

Sambucus



ZONE HARDINESS 5 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.6 – 0.9

Moderate fertilization is recommended. 100ppm – 200 ppm N

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 65 F Night – 72 F Day

Holding: 40 F Night – 50 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement. Crops will slow down in the heat of the summer.

WATERING

Dry to moderate: Water thoroughly without oversaturating. Keep moist during root development and allow soil surface to dry completely before watering after the crop is rooted to the edge of the pot.

TIMING

28 Liner to True 1 Gallon: 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Weeks 18 – 20. If a larger size is desired, we recommend planting these in the fall and doing additional bulking prior to dormancy. Planting a 28 count liner into a 2 – 3 gallon container and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger, high quality spring crop.

Quick Turn™ Liner to True 1 Gallon: 5 – 7 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 18. Planting a Quick Turn in Week 20 for finishing in Week 25 is also achievable.

Quick Turn Liner to 2 – 3 Gallon: Planting a Quick Turn liner into a 2 – 3 gallon container and bulking in the fall is also a great way to finish a larger, high quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization for flowering is required on *Sambucus*. They will not flower without a cold treatment.

PLANTING

Sambucus perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium.

When growing shrubs, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as shrubs.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

During early spring forcing, plants should be given as much light as possible. High light will ensure darker foliage in Black Lace™. Poly grown plants will have lighter colored foliage. Crops should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Unspaced plants can stretch, require additional pruning and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.

Shading can be beneficial in the summer heat, as *Sambucus* can sometimes struggle in really hot locations.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Sambucus benefit from frequent light pruning rather than hard pruning. A hard pinch will promote a strong horizontal growth pattern. Also, a hard shearing once the summer heat arrives will shut down all new growth until cool nights arrive in early fall.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Avoid pinching until after flowering, because flowers appear only on terminals that have been properly vernalized. Light tip pinching and trimming, as well as cooler forcing temperatures, are used mostly on *Sambucus* to control plant height after flowering. However, applications of 5ppm Sumagic® (uniconazole) seem to help in controlling height during forcing for early spring flowering. Multiple applications may be needed. Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures and good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high quality crop. Cultural practices such as cooler holding temperatures, proper spacing and good air movement in an open environment can also help control plant height and assist in finishing a high quality crop.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.

Sambucus Continued



PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Spider Mites are the most prevalent insect pests associated with *Sambucus*. Scout and spray preventatively in April and May to prevent outbreaks in June and July, when Spider Mites are more actively growing. We recommend implementing a good IPM program, as well as early releases of Biological Control to help control insect populations. Spray with a regular fungicide rotation to control *Cercospora*, as it can be a problematic foliar disease on *Sambucus*. Susceptibility of Powdery Mildew is higher in Lemony Lace™ than it is for Black Lace™.

OTHER TIPS

When growing larger containers like 3 gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer or fall the year before they are to be sold. This allows additional root growth, as well as additional pruning. Any surplus 1 gallon containers can easily be bumped into 3 gallon containers in the fall or early spring for spring sales.

