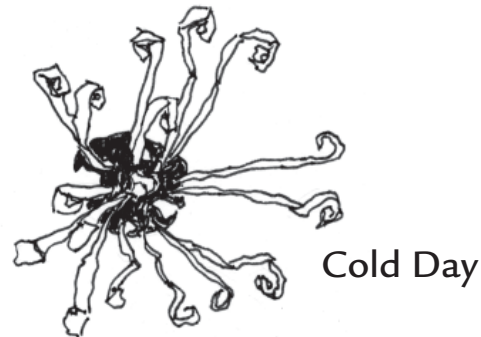
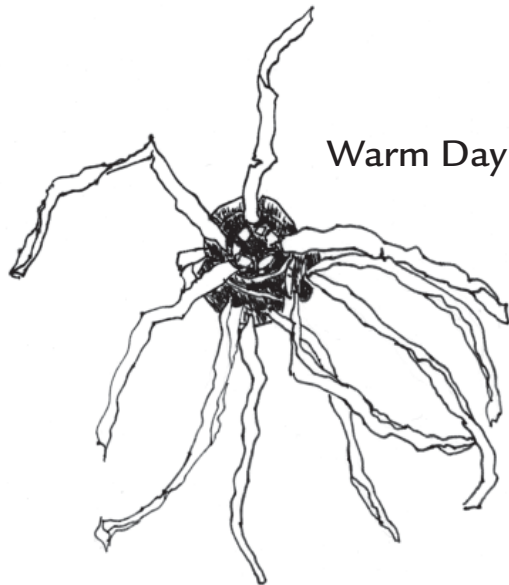


Witch-Hazel

Hamamelis spp.



On warm days in early spring witch-hazel petals unfurl (like a party blower), but on cold days they roll up for protection.

* Actual size of unfurled petal is about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.



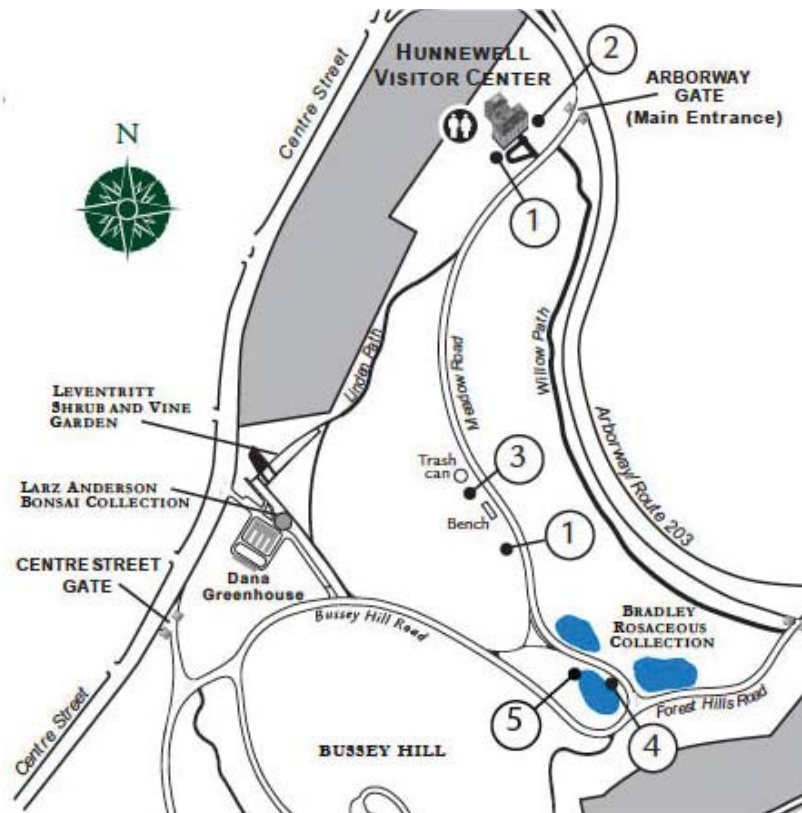
While **witch-hazel** is a fascinating name, its origin has nothing to do with the characters who ride on brooms. It probably comes from the old English word *wych*, meaning “to bend.” Dowsers used witch hazel branches as a “witching stick” to supposedly uncover precious metal or underground water springs. They believed that the branches would bend towards the ground upon discovering these treasures.

Witch-hazel also has been used for medicinal purposes for centuries. Native Americans used the bark and twigs to treat anything from colds to insect bites. Since the 1850s several companies have specialized in producing witch-hazel extract, which you can find today in numerous lotions, toothpastes, and soaps. **Can you find any products at home that list witch-hazel as an ingredient?**

Did you know?

At the Arnold Arboretum, we like to claim that you can find a shrub or tree in bloom here every month of the year. Most years this is true, thanks to our many witch-hazels.

Can you find the five different witch-hazels marked on the map along Meadow Road?



	Color	Bloom Time
① Arnold Promise witch-hazel <i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> 'Arnold Promise'	yellow	February - March
② Jelena witch-hazel <i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> 'Jelena'	copper	February - March
③ Chinese witch-hazel <i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	yellow with reddish brown calyx cups	February - March
④ Vernal witch-hazel <i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	yellow with red inner calyx	December - February
⑤ Common witch-hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	yellow	October - December