



## ***Hamamelis virginiana* – Witch-Hazel**

COMMON NAME: Witch-Hazel, Winter-Bloom

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hamamelis virginiana* (Name combines the ancient Greek name for the medlar or similar tree and a root meaning “at the same time” for the presence of flowers at fruiting time.)

FLOWERS: Fragrant, yellow, strap-shaped, twisted petals

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late autumn (September to November) when the leaves are falling.

SIZE: Shrub or small tree from 20-30 feet.

BEHAVIOR: Delicate, wide-spreading silhouette with “zig zag” alternate branches and light gray bark. Slow growing.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Cool, moist soil. Tolerates shade, but requires strong light and a few hours of sunlight each day to produce flowers.

NATURAL RANGE: Nova Scotia to Florida, west to eastern Minnesota and Texas, north to central Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Beautiful silhouette when open-grown. Aromatic golden, star-like flowers, in clusters along branches, add a spring aspect to autumn. Fruit is an elliptical, light brown capsule opening in 2 parts, which matures in autumn of the second year. 1-2 shiny, black seeds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easy to grow. Water regularly during the first few years. Protect from rabbits.

COMPANION PLANTS: White and black oak, black cherry, basswood, sugar maple, gray dogwood, ironwood, starry Solomon’s plume, wild geranium, Pennsylvania sedge.