researchers and nurseries in late Fall, 1995. For additional information contact: Wayne Crowder, Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pullman Plant Materials Center (509) 335-7376 or email crowder@wsu.edu.