Red Elderberry

*Sambucus racemosa L. var. pubens* (Michx.) Koehne

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae  
**Habitat:** Moist  
**Color:** White  
**Height:** 8-20 ft.  
**Exposure:** Sun to partial shade  
**Bloom Dates:** Spring  
**Soil Moisture:** Average  
**Soil Quality:** Rich  
**Garden Uses:** Upright shrub with vase shape. Use as accent plant in shrub border or hedge; can be planted under large trees; flowers attract butterflies and other insects; fruit very important to birds.

**Notes:** Shrub. Berries are loved by birds. Where it grows under a canopy, it develops poorly, is lower height, and fruits sparingly, if at all. Food for many species of birds including bluebirds, woodpeckers, grosbeaks, veeries, warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo, scarlet tanager, American crow, grouse, and hummingbirds who visit flowers for nectar. Heavily browsed by deer.

**USDA Plants Profile**  
http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=SARAR3