



# Elderberry as a Third Crop

The Grower Cooperative Advantage  
Minnesota Elderberry Cooperative  
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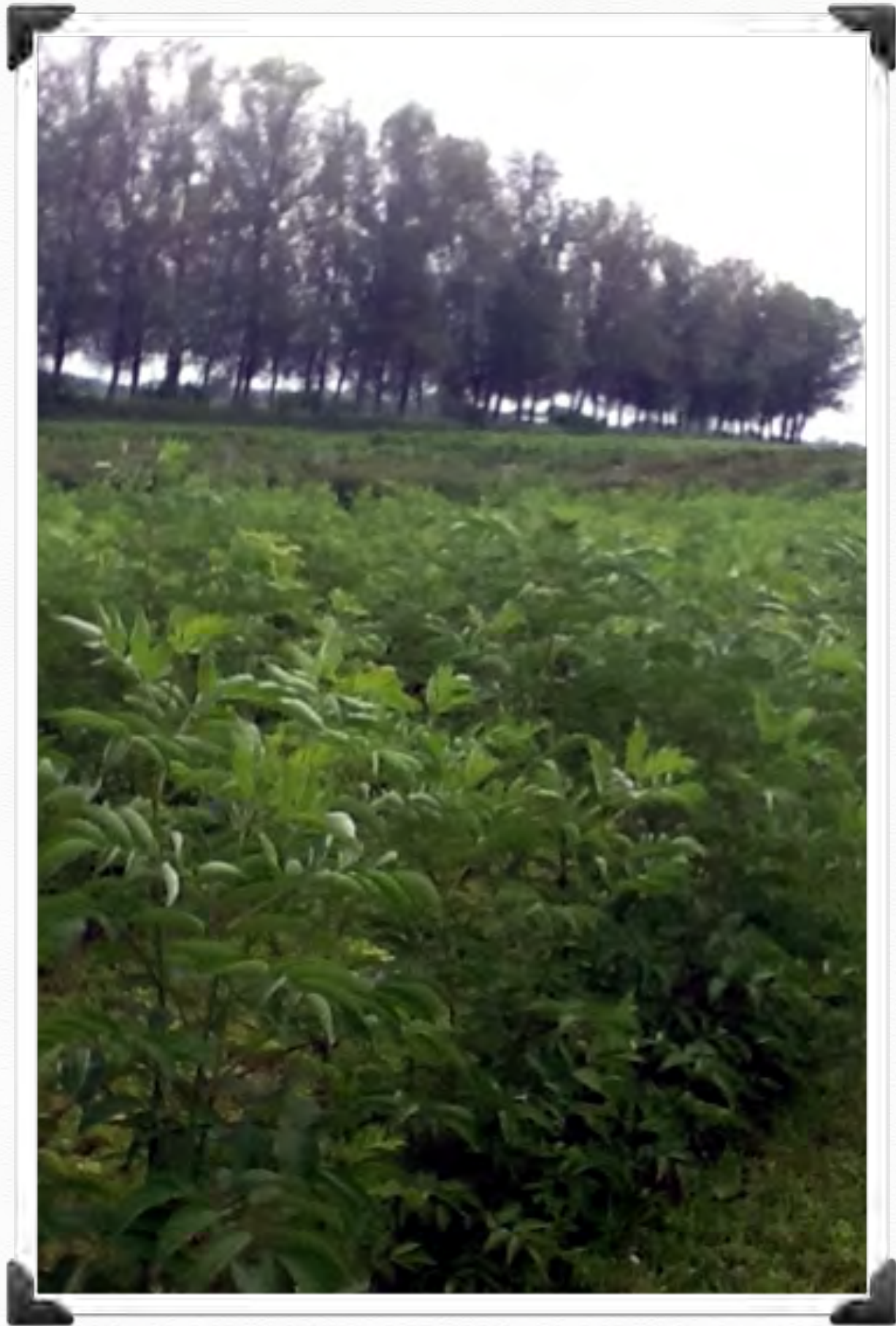


# Elderberry: Botany, Horticulture, Potential

Denis Charlebois, Patrick L. Byers, Chad E. Finn, Andrew L. Thomas , page 3.

The elderberry or elder (*Sambucus* ssp.) in production or growing wild in the northern hemisphere, may have the widest range of applications of all small fruits. Members of the genus *Sambucus* have a multitude of uses including: river bank stabilization and windbreaks (Paquet and Jutras 1996); wildlife food and refuge; ornamental, crafts and games; versatile human food source, and multi-purpose medicinal (Vallès et al. 2004).







# Habitat

- ❖ Open or semi-open areas along habitat edges
- ❖ Seedlings compete poorly with more aggressive species
- ❖ Thrive best in full sun or partial shade
  - ❖ Along streams in floodplains
  - ❖ Openings in wooded canopy
  - ❖ Disturbed sites
  - ❖ Along roadsides - sometimes used as a windbreak (p.7)



# Productive Use of Marginal Land

- ❖ Second soils - sunny slope, rocky, sandy
- ❖ Soil retention - erosion & run-off control
- ❖ On berms in low wet areas, along ponds
- ❖ Forest / field borders, windbreaks, irregular islands or contours





**East Grove**  
**Elderberry Reserve**

90% Grape  
10% Elderberry Wine  
Bottled November 24th 2013

Alc. 14%  
By Vol.



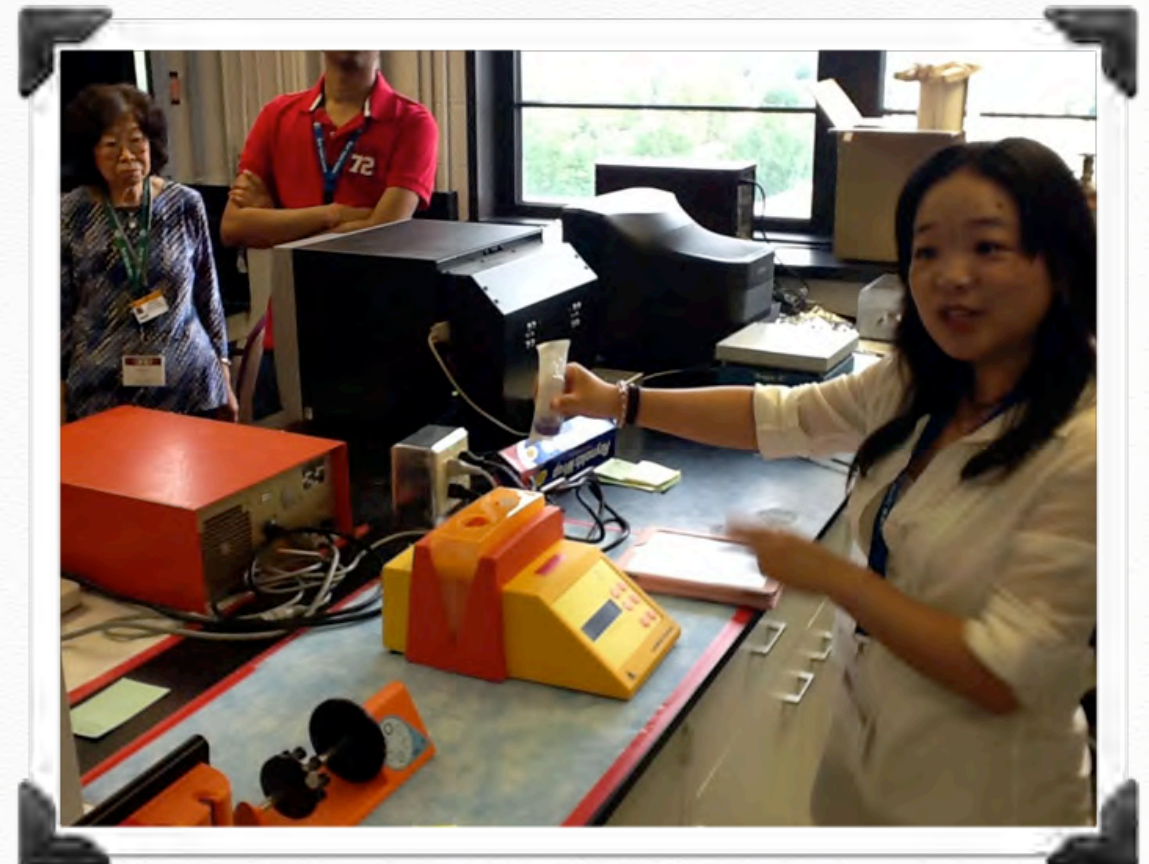
# Developing Market

- ❖ On-farm value added products
- ❖ Local supply of flower/berry ingredients
- ❖ Sales of crop to grower cooperative
- ❖ River Hills Harvest brand
- ❖ Direct to consumers, herbal hobbyists



# Elderberry Advantages

- ❖ Traditional health benefits
- ❖ Modern research
- ❖ Sweet-neutral berry flavor
- ❖ Cultural memories
- ❖ 95% imported supports high commodity price





# Minnesota Elderberry Cooperative

Minnesota Elderberry Cooperative are committed to enhanced farmer profitability through economies of scale and by managing the supply of regionally produced elderberry products to meet the growing consumer demand. Our goal is to provide easier market access for our increasing number of grower members. Eventually, we expect to facilitate sales to many wholesale buyers of berries and flowers, such as to River Hills Elderberry Producers. Their River Hills Harvest brand produces and distributes elderberry products for both the retail and wholesale markets.

Beginning in January 2014, Minnesota Elderberry Cooperative actively recruited growers through their educational outreach on the Internet, at conferences and with hands-on workshops. We help new and existing elderberry growers improve cultivation and harvest efficiency through coordinated university research projects, various government programs and/or private initiatives. An overview of membership categories, benefits and how to become a member of the Minnesota elderberry Cooperative is summarized on our Membership page.

<http://minnesota-elderberry.coop>