“Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners”

Sambucus canadensis by Cecilia Bernuy

Common name: Elderberry
Family: Adoxaceae

These tiny lemon-scented white flowers grow in clusters from a tall deciduous shrub. The flowers attract butterflies and they give way to clusters of black elderberries. The berries are edible in jams, jellies and even Elderberry wine. They feed 48 species of birds giving this plant a ‘high wildlife value’. This shrub is fast growing and spreads by suckers. Plant as a hedge and allow it to spread or cut suckers as they appear. You may cut it down to the ground to rejuvenate.

Deciduous shrub
Zone: 3 to 9
Height: 5 to 10 feet
Spread: 5 to 10 feet
Bloom Time: June to July
Bloom Description: tiny lemon scented white flowers in clusters

Grows well in full sun to partial shade with medium to wet soil. It tolerates clay soils and erosion. It grows well in rain gardens.

References:
Missouri Botanical Gardens / Plant Finder
Native Plants of Southeast Virginia
https://www.plantvirginianatives.org/plant-southeast-virginia-natives
Photo source: Wildflower.org https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=46465

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