

# Witch Hazel *(Hamamelis)*



Native to the Americas, the name of this plant has its origins in the Old English *wice*, meaning "pliant" or "bendable", due to its bendy twigs.

**Origin:** It grows throughout northeast and southeast North America, as well as in Japan.

**Element:** Earth

**Gender:** Masculine

**Planet:** Saturn

**Zodiac:** Libra

## Magical Properties

**Dowsing:** The forked branches of witch hazel can be used for receiving transmissions from hidden objects underground. Most often this type of divination is used to find ground water, but it can also be used to find gemstones, metals, gravesites, etc.

## Medicinal Properties

**Astringent:** Used for various skin conditions, reduces swelling and itching. As a daily facial astringent, it reduces redness, puffiness, or shiny skin.

**Bruises and Burns:** Keep witch hazel extract in your herbal first aid kit for minor cuts and abrasions. It can help treat bruises, burns, sunburn, psoriasis, eczema, ingrown hairs and nails, blisters, cracked skin, insect bites, contact dermatitis, varicose veins and hemorrhoids.

**Bug bites & Poison Ivy:** Dabbing a cotton ball soaked in witch hazel on bee stings or mosquito bites helps to draw out the venom and reduce itching. A strong tea used as a wash can also help outbreaks of poison ivy.

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**Contraindications:** Do a skin test to ensure you're not going to have an allergic reaction to witch hazel before using on your body.