

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF VINTAGE GERMPLASM COMMON ELDERBERRY  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces the release of a selected ecotype of common elderberry [*Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli] for the Great Lakes region.

As a selected release, this plant will be referred to as Vintage Germplasm common elderberry. It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9084126.

**Collection Site Information:** Dormant vegetative material was collected in 1998 from Tipton County, Indiana, at 40° 17' 30" N. latitude and 86° 12' 00" W. longitude by Glenn Hartman. The collection site was in Major Land Resource Area 111a, Plant Hardiness Zone 5B. The mean annual precipitation was 96 cm (38 inches). The original plants were grown from this vegetative material then transplanted into evaluation plots.

**Description:** Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is a stoloniferous, multi-stemmed, native perennial shrub that exhibited 3-year growth up to 22 dm (88 in) tall and 35 dm (137 in) wide. The thick, roughened and furrowed bark is yellowish-brown to brown. Twigs are stout, light brown to gray, covered with numerous small wart-like bumps (lenticels) and have white pith. Compound leaves are set oppositely in pairs in a feather-like arrangement. Leaflets are oval to lance-shaped and up to 15 cm (6 in) long and 2.5 cm (1 in) wide. The leaf scars are large, opposite and connected by a ridge. Buds are opposite and protrude from the stem. Fragrant white flowers are arranged in flat-topped clusters measuring 10 – 25 cm (4 – 10 in) across, and are arranged in branched clusters of five. Fruit ripen from late July to September.

**Method of Selection:** Thirty-one collections of common elderberry were assembled from five states. Dormant vegetative cuttings from each collection were planted in the greenhouse to establish plants for field testing. In 1998 plants from the greenhouse were placed in replicated field experiments in Michigan for a 3-year evaluation of survival, vigor, plant height and width, disease resistance, and flower abundance. Accession 9084126 was selected for further testing based on the results of those initial replicated field experiments.

Accession 9084126 was tested in field plantings and Plant Materials Program Inter-Center evaluations for survival, height, spread, and fruit abundance. Seed germination procedures were also developed for this accession. See the attached *Data to Support Release of Vintage Germplasm common elderberry* for additional information.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:** Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is a selection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Vintage Germplasm did not meet the assessment of a plant which could become invasive based on the environmental evaluation process adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** Vintage Germplasm common elderberry is intended for use in streambank and shoreline stabilization as an alternative to introduced plant species. It can be used for enhancement of riparian corridors and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

**Anticipated Area of Adaptation:** The anticipated area of use of Vintage Germplasm is within the Great Lakes region and upper mid-west United States, which is well within the species' range. Vintage Germplasm inhabits well drained soils near streams and adjacent bottomlands as well as in forests and muck soils.

**Availability of Plant Materials:** Generation 1 (G1), equivalent to Foundation Seed, will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, Michigan, and is available in limited quantities to interested parties for increase purposes.

**References:**

Gleason H. 1963. *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora. Vol. 3.* New York: Hafner Publishing Company. 595 pp.

Gleason H. and A. Conquist. 1991. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.* Bronx, New York: The New York Botanical Garden. 910 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2010. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 22 February 2010). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

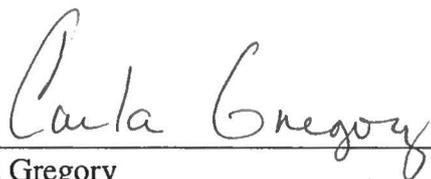
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**Prepared by:**

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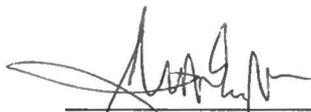
Signatures for release of:

Vintage germplasm Common elderberry [*Sambucus nigra* L. ssp. *canadensis* (L.) R. Bolli]



Carla Gregory  
Acting State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
East Lansing, MI

6/21/10  
Date



for Michael Hubbs  
Ecological Sciences Division Director  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Washington, DC

8/23/2010  
Date

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