

## HAMAMELIDACEAE – WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and trees, sometimes aromatic

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** deciduous, in warm climates may be evergreen; simple and alternate; toothed or palmately lobed; may have star-shaped hairs; paired stipules

**Flowers:** perfect or imperfect (monoecious): tiny in heads or spikes; 4-5 sepals or none; 4-5 petals or none; 4-5 to numerous stamens; ovary partially inferior, 2 carpels (N.A. species) and united, 1 pistil

**Fruit:** woody capsule with 1-2 hard seeds, dispersal by explosive means or winged

**Other:** most in East Asia; sweet gum and 2 species of witch-hazel common in USA; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 31+ genera; locally *Hamamelis* (witch-hazel), *Liquidambar* (sweet gum, red gum)

## HAMAMELIDACEAE – WITCH-HAZEL FAMILY

Sweet Gum; *Liquidambar styraciflua* L.

Ozark [Vernal] Witch-Hazel; *Hamamelis vernalis* Sarg.

American [Southern; Eastern] Witch-Hazel; *Hamamelis virginiana* L.

# Sweet Gum

*Liquidambar styraciflua* L.  
Hamamelidaceae (Witch-Hazel Family)  
Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas  
County, Ohio



Notes: tree; pistillate flowers in a ball-like cluster; leaves alternate, 5-7 lobed (star-shaped), finely toothed, green and glossy above, paler with some hairs on veins below; bark mostly gray (to brown), often with scaly ridges; twigs and branchlets sometimes corky-winged; buds with many glossy scales, some hairs on margins; fruit cluster hard and prickly; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]



# Ozark [Vernal] Witch-Hazel

*Hamamelis vernalis* Sarg.

Hamamelidaceae (Witch-Hazel Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Madison

County, Missouri

Notes: shrub; 4-petaled flower, yellow with red calyx; leaves alternate, simple, leaf base uneven, terminal end somewhat blunt, wavy to almost wavy-lobed, dull green above, paler beneath and hairy or not; bark gray and blotchy; twigs densely hairy; buds stalked without scales; fruit capsule woody, 2-valved and 2-seeded, seed shiny and black; late winter to early spring

[V Max Brown, 2006]



# American [Southern; Eastern] Witch-Hazel



*Hamamelis virginiana* L.

Hamamelidaceae (Witch-Hazel Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrubs; 4-petaled flower; leaves alternate, ovate, wavy toothed, leaf base uneven; bark gray-brown; twigs hairy or not; buds densely pubescent, stalked and without scales; fruit capsule 2-valved and 2-seeded, seed shiny, and black; flowers fall to early winter

[V Max Brown, 2005]

