



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin



Photos courtesy of Bill Hendricks (top & bottom left) and Judy Semroc (bottom right)

Unique Characteristics

Spicebush is a deer-resistant shrub with early-season nectar for butterflies and bright red berries for migratory birds. The common name refers to the sweet, spicy fragrance of the stems, leaves and fruits when bruised. The spicebush swallowtail lays its eggs on spicebush.

Plant Type:	Deciduous shrub
Native Range:	Eastern United States
Sun:	Full shade to partial sun
Water:	Medium
Soil:	Light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils
pH:	4.5 to 6
Height:	6 to 12 feet
Spread:	6 to 12 feet
Wildlife:	Spicebush Swallowtail, Promethea Silkmoth larvae, birds
Hardiness Zones:	4 to 9
Bloom Time:	Late March to April
Bloom Color:	Greenish-yellow
Fruit:	Showy, oval-shaped bright red in summer to fall
Reproduction:	Dioecious (male and female flowers on separate plants)
Uses:	Hedge, rain garden, native plant gardens, shrub borders, shade or woodland gardens. Fruit used to make applesauce. Leaves and twigs made into tea.
Tolerates:	Deer, drought, heavy shade, clay soil

