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