Witchhazel
*Hamamelis virginiana*

The Witch-hazel Family
(Hamamelidaceae)

**Basic Description:** Small tree or shrub with arching branches growing as dense, multi-stemmed clump. Alternate, lettuce-green, deciduous, simple leaves turn brilliant gold in fall. Bark smooth and gray.

**Interesting Facts:** Extract of leaves, twigs, and bark used to make an astringent for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.

**Flower:** Fragrant, lemon-yellow, spider-like blossoms,.5-.75”, appear in late fall after leaves drop.

**Fruit:** Witchhazel flowers and fruits simultaneously; fruit remains on shrub all winter, matures in fall as new flowers bloom. Fruit, which is about .5” long, explodes when ripe, launching two black seeds up to 30 feet.

**Wildlife Value:** Many birds, as well as beaver, white-tailed deer, squirrels, and rabbits eat the seeds.

**Habitat:** Forests, along streams, edges of woods.

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<tr>
<th>LEAF TYPE</th>
<th>POLLINATOR</th>
<th>WILDLIFE VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIMPLE</td>
<td>INSECT</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
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Height range 12-30’