



THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

2017 Native Woody of the Year



Lindera benzoin Spicebush

This deciduous shrub is covered with fragrant yellow flowers before leaves emerge in early spring, providing color to awakening woodlands, an early nectar source, and a welcomed substitute for the non-native forsythia. Its aromatic leaves turn yellow in fall. Only female plants, which need a nearby male for pollination, bear the brilliant-red fruit eaten by birds.

- Hardiness:** Zones 4–9
- Light:** Sun to part shade
- Soil:** Moist to average
- Size:** 6–12' tall
- Foliage:** Fragrant; yellow fall color
- Flowers:** Aromatic; greenish-yellow
- Fruit:** Red drupes (on females)
- Bloom Time:** Early spring
- Wildlife Value:** Early nectar source; larval host to spicebush and eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies and promethea moth; the fruit eaten by birds; deer resistant



Photos: Cayte McDonough, copyright © 2017 New England Wild Flower Society (top), Courtesy Summer Hill Nursery