



photos: Dan Jaffe

NORTHERN SPICEBUSH

Lindera benzoin

Large shrub, often multi-trunked, that produces beautiful flowers, fruit, and fall foliage. Beautiful yellow fall color. The ‘spice’ comes from the fragrance and taste of the leaves, branches, and fruit.

Species is listed as Species of Concern in Maine.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Bees and flies visit the flowers
- Sassafras borer grubs drill into branches and roots
- Wood thrushes, veerys, squirrels, opossums, and raccoons love the fruit

Host to at least 3 caterpillar species: (common names) Spicebush Swallowtail; Promethea silkworm; Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Benefits for People

- Beautiful small flowering tree
- Can be used as a spice, reminiscent of allspice
- Excellent replacement for non-native forsythia

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Sun to shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	Best in moist well-drained, adapts to dry
<i>Height</i>	6–12’
<i>Width</i>	6-12’
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	April

Natural Habitat

- Forested wetlands and stream banks

