

American Witch Hazel



Photo from NC Extension



Hamamelis virginiana

- **Use:** Common witch-hazel is a large shrub with a picturesque irregular branching habit that naturally grows along woodland edges. The large, rounded, dark green leaves often hang onto the winter branches. The fruit capsules mature a year after flowering, splitting open to expel seeds that are attractive to birds. Tolerant of road salt and clay soil, this is a great specimen plant, or for naturalized landscape. Although young plants are not deer resistant older plants are left alone.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Best flowering in full sun. Easily grown in average, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, acidic, organically rich soils. Tolerates heavy clay soils. Promptly remove suckers to prevent colonial spread. Little pruning is required. Prune in early spring if necessary.
- **Growth:** Arching habit to 15-20' tall and wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zones 3-8, Shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Leaves are alternate with an unequal, wavy margin and hairy stem.
- **Flower:** Stem-hugging clusters of fragrant bright yellow flowers, each with four crinkly, ribbon-shaped petals, appear along the branches from October to December, usually after leaf drop but sometimes at the time of fall color. Fertilized flowers will form fruit over a long period extending through winter and into the following growing season. Gray squirrels eat the brittle seeds.

Reasonably care-free, witch hazel will grow into an attractive form with minimal pruning. Water regularly for the first year and during periods of extended drought after. It is rarely bothered by pests or diseases.

Print this sign out at www.growersoutlet.com