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Sambucus glauca

BLUE ELDER is a shrub or tree. Native to southern North America it has tiny bluish-white flowers.

It is also known as Blue berried elder, Blue elderberry, and Southern elder.

Warning – the berries are poisonous.

Glauca is derived from Latin *glaucus* (bluish-grey, greenish-grey) meaning ‘covered with a fine, powdery whitish coating’.

The fruit were eaten by some of the North American Indian tribes – some authorities note as a staple.

In California in the United States not only have the tiny intensely blue berries been cooked for food but the plant, itself, has been grown as an ornamental.