

ELDER (*Sambucus niger*)

Opposite compound leaves, with serrated edges, the leaflets being few and broad at their bases. The bark is light brown and corky, and young stems are filled with soft pith; the leaf buds are reddish, and are not stalked. Flowers in July, white in conspicuous clusters, strongly odorous. Fruit ripen in September, as masses of black berries. Unwholesome when raw, the berries are used to make elderberry wine or cooked in pies^[1].



The wood is light-yellow in colour, and is sometimes used for skewers and cabinet work. The pith is of great utility in the botanical laboratory, as a medium for cutting sections of leaves, etc., for the microscope^[1].

Insect pollinated with organs of both sexes in the same flower.

Unfortunately the elder in Sandhurst Copse & Sheepwalk tend to suffer from dieback.

^[1]“British Woodland Trees”, H L Edlin, 1949, p63.