

spicebush

Lindera benzoin

FEATURES

Spicebush is a shrub. It grows from about five to 15 feet tall. The bark is shiny brown and shows many lenticels. Leaves are alternate, ovate and smooth along their margin. Flowers are yellow and appear in small clusters before the leaves unfurl. Each flower is less than one-fourth inch wide. The fruit is fleshy with a single seed. The fruit is red when mature.

BEHAVIORS

The name “spicebush” was given to this plant because the leaves and twigs release a spicy odor when they are crushed. Flowers are produced from March through May. Pollinators are attracted to the flowers. Insects feed on the leaves and wood. Some birds eat the fruits.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Laurales
Family: Lauraceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none