

Hamamelis virginiana

Witchhazel

Height: 10-20'

Spread: 10'-20'

Sun: Full sun to Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Mesic, moist but well-drained

Soil Types: Sand, Loam, Clay. Rich and well-drained

Bloom Time: October to December

Bloom Description: Yellow, showy, fragrant. Stem-hugging clusters of bright yellow flowers, each with four crinkly, ribbon-shaped petals, appear along the branches. More sunlight produces more flowers.

Leaf: A clear, bright yellow in the autumn.

Fruit: Fruits form over a long period. The greenish seed capsules become woody with age and mature to light brown. Each seed capsule splits open in fall of the following year, exploding the 1-2 black seeds within for up to 30 feet with an audible sound.

Uses: hedge, naturalize, rain garden, shrub border, woodland gardens, screen, beds and borders, specimen plant, or focal point

Wildlife: Song Birds

Nectar: flies and wasps, Halictid bees, Noctuid moths

Larval Host: Witch Hazel Dagger Moth

Pollinators: flies and wasps

Deer Resistant: Yes/No

Comments: Promptly remove suckers to prevent spread. Little pruning is required, but prune in early spring if needed. Understory plant that becomes leggy if it has to reach for light, but in the open, it develops into a graceful, spreading shrub about 20 feet tall. The aromatic extract of leaves, twigs, and bark is used in mildly astringent lotions and toilet water. Some believe that a forked branch of witchhazel could be used to locate underground water.

