

***Lindera benzoin***

**Spicebush**

**Height:** 6 to 12 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 12 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to medium shade. Tolerates full shade, but will grow more open and wide.

**Soil Moisture:** Moist to mesic

**Soil Types:** loam or sand but will tolerate clay, especially with decaying organic matter.

**Bloom Time:** March-April

**Bloom Description:** Fragrant yellow flowers bloom along the branches before leaves emerge. Often called “forsythia of the wilds.” Male flowers larger and showier than female flowers.

**Leaf:** Leaves are aromatic when crushed and a tea can be made from them. The leaves turn yellow in the fall.

**Fruit:** Showy fruit when both a male and female plant are present.

**Uses:** Excellent understory plant for damp shade situations, such as woodlands, rain garden, streams and ponds, shrub borders or naturalized plantings.

**Wildlife:** The fruits are a good source of energy for migratory birds.

**Nectar:**

**Larval Host:** Spicebush swallowtail butterfly (caterpillar pictured)

**Pollinators:** small bees and various flies

**Deer Resistant:** Some

**Comments:** All parts of the plant are aromatic. The dried fruit may be used for potpourri or powdered to use as a spice. The leaves and twigs may be brewed as a tea.

