


**spicebush** *Lauraceae* *Lindera benzoin* (L.) Blume  symbol:  
**LIBE3**

**vTree**

**Leaf:** Alternate, simple, elliptical, 3 to 5 inches long, pinnately veined, entire margin that may be somewhat ciliate, strong, spicy odor when crushed, green above and slightly paler below.

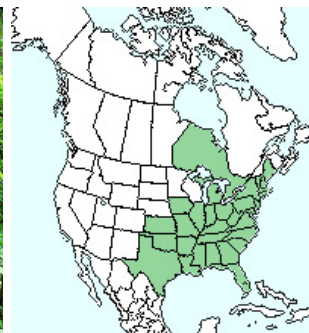
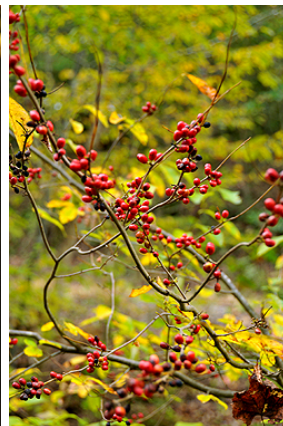
**Flower:** Species is dioecious; small, but due to large numbers they can be showy, yellow, appearing in axillary clusters before the leaves in early spring.

**Fruit:** A bright red drupe when ripe (green before ripening), 3/8 inch long with a large seed and a peppery taste and scent, maturing in fall.

**Twig:** Slender, olive-green to brown in color, numerous light lenticels, with distinctive, stalked globose buds covered with 2 to 3 yellow-green to brown scales; when broken, a spicy, peppery smell is obvious.

**Bark:** Brown to gray-brown and speckled with light colored lenticels.

**Form:** A large shrub with several stems, usually rounded in outline up to 15 feet tall.



Found in moist areas in the eastern U.S.

**Additional Range Information:**  
*Lindera benzoin* is native to North America. It is not widely planted.  
[See states reporting spicebush.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDA Plants Database](#)  
[Horticulture](#)

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