**Witch Hazel**

Although common throughout much of the Mid-Atlantic Region, in Virginia’s Coastal Plain, Witch Hazel is infrequent but widespread. The last native shrub to bloom in autumn, its fragrant, spider-like flowers illuminate the landscape in pale yellow. The Virginia Native Plant Society named Witch Hazel as Wildflower of the Year in 2002.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shrub Characteristics</th>
<th>Early Fall Shrub and Close-up of Flowers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Height:</strong> 15–20 feet</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Witch Hazel shrub and flowers" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spread:</strong> 15–20 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bloom Color:</strong> Yellow</td>
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</tbody>
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**Characteristics**

- Deciduous tall shrub or small tree with multi-stemmed clump or low branching form
- Medium green, broadly oval, scalloped leaves
- Four yellow, twisted ribbon-like petals cluster on upper branches from September to December
- Green seed capsules mature over a year to a light brown & when flowers next appear eject their seeds
- Yellow to pale orange fall foliage
- Spreads by seeds although suckers can form colony

**Attributes**

- Tolerates heavy clay soil and erosion
- No serious pests (though Japanese beetles may munch leaves) or diseases; deer occasionally severely damage; rabbits browse on seedlings
- Medicinal uses
- Attracts flies & wasps; larval hosts to some moths

**Growing and Maintenance Tips**

- **Soil Requirements:** Average, well-drained
- **Light Requirements:** Sun, Partial Shade
- **Water Requirements:** Moist
- **Protect from constant wind**
- **Remove suckers promptly to prevent spread; prune in early spring if needed**
- **Use as specimen, patio tree, or in a container**
- **Hardiness:** USDA Zones 3–8

**Excellent Replacement for**

- **Acer tataricum var. ginnala** - Amur Maple
- **Elaeagnus umbellata** - Autumn Olive
- **Rhamnus cathartica** - Buckthorn

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**Hamamelis virginiana**

Images by Elaine Mills, private residence, Arlington, Virginia

**Tried and True**

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