



Red Elderberry

Sambucus racemosa

Honeysuckle Family (*Caprifoliaceae*)

General Description: Leggy shrub to 20ft. It is multi-stemmed and erect, with branches curving down at the ends, forming a fountain shape.

Key Characteristics: Oppositely arranged, swollen and egg-shaped, green to purple buds. Bark is greenish-brown/gray, with pronounced raised lenticels all along stem. Leaf scar is shield-shaped with 5 to 7 bundle scars.

Confused With: Commonly confused with Bigleaf Maple when tree is a sapling. Note differences in bark color, lenticels, and leaf buds.

Photo: Joe Bettis