

## **Witch Hazel**

*(Hamamelis sp.)*

Witch hazels are treasured for their very fragrant, unusually shaped flowers that appear in late fall or late winter. The flowers look like masses of thin ribbons or strings, in a golden yellow color. Under unseasonably cold conditions, the flowers protect themselves by closing into a tight ball.

**Soil:** Rich, moist, well drained

**Light:** Sun or light shade

**Zone:** 5 - 6

### **Comments**

Common (*H. virginiana*)--the hardiest and largest (to 25 feet) fall-flowering variety--has medium-sized blooms that blend with yellow fall foliage. Vernal (*H. vernalis*)--smallest, most rounded shape (6 feet high and wide)--has the smallest (1/2-inch) flowers in late winter. Chinese (*H. mollis*)--largest plant with the largest spring flowers--is prone to cold damage. Arnold Promise (*H. x intermedia*) is showiest with red fall color.