

Protocol Information

USDA NRCS - Appalachian Plant Materials
Center
P.O. Box 390
Alderson, West Virginia 24910
304-445-3005
304-445-7049
Randall.Lester@wv.usda.gov
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/wvpmc>



Plant Materials Program

Family Scientific Name: **Caprifoliaceae**

Family Common Name: **Honeysuckle**

Scientific Name: *Sambucus racemosa*

Common Name: **Red elderberry**

Species Code: **SARA2**

General Distribution: **Widely distributed throughout 3/4 of the continental United States. This species is found primarily at high elevations in the Appalachian Mountains.**

Known Invasiveness: **None**

Propagation Goal: **Plants**

Propagation Method: **Seed**

Product Type: **Container (plug)**

Time To Grow: **2 Years**

Target Specifications: **A well developed plant suitable for transplanting with at least 12" of top growth and a healthy root system.**

Propagule Collection: **Seeds were collected from multiple existing populations within the boundaries of the Monongahela National Forest. The seeds should be mature when the drupe turns scarlet or red.**

Propagule Processing: **Ripe fruit was collected in late July and placed in sealable plastic bags. The bags were placed in the cooler for 3 weeks to allow the fruit to ferment which aided in the separation of the seeds from the pulp. The fruit was mascerated by hand and placed on top of a series of screens (9, 1/12, 1/18). Water was then used to wash the seeds through the**

screens. The seeds were collected on the 1/18 screen and placed on kraft paper in a thin layer to air dry.

Pre-Planting Treatments: **No pretreatment was used.**

Growing Area Preparation/

Annual Practices for Perennial Crops: **Pro-mix BX with biofungicide was moistened and placed in heavy plastic trays. The soil was compacted somewhat to prepare a firm seedbed.**

Establishment Phase: **Seed was spread evenly by hand on the soil surface and then covered with 1/8 to 1/4 inch of additional soil. The top layer was pressed down slightly to ensure good seed to soil contact. The trays were placed in the greenhouse for 2 months to allow for the warm, moist stratification period. The trays were then moved outside to the shadehouse for 5 months to allow for the cold stratification period. The trays were then moved back into the greenhouse and allowed to germinate.**

Length of Establishment Phase: **9 months**

Active Growth Phase: **Germination began in the spring after the cold stratification period. Once the seedlings had sufficient root systems, they were transplanted into 1 gallon plastic pots filled with Metro-mix 510 growing medium.**

Length of Active Growth Phase: **6 - 9 months**

Hardening Phase: **Plants were moved back into the shadehouse to allow for hardening off before shipping.**

Length of Hardening Phase: **2 weeks**

Harvesting, Storage and Shipping: **Plants with sufficient top growth were loaded on trailers and shipped back to the Monongahela National Forest. Trailers were covered with tarps to prevent wind burn.**

Length of Storage: **1 day**

Outplanting performance on typical sites: **Red elderberry prefers moist, loamy soils for optimum growth. This species can tolerate some shade but prefers sunny exposures.**

References: **Bonner, F.T. & R.P. Karrfalt, 2008. The Woody Plants Seed Manual. USDA Forest Service. Agriculture Handbook 727.**

USDA, NRCS. 2012. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 12 July 2012). National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

Citation:

Lester, Randall K.; Vandevender, John C. 2013. Propagation protocol for production of container *Sambucus racemosa* plants; USDA NRCS - Appalachian Plant Materials Center, Alderson, West Virginia. In: Native Plant Network. URL: <http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 19 September 2013). Moscow (ID): University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Forest Research Nursery.