



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

Witch hazel

One of our favorites at Christensen's is spring blooming witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*). It is a medium to large, typically to 8' x 8' but can be larger, slow growing shrub with a spreading rounded habit that is vase shaped in youth. It will take full sun to partial shade and prefers moist loamy or sandy soils but is tolerant of most soil types from gravelly to clay, wet or dry, various pH, and there are no significant disease problems.

The thick medium to dark green foliage is about 4" long and turns golden yellow in the fall. Flowers range from bright yellow to orange and reddish orange, are extremely fragrant, and usually bloom from mid February/early March to late March/mid April. They are small with four petals and emerge in tight clusters along lateral stems. Taking dormant cut stems indoors can force them into bloom for fragrant early spring bouquets. The capsule like fruit is an olive color in summer, persistent into the following season, and a good identification feature; but ornamentally insignificant.

This native plant is hardy from zones 3-8 and can be used as a specimen, in group and naturalized plantings, for erosion control, or barrier plantings. Its wide range of tolerances makes it an excellent choice for almost any site conditions. The one draw back is that the previous seasons dead leaves can persist through winter and block some of the spring blooms if not removed.

Hamamelis x intermedia are hybrids of *Hamamelis japonica* and *Hamamelis mollis* and are other spring blooming varieties that are available at Christensen's Plant Center. They are larger than the native species growing to 15' x 15' or slightly larger and are hardy to zone 5.



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[***Return To Archive***](#)



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise' has sulfur-yellow flowers that are very fragrant, growth habit remains vase shaped longer than most witchhazels, and fall color is an outstanding mixture of green, yellow, orange, and red, often appearing banded as if "painted on".



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena' (also known as 'Copper Beauty') flowers glowing copper color from a distance, but are actually red at the base, orange in the center, and yellow at the tip of the petals; also having red-orange autumn leaves.



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Carmine Red' flowers a light red and has red to orange fall color.



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane' flowers coppery-red to bronzed-red and is mildly fragrant.

Photos - Christensen's and Wikipedia

Credits - hcs.osu.edu/hcs/tmi/playlist/ha_nalis.html