

# ELDERBERRY

## Planting Time:

Elderberry bushes are best planted in the fall through spring.

## Site Selection:

**Sunlight:** Elderberries thrive in full to partial sunlight and require at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sun each day.

**Soil:** Ranch elderberries prefer well-drained soil with a slightly acidic to neutral pH. They can adapt to a variety of soil types but good drainage is essential to prevent root rot.

Elderberry bushes are a fantastic addition to your garden, offering not only attractive foliage but also the potential for health-boosting berries. This information sheet provides guidance on planting and caring for your elderberry bushes, ensuring a thriving and productive addition to your outdoor space.



## Planting and Care

**Planting:** Dig a hole three times the size of the root ball of your elderberry bush and plant it at the same depth as it was in its container. Water thoroughly after planting to help settle the soil.

**Pruning:** Prune your elderberry bush during the dormant season (late winter or early spring) to remove dead or damaged branches and encourage healthy growth.

**Fertilizing:** Apply Plant-tone organic fertilizer in early spring to support growth and fruit development.

## Harvesting

Elderberries typically ripen in late summer. When the berries are dark purple or black and come off the stem easily, they are ready to be harvested. Gently clip the clusters from the bush, being careful not to damage the branches. Be sure to cook the berries before consumption (berries are not typically consumed raw). Unripened berries can cause stomach irritation. Common uses for elderberries include jams, jellies, syrups and wine.