

Elderberry Cultivar Research in Missouri

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Early Cultivar Research

- Mt. Vernon, Mountain Grove
- 1999 First significant plantings
- Collected 60 + selections
- 2003 First cultivar trial planted
- 2009 Lincoln University



New Elderberry Cultivars

- Wyldewood 2010
- Bob Gordon 2011
- Marge 2014
- Ozark



Elderberry Grants

- 2004. \$15,000. USDA – NPGS
- 2004. \$16,150. USDA – NWCSFR
- 2005. \$17,765. USDA – NWCSFR
- 2005. \$9,300. MU College of Agriculture
- 2010. \$29,611. MDA Specialty Crops
- 2010. \$105,427. SARE
- 2010. \$7.7 million. NIH
- 2011. \$25,000. USDA / AFRI (Symposium)
- 2011. \$30,000. MDA Specialty Crops (Symposium)
- 2011. \$5,000. Mizzou Advantage (Symposium)
- \$\$ MU Agroforestry Center

Brand New Paper!

Thomas, A.L., P. Perkins-Veazie, P.L. Byers, C.E. Finn, and J. Lee. 2013. A Comparison of Fruit Characteristics among Diverse Elderberry Genotypes Grown in Missouri and Oregon. *Journal of Berry Research* 3(3):159-168.





Growing and Marketing Elderberries in Missouri

By Patrick L. Byers, Andrew L. Thomas, Mihaela M. Cernusca, Larry D. Godsey and Michael A. Gold; University of Missouri.

The American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*, also known as *Sambucus nigra* subsp. *canadensis*) is native to much of eastern and midwestern North America. The plant is a medium to large multiple-stemmed shrub, bush or small tree (Fig. 1). Elderberry



Figure 1: The American Elderberry plant

is commonly found growing in a range of habitats throughout Missouri, but it prefers moist, well-drained, sunny sites and is often found along roadside ditches and streams. Elderberry is a beautiful plant with showy flat cymes of white flowers in June followed by bright purple to black berries in late summer (Figures 2 and 3). Ornamental forms are important landscape plants, and elderberry has been grown for generations as a backyard fruit. Based on identified market size and demand, opportunities exist to increase both the production and processing of elderberry across the value chain. At present, usage of both fruit and flowers for wine, juice, jelly, colorant and dietary supplement



Figure 2: The blossoms of the American elderberry

products is on the rise. European elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is grown as a commercial fruit crop in Europe and elsewhere. The American elderberry, however, appears to be a better candidate for commercial production in Missouri. This guide outlines production practices and market information for American elderberry based on research and growers' experiences in Missouri.



Figure 3: The fruit of the American elderberry



International Elderberry Symposium

- June 9-14, 2013
- Columbia, MO
- International Society for Horticultural Science
- Numerous sponsors
- Scientists and farmers from 13 countries
- 205 attendees: Scientists, Processors, Farmers
- Acta Horticulturae

