



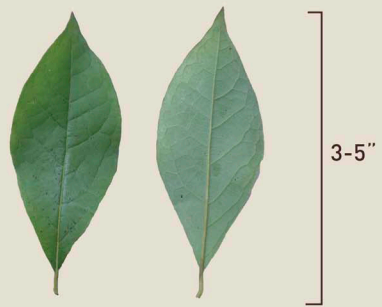
Fruit



Flowers



Height range 6 to 20'



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

The Laurel Family (Lauraceae)

Basic Description: Large bush to short tree with alternate, deciduous, glossy leaves and gray-brown, speckled bark.



Interesting Facts: Named for its spice-like fragrance. Young leaves and twigs brewed into a tea; and dried leaves and drupes used as an allspice substitute. Camphor found in leaves and fruit utilized as a stimulant, antibiotic, astringent and natural breath freshener. Host to the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail and Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies and the Promethea Silkmoth.

Flower: Fragrant, small, yellow blooms appearing in axillary clusters before the leaves in early spring.

Fruit: Bright red drupe .375" long with a large seed and a peppery taste and scent, matures in fall.

Wildlife Value: Very valuable early spring pollen source for bees and other insects; drupes are eaten by at least twenty-four bird species and leaves occasionally grazed by deer and rabbit.

Habitat: Low, deciduous woods, stream banks and swamps.

| LEAF TYPE | POLLINATOR | WILDLIFE VALUE |
|---|---|---|
| SIMPLE | INSECTS | HIGH |
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