

# Have you seen a...

## Spicebush

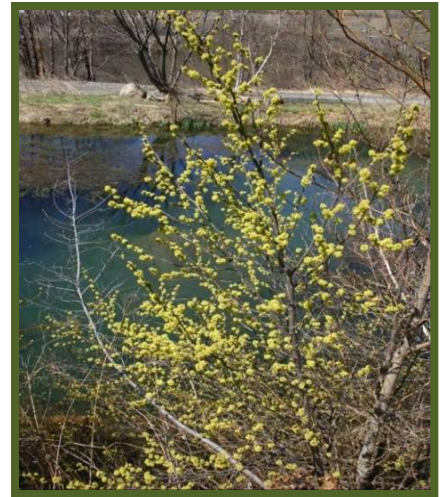
### What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** Flowers are 1/8 of an inch wide; leaves are 2-6 inches; plant is 3-19 feet high

**Color:** Greenish-yellow flowers; bright red fruit; green leaves

**General:** The flowers bloom before the oval-shaped leaves appear

**Usually Found:** Moist woods, along streams



### Did You Know?

- The spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) flowers in March and April and the fruit appears in September and October.
- The flowers of the spicebush have a spicy scent and the fruit can be used as a spice, thus the origin of the plant's name.
- The young leaves, twigs, and bark of the plant can be boiled to create spicebush tea.
- The spicebush is used by several butterflies to lay their larvae, including the spicebush swallowtail, the promethean silk moth, and the eastern tiger swallowtail.

### What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The emergence of flowers
- The emergence of leaves
- The appearance of fruit



### Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this plant is impacted by environmental changes.

### How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

### Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

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