



## Weed of The Week

### American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

This week's weed of the week features a wildlife friendly woody shrub called American Elderberry. Once mainly found in the southeast, this woody shrub is starting to make its presence more known farther north. American Elderberry can be found growing along streams, wood lines, marshes, fence rows, and roadsides. It features large compound leaves and reproduces mainly by seed but can reproduce by creeping roots or rhizomes. Flowering takes place mid-June through early August. Small white flowers are formed into clusters in an umbel shaped form. After flowering has halted American Elderberry will form clusters of berries that are very appealing to wildlife. Berries are purple to black in color and contain 3-5 seeds per berry. Birds and other wildlife love the berries and help spread the plant across the landscape. A unique feature of this plant is that the stems and twigs can be used to make baskets, and flutes. Controlling this plant is up to the landowner, some might see benefits while others might see it as a nuisance. Removing the shrub mechanically can be effective if the whole root system is removed. Herbicide treatments should be done early in the spring before flowering takes place, Cross bow, Cimarron Max, and Remedy ultra can be effective.

