



WITCH HAZEL

The Bloom that Brightens Winter's Gloom

Environmental Message January 2025

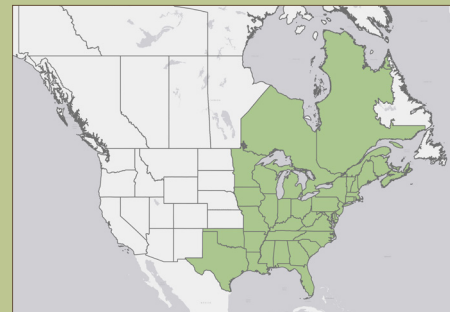
Did you know? Witch hazel has the ability to “shoot” its seeds! When its seed pods ripen in the fall, they explosively eject seeds up to 30 feet away from the plant. This natural mechanism helps the plant disperse its seeds over a wider area, increasing its chances of spreading and thriving in different locations. This explosive seed dispersal is a rare trait among plants and adds to the unique nature of witch hazel!



Human and wildlife uses. Humans have long utilized its medicinal properties, particularly the bark and leaves, to create an astringent for soothing skin irritation and promoting healing. For animals, deer often browse on its twigs and leaves, while its winter blooms provide late-season nectar for insects like moths, contributing to pollinator conservation—a growing priority in vegetation management.

Border Zone Compatible. Witch hazel is highly valued in Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) for its non-invasive nature and ability to thrive in border zones of rights-of-way without interfering with infrastructure. Its modest height, typically under 20 feet, reduces the need for mechanical clearing near power lines. Additionally, witch hazel's presence in wet areas helps stabilize soil, preventing erosion and supporting biodiversity, making it an ideal plant for maintaining ecological health while ensuring utility safety.

Distribution Map



References/Works Cited

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BOOTS TO THE BOARDROOM