

THE ELDER

Kingdom Plantae

Division: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Dipsacales

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Genus: *Sambucus*

The elder is a perennial very vigorous shrub. It has woody branches, pleasantly scented inflorescences and a head that can reach considerable size, being wide and high as 5 meters. Another family member, is the *Sambucus ebulus*, easily distinguished from the first because its stems are herbaceous and not very developed.



The cortex of the elder gray-green when young is adorned with lenticels, cracks and aging takes on a darker color.

The leaves of the elder, are 5 to 7 leaflets opposing elliptical with apex sharp, serrated margin and unpleasant smell. They have the characteristic of being united to the branches and deciduous by a long stalk, the color is dark green in the higher, while it is lighter on the underside.



The flowers are light-white, intensely fragrant. the corolla consists of five rounded petals arranged in radius, there are five stamens around the pistil. These flowers are hermaphrodites and bloom from April to June.

The fruits of the elder are violet-black drupes. When mature, they contain three ovals and brown seeds, while the infructescenza are colored purple. At the maturation the fruits are pending. The juice is dark red because contain anthocyanins called sambucina and chrysanthemums.

