

## What Does this Species Look Like?

**Size:** 3-40 feet tall

**Color:** Pale to deep yellow flowers

**General:** 2-5 inch oval leaves

**Usually Found:** Understory of trees in moist, rocky woods



## Did You Know?

- American witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is used medicinally to cure soreness from wounds.
- Witch-hazel is also used in mouthwashes, soaps, ointments, cosmetics, and lotions.
- The fruit of the plant is an important food source to many birds.
- According to witch-craft, a forked branch of witch-hazel can be used to locate groundwater.
- American witch-hazel is the last plant to flower in our woodlands, flowering in late October, around the time of Halloween.

## What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first time breaking leaf buds appear
- The first time leaves are visible on the plant
- The first time flowers are seen on the plant in autumn

## 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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