



Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

Plant Description – Native, shrub, deciduous, perennial

Height: 6 – 12 ft **Width/Spread:** 6 – 12 ft



Leaves

Shape: Obovate

Arrangement: Alternate

Margin: Entire/Smooth

Form: Simple



Leaf Description: Leaves are 3-6 inches long and gradually taper toward the base; upper surface is darker green than the lighter under surface; leaves and stems have a sweet, spicy, peppery fragrance; Leaves are larger toward the tip of the branches and are smaller towards the bottom of the branches; leaves turn a bright yellow color before falling from the plant in autumn

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: White, Yellow, Pale Yellow

Flower Shape: Umbel or Campanulate

In Bloom: Mar - Apr

Flower Description: Small flowers with 6 short, yellow sepals; occur in dense clusters; male flowers are larger than female flowers



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds

Seed Type: Fruit – Drupe

Months in Seed: Fall

Fruit and Seed Description: Grow in clusters of 3 or 4 berries that are glossy bright red, oval shaped, and 1/2 inches in diameter



Ecological Benefits

Food source for Butterflies, Caterpillars (Spicebush Swallowtail, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail), Other Pollinators, Other Birds, and Small Mammals

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; Pruning is not necessary, but dead or damaged limbs should be trimmed; Can grow in sun or shade, but sunlight promotes thicker growth and more fruits; Need a male and a female plant to produce red fruits; Good for hedge rows or rain gardens; Can propagate with cuttings of young twigs; Until established, water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year.