

Hamamelis virginiana

Common witch hazel, American witch hazel



Hamamelis virginiana (American witch hazel) is naturally found in the eastern half of North America and was first described in the 18th century. The shrub is larger than other witch hazels, five to eight metres tall and wide, with lots of branches and a wide, vase-shaped habit. *Hamamelis virginiana* is generally used as a rootstock for the *intermedia* cultivars.

Hamamelis virginiana is an outlier among the witch hazels when it comes to the blossom period. Sometimes the blossom begins in September when the leaves are still green or in October, as the leaves change to their autumn colour. But, in other years, the American witch hazel does not blossom until after the leaves fall in December. The yellow, fragrant flowers are small but very numerous, which means the blossom is still striking. The autumn colour is bright yellow to warm brown.

Hamamelis virginiana needs sufficient space and a location in the full sun or light shade in an acidic and moist soil. The shrub thrives in all soil types, as long as the soil is nutrient rich and has good permeability. For the first year after planting, a *Hamamelis* must absolutely not be allowed to dry out. Prune the American witch hazel in the early spring to retain the shape. You should mainly prune the rising shoots from the rootstock, the dead wood and crossing branches. If further pruning is necessary, only prune twigs that are the thickness of a pencil.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 5 - 8 m | **Width:** 5 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic (4.5 - 6.5) | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, nectar value 1, pollen value 1

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: heads, singular, small, scented | **Flower colour:** pale yellow | **Flowering period:** September - December | **Leaf colour:** dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, obovate, rough | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** pale brown | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** deep, shallow, coarse roots, tap root