

How to Use


Common name/s and *Scientific name.*





Images of plant species:

These are best used in conjunction with the botanical description provided in the text.

Description:

Includes botanical description, soil requirements, and National Vegetation Classification (NVC) communities a species exists in. NVC is a system developed to classify habitat types according to the vegetation that exists there. It can be a good indicator of the conditions that prevail on a site.

Elder - *Sambucus nigra* 



Description	Soil regimes	
Elder is a shrub that can grow up to 8m in height. The leaves are divided into 5 serrated oval leaflets, each terminating in a point. Buds are located in opposite pairs and flowers are flat whitish clusters with a distinctive aroma commonly used to flavour drinks; these ripen to red-black berries. The bark can be very corky, especially in older specimens. The shrub is found in fertile, moist to dry, neutral to slightly basic soils. Elder is present in a range of woodland communities, W6-11, as well as scrub and hedgerows.	Soil reaction (R)	7
	Nitrogen availability (N)	7
Acknowledgements: FC (L, MR, R), Rob Coltman (ML)		

R value:

The soil reaction or 'R' value is related to acidity and indicates the pH of the soil the plant typically exists within. The lower the R value the lower the pH and vice versa. This can be quite specific for some plants, but others have a wider range.

N value:

The 'N' value indicates the level of available nitrogen in soil required by a species. The combined value of the **R** and **N** values provide an indication of soil fertility.

Acknowledgements:

These refer to the providers of the images used in the species guide