



photos: Dan Jaffe

AMERICAN WITCHHAZEL

Hamamelis virginiana

Unique large shrub with interesting foliage and yellow flowers, which bloom in late fall following leaf drop. Fruit and seeds provide a food source for many wildlife species.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Pollinated at night by owl moths, who stay warm by shivering their muscles
- Fruit eaten by grouse, pheasants, rabbits, beavers, foxes, deer, and black bears
- Turkeys snack on the seeds

Host to 63 caterpillar species, including: (common names) Large Lace-Border; Definite Tussock Moth; Funerary Dagger Moth; Spiny Oak-Slug Moth; Hickory Tussock Moth; Polyphemus Moth; Whitemarked Tussock Moth; Anointed Sallow

Benefits for People

- Interesting foliage and flowers
- Leaves and bark used historically for teas, medicines, salves, etc.

Growing Information

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Sunlight</i> | Part sun to shade |
| <i>Soil Type</i> | Moist to average, acidic |
| <i>Height</i> | 15-20' |
| <i>Width</i> | 15-20' |
| <i>Flowering calendar</i> | October |

Natural Habitat

- Understory tree/shrub in moist mixed hardwood forests

