

The Magical Witches of Winter



A Closer Look at the Genus *Hamamelis*

PDF of Presentation

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Witch Hazel.....



*“Whilst winter’s hand is yet heavy on
the land the Witch-hazels boldly put
forth their star-shaped yellow blossoms”*

— Plant Explorer *E. H. Wilson* 1927

Hamamelis

“Hama” – at the same time

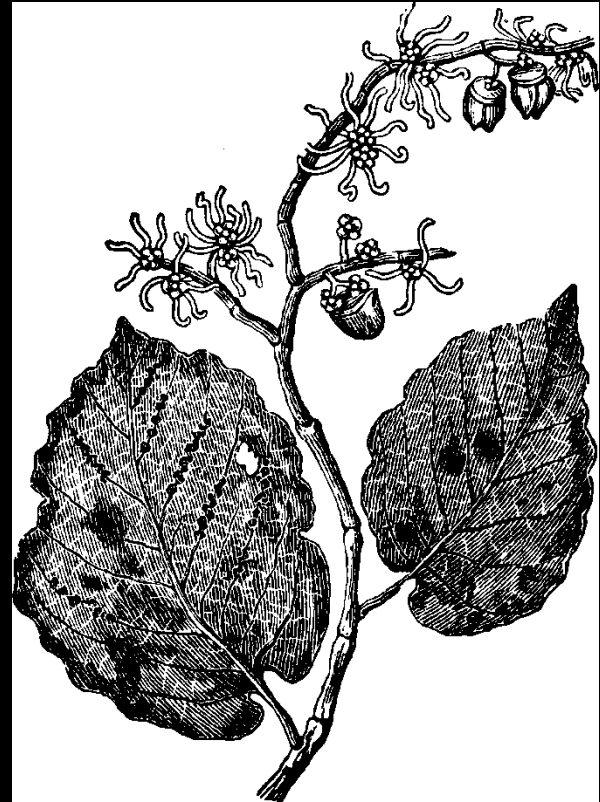
“Melon” – fruit or apple



Witch Hazel

“Witch” – use of forked stems for water dowsing by “water witches”

“Hazel” – resemblance to the filberts or hazels (*Corylus* sp.)



Overview



Bugs Bunny and Witch Hazel II 80992

(Promotional Use Only — Card Not For Sale)

- Deciduous shrubs or small trees (10-30' tall)





- Simple, oval leaves



- Two-valved capsule







Naked “hoof shaped” vegetative buds



Rounded clusters of floral buds



Smooth, dark-grey bark





- Four-petaled, strap-like flowers, born in late autumn or late winter







Landscape/Ornamental Use

- Unique Flowering Period
- Naturalizing
- Fall Color
- Fragrance
- Woodland Gardens
- Specimen
- Shrub Border























Cultivation

- Rich, Evenly Moist, Well-drained Soils
- Avoid Drought
- Best Flowering and Fall Color in Full Sun
- Acidic pH (4.5-6.5)
- Zone 4-8
- Few Pest and Disease Problems
 - Powdery Mildew
 - Leaf Gall
 - Foliage Blight





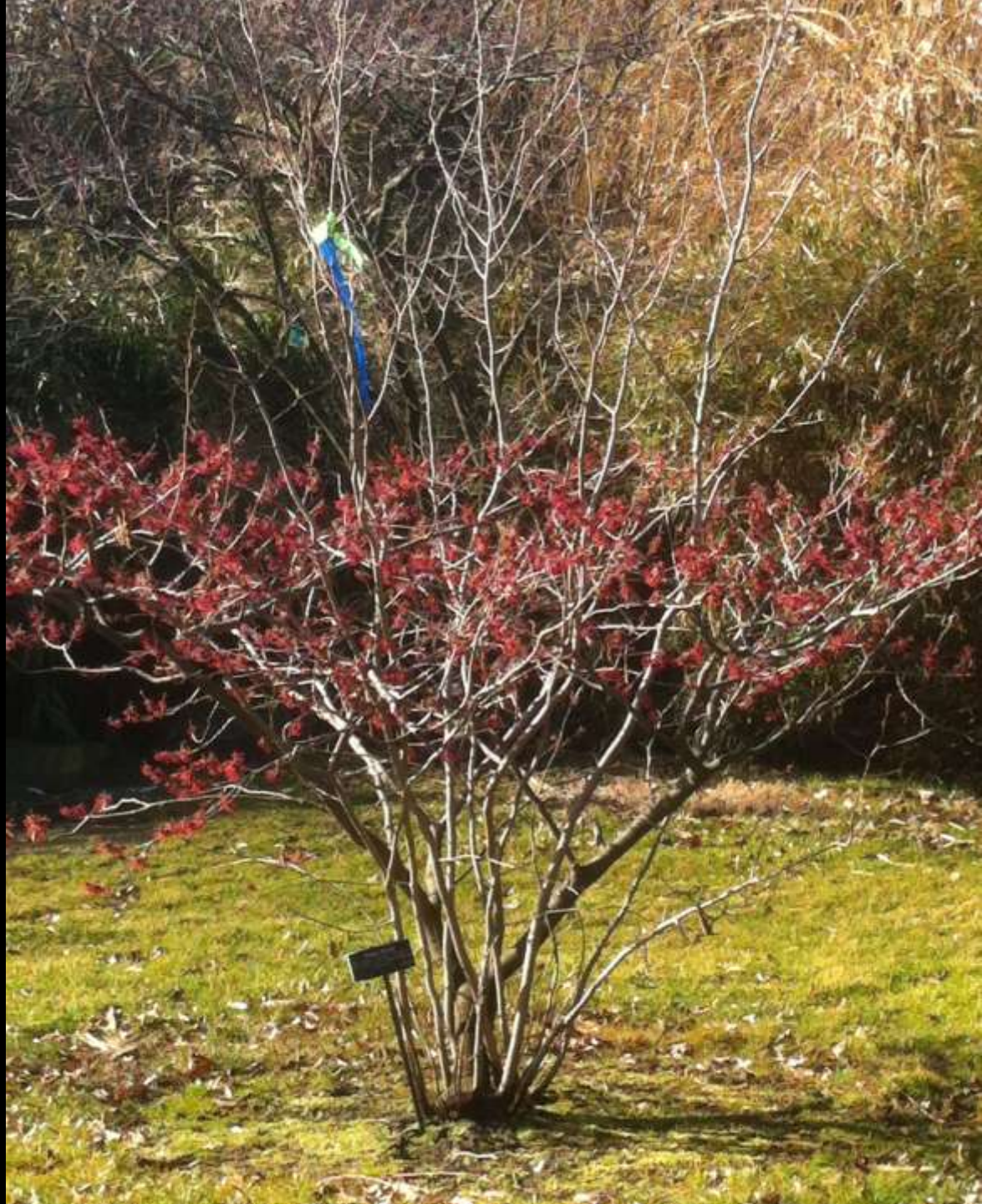
Special Care/Considerations

- Rootstock Suckering
- Background/Proper Site Selection
- Pruning to Maintain Compact Form
- Leaf Retention

Rootstock Suckering







Background/Proper Site Selection



Pruning to Maintain Compact Form



Leaf Retention







Genus Comprised of 5 Species

- *Hamamelis virginiana*
- *Hamamelis vernalis*
- *Hamamelis ovalis*
- *Hamamelis mollis*
- *Hamamelis japonica*
- *Hamamelis x intermedia*

Hamamelis virginiana

Common Witch Hazel



Native Habitat

- Understory
- Dry Woodland Slopes
- Moist Woods





Habit

- Upright, V-shaped form





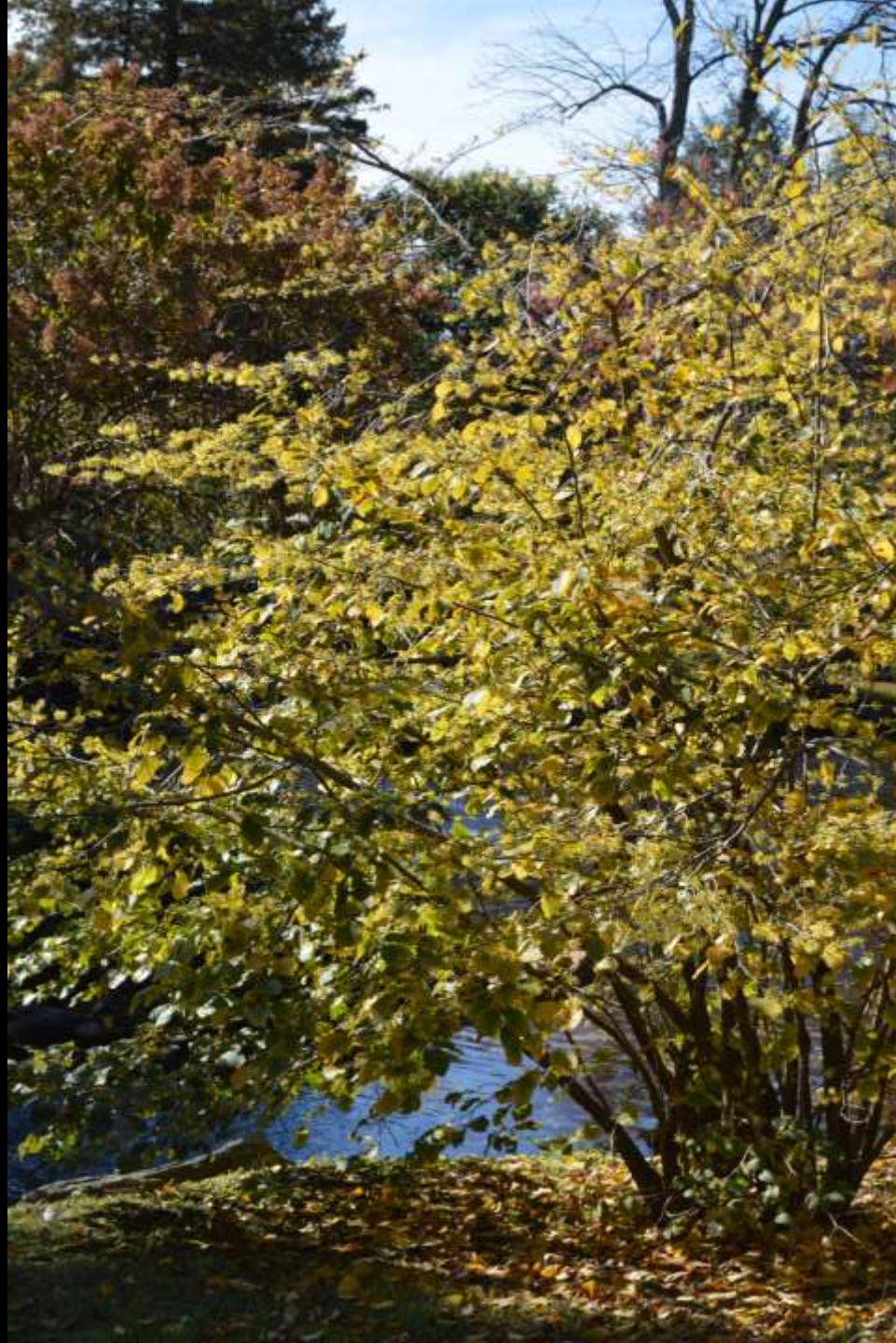
Flowers

- Pale Yellow
- Late Autumn
- Often appear with foliage
- Faint scent











Foliage

- Medium green
- Yellow in fall





History of Use



Divining Rods





Magic and the Occult

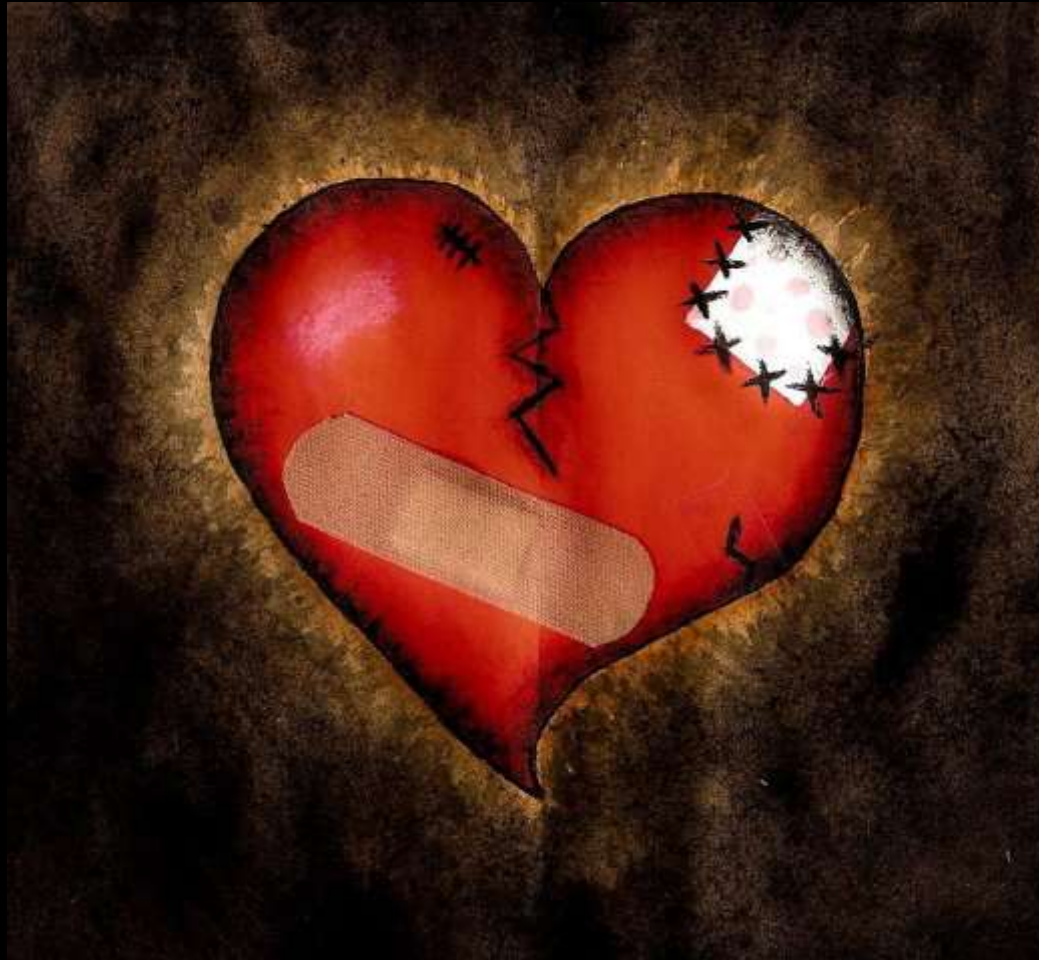
- A tea made from the leaves & bark of witch hazel was believed to heighten occult powers.



- Witches were said to burn witch hazel wood when preparing a brew.



- Modern witches consider witch hazel a magical herb and utilize it in spells to guard against evil influences and to heal broken hearts



Medicinal Value

- Used by Native Americans
 - treating cuts, alleviate colds, eye disorders and other ailments



Lester Skeesuk, a Narragansett-Mohegan of Brothertown, Wisconsin.

- Thomas Dickinson established a distillery in Essex, CT in 1866



WITCH HAZEL

RELIEVES
BRUISES-BURNS
SPRAINS

BE SURE AND GET

DICKINSON'S

YOU'LL NOTICE
THE DIFFERENCE



- Wood Harvested from Native Stands
- Chipped
- Steamed/Distilled to extract oils







- Still used widely today in both medicinal and cosmetic products





Ornamental Value

- Native Plantings
- Late Season Bloom
- Naturalizing



'Harvest Moon'









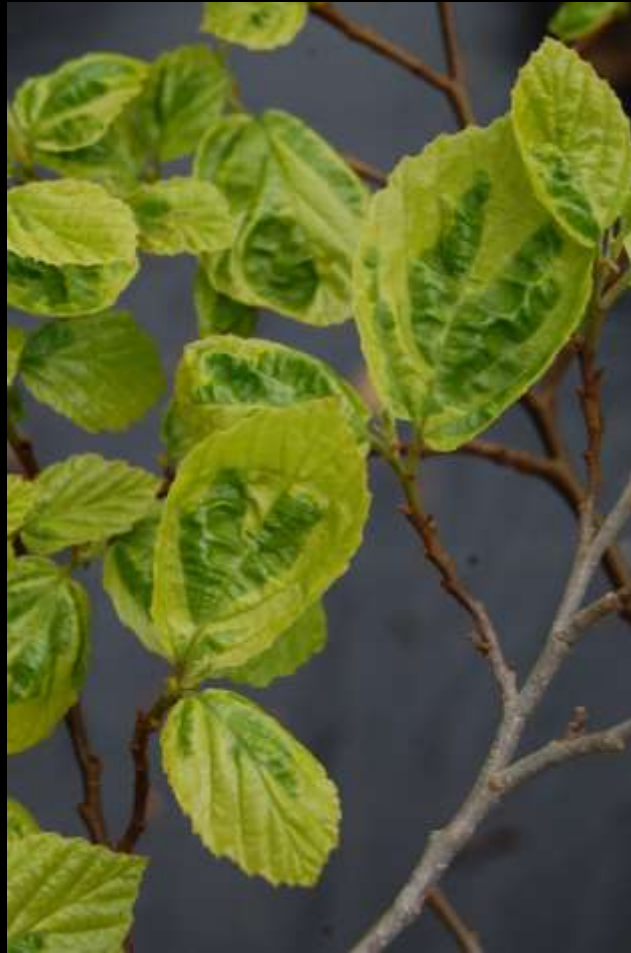
'Little Suzie'







'Green Thumb'







‘Mohonk Red’



‘Copper Curls’





Late Blooming Selection



Hamamelis vernalis

Vernal Witch Hazel, Ozark Witch Hazel



vernalis = “vernal” = winter bloom habit

Native Habitat

- Understory
- Gravely Beds, stream margins

Habit



- Spreading, suckering tendency, variable

Flowers

- Short Petals (smallest of the species)
- Variable
- Pale Yellow, Orange, Deep Red, Purple
- Strongly Fragrant







Foliage



Dark Green turning yellow, orange, red and purple in fall



'Amethyst'







‘Quasimodo’









‘Lombarts Weeping’







Hamamelis ovalis
Bigleaf Witch Hazel



Native Habitat



Foliage



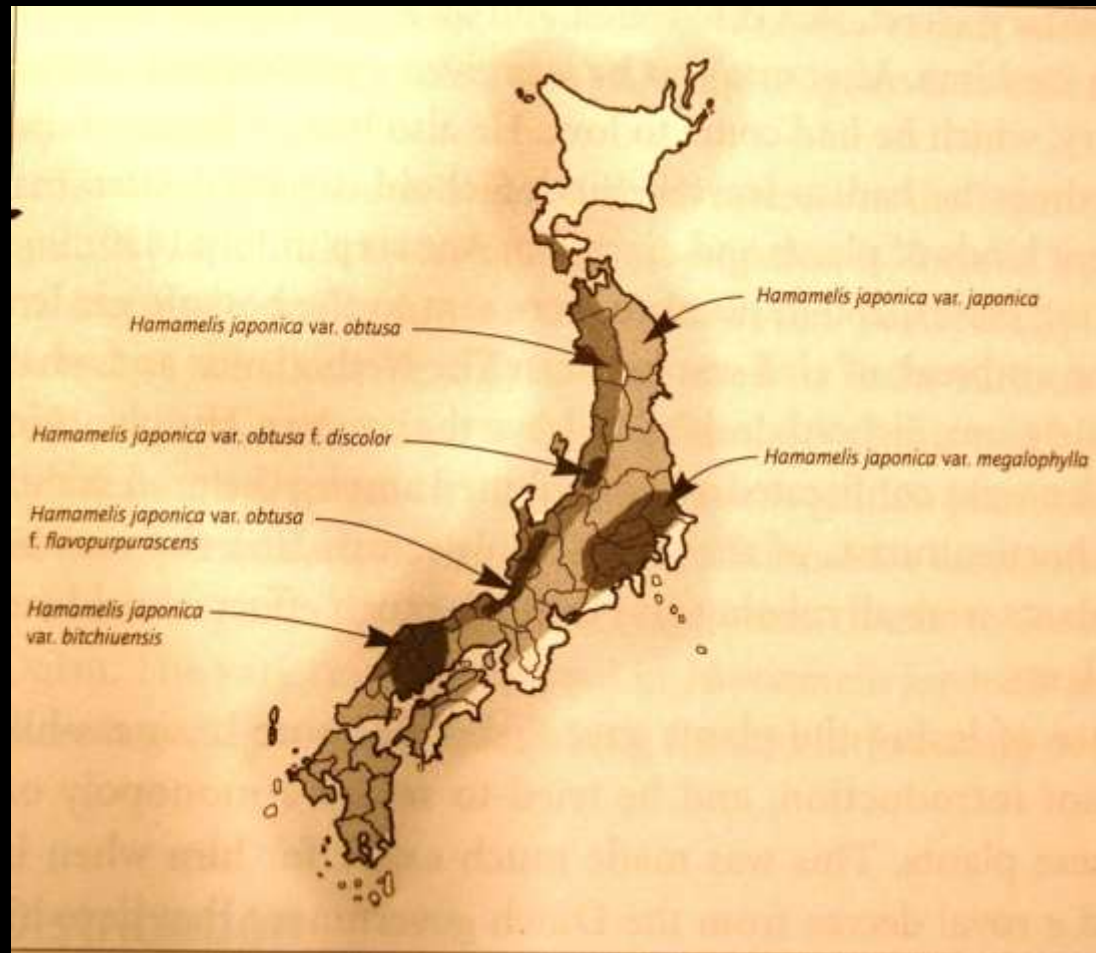
Flowers







Hamamelis japonica



Native Habitat

- Sunny
- Reasonably Moist Soils

Habit

- Variable
- Wide Gene Pool



Flowers

- Golden-yellow to pale purple



Foliage

- Similar to *H. virginiana* in shape
- Orange-red fall color



History of Use

- Branches used for baskets
- Bark Used for building/binding material
- Prized for cut flowers for traditional ceremonies



Ornamental Use

- Naturalizing
- Late Winter/early Spring Interest
- Fall Color



var. flavopurpurascens







var. obtusata







'Arborea'



'Falling Stars' ('Pendula')









Hamamelis mollis

Chinese Witch Hazel



mollis - “soft” – soft hairs on leaves

Native Habitat

- Dry slopes
- Shade/Understory
- Rare in the wild

Habit



Flowers

- Bright Yellow
- Variable size
- Fragrant





Foliage

- Medium green, broad
- Often pubescent





Ornamental Use

- Naturalizing
- Late Winter/early Spring Interest
- Fall Color
- Fragrance

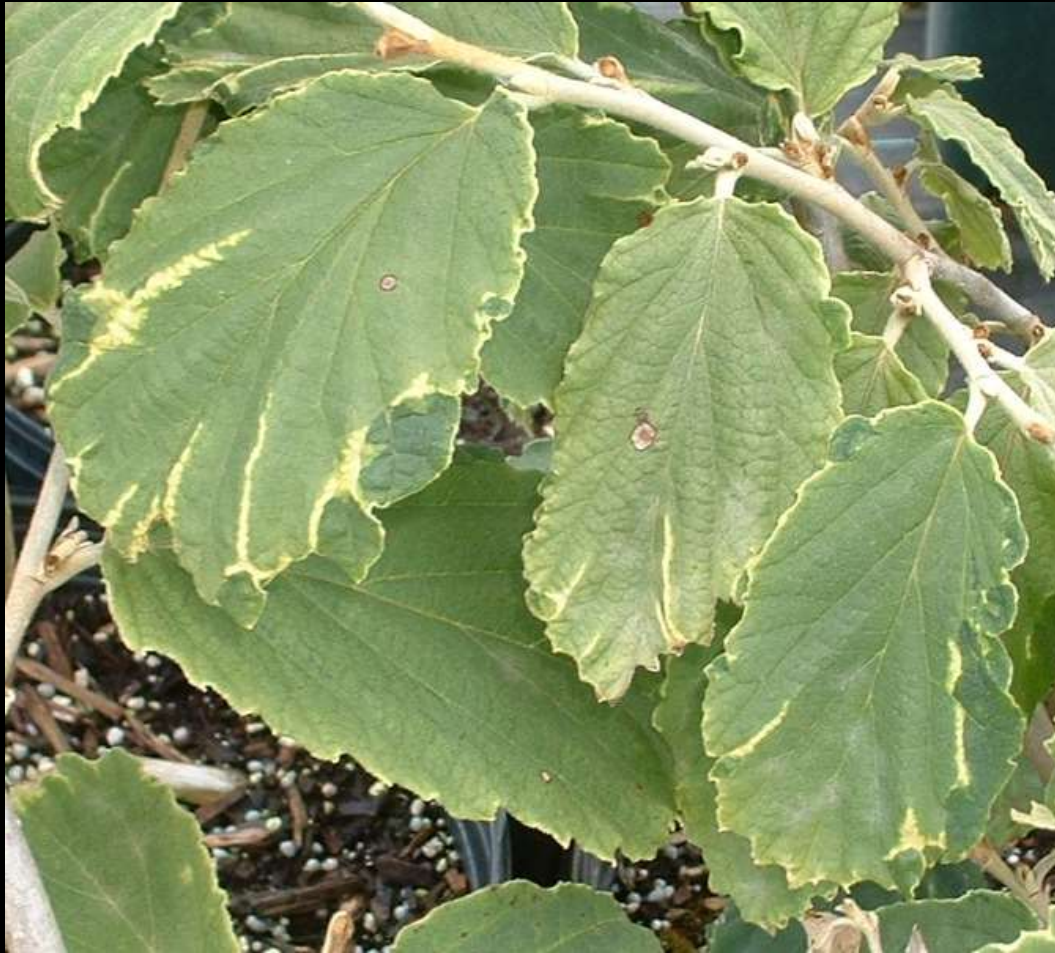


‘Wisley Supreme’





'Gold Edge'





Hamamelis x intermedia

Hybrid Witch Hazel

- Hybrids of *H. japonica*, *H. mollis* and *H. vernalis* that occur in cultivation
- Intermediate in traits



Yellow



'Arnold Promise'









'Sweet Sunshine'







‘Barmstedt Gold’





‘Candlelight Vigil’



‘Westerstede’





'Double Gold'





Red/Burgundy/Purple



'Diane'









‘Birgit’





'Foxy Lady'





‘Tsukubana ‘Kurreani’ ('Shibamichi Red')







Multicolor



Rosie Moore

‘Strawberries and Cream’







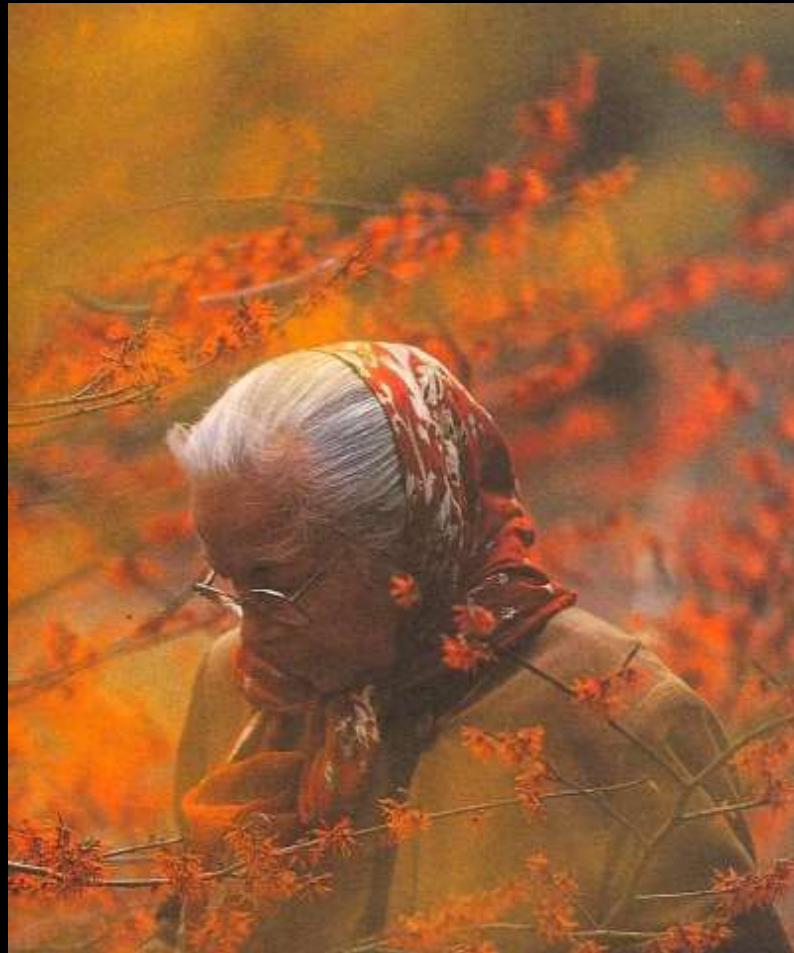
'Twilight'



Orange



'Jelena'











'Aurora'







'Aphrodite'







'Gingerbread'







‘Orange Peel’



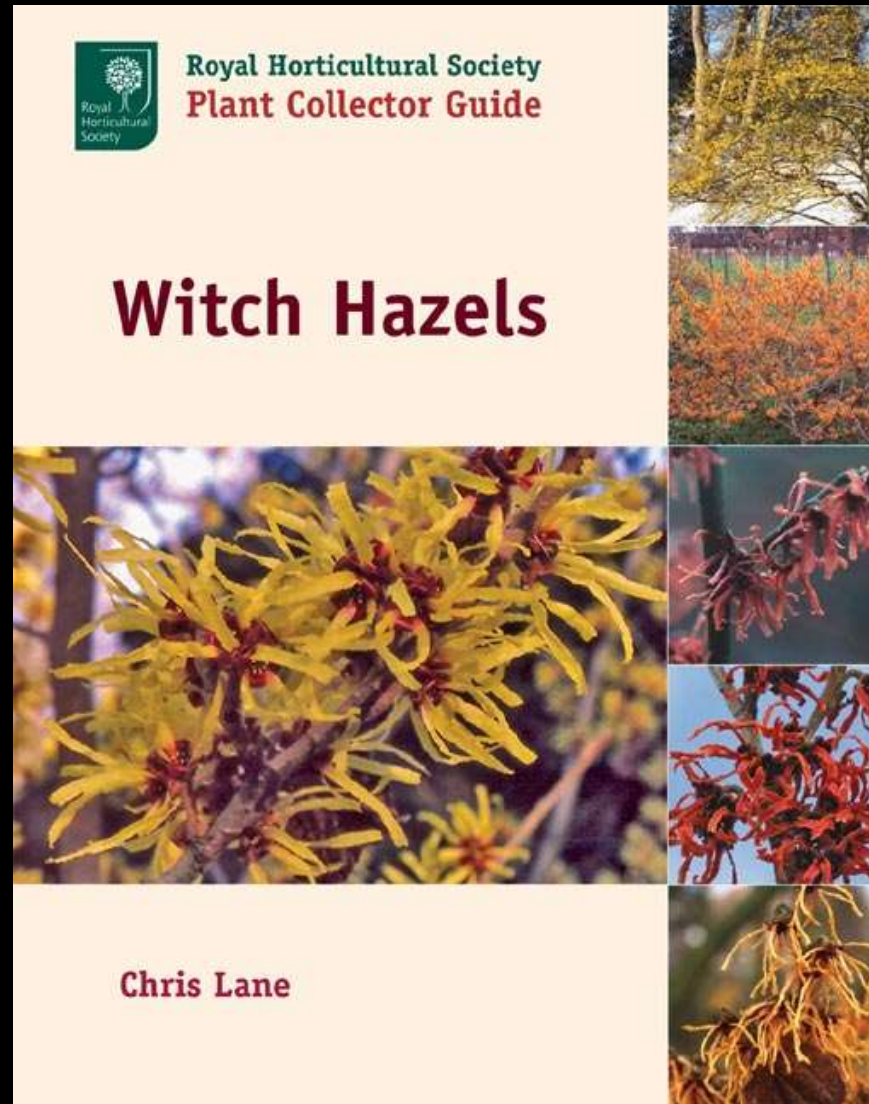




‘Orange Encore’



Questions?????





OTHER TALKS



- Lacecaps, Mopheads and Sterile Florets; A look at the Genus *Hydrangea*
- Fun with Color; Variegated Plants in the Garden
- Plant Geeks are Us; Oddball Plants for Oddball People
- Native Plants with a Twist



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