

LAURACEAE – LAUREL FAMILY

Plant: shrubs, trees and some vines

Stem: sometimes with aromatic bark

Root:

Leaves: mostly evergreen, some deciduous; simple with no teeth, often elliptical and somewhat leathery; mostly alternate, less often opposite or whorled; pinnately veined with curved side veins; no stipules; sometimes glandular and aromatic

Flowers: perfect but occasionally imperfect (dioecious), regular (actinomorphic); mostly in small clusters along twigs, often yellowish; tepals with 4-6 members in 2 cycles; 3-12-many, but often 9 stamens; ovary superior or inferior, 1 carpel, 1 pistil

Fruit: berry or drupe, single large seed

Other: mostly tropical; locally, sassafras and spicebush common;
Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 55+ genera; locally *Lindera* (spice-bush), *Persea*, *Sassafras* (sassafras)

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[Northern] Spicebush; *Lindera benzoin* (L.) Blume
Sassafras; *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees

[Northern] Spicebush

Lindera benzoin (L.) Blume
Lauraceae (Laurel Family)
Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas
County, Ohio

Notes: shrub; flowers yellow (prior to leaves), in clusters (dioecious); leaves ovate, entire, shiny green above, somewhat whitened below; bark 'warty' (pores); winter buds green, stalked, in alternate clusters; twigs hairy or not, often greenish; fruit a red berry or drupe; aromatic; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Sassafras

Sassafras albidum (Nutt.) Nees
Lauraceae (Laurel Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub or tree; flowers small and yellow; leaves alternate, lobed or not (variable), aromatic; bark deeply grooved and ridged; twigs often green (hairy or not – varieties); fruit a blue to purple drupe on red pedicel; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]

