

Plant Spacing Chart for Elderberry Fields

We suggest you order a few more plants than your field plan calls for. Plant your rows and set the extra plants close together at the end of the rows. Use these later in the season to interplant where some have died, been pulled or cultivated out, or suffered another demise. Having 100% full production rows, i.e., NO misses or gaps, aids greatly in weed control (gaps allow sunlight to reach the soil and weeds to grow). Gaps are expensive to maintain. They require more work for their footprint and bring NO harvest (\$\$) returns to you. Plus, aesthetically, full rows look so much better – are more enjoyable to look at - quite important for PYO operations, even if you personally are not a “feely-touchy” person.

– Paul M. Otten, Berry Communications (651-308-3801, pmo@chof.net)
[Minnesota Elderberry Coop: www.Minnesota-Elderberry.coop]

In-Row Spacing	Plants needed for 100' Row	Plants needed for 500' Row	Plants needed for 1000' Row	Plants needed for MY row length: _____ LFR	Notes
24"	50	250	500		
27"	45	222	445		
30"	40	200	200		
33"	36	182	364		
36"	33	167	333		
39"	31	154	308		
42"	29	143	286		
45"	27	133	267		
48"	25	124	250		

ROW spacing needs to be determined by the equipment each grower will use BETWEEN rows to maintain and harvest the crop. We typically list the equipment to be used – tractors, tillers, mowers, foliar sprayers, side-dressers, harvest wagons, etc. Then measure each at the widest outside-to-outside dimension. Add at least 5 feet to determine our minimum row spacing for caneberries: aronia, currants, elderberries, and raspberries.