

Vernal Witchhazel

Hamamelis vernalis



Leaves and fruit



The start of fall color



Flower

Vernal Witchhazel

Hamamelis vernalis

Family: Hamamelidaceae

Stem & Leaf Type: deciduous shrub

Size: 6-10' tall; 8-15' wide

USDA Hardiness Zones: 4-8

Leaves: alternate, obovate, unequal dentate margin

Leaf Color: medium to dark green

Fall Color: bright yellow, develops late

Flowers: showy, yellow or red, fragrant, 4 strap-like petals

Fruit: dehiscent capsule

Light: full sun to light shade

Moisture: moist, well-drained

Insect/Disease Issues: No serious problems.

Nativity: South Central United States

Location in the Gardens: Campanile Garden, South Mixed Border



Culture & Landscape Value:

This native species is sometimes a little large for the typical residential landscape, but where the space allows it can be a wonderful shrub with fall interest. Tolerates a wide range of soils but performs best in well-drained, organic moist soils. The nice yellow fall color and spring flowers are wonderful additions to the garden. On cold days petals roll up to avoid frost damage. Propagate by cuttings in June.

Notes:

Two other species that are worth consideration in Iowa include:

H. virginiana (common witchhazel) - native, larger (20' tall), flowers in late fall and early winter

H. xintermedia (witchhazel) - a cross of *H. mollis* and *H. japonica*, both native to Asia. Plants are larger in size with flowers in late winter and early spring. 'Arnold Promise' is a nice cultivar with clear yellow flowers in winter (February through March) and nice orange fall color

Months of Interest:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec