

Witch hazel casts Autumn spell

NEWARK, Del. — Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) is an unusual fallblooming plant with a name that suggests magical properties.

Delaware Extension Garden Specialist David Tatnall explains that the plant's popular name may have been inspired by the fact that it was once used as a divining rod in the search for water and precious metals.

Long ago, Indians used a preparation made from witch hazel bark as a treatment for eye and skin irritations. Today we can still buy a witch hazel extract for similar purposes.

For the gardener, however, witch hazel is mainly of interest for its colorful Fall foliage and flowers that bloom in late October for early November.

Witch hazel is found throughout woodlands, especially in rich, moist soil along the banks of streams. It develops into a tall, spreading plant, often reaching twelve or more feet in height.

Witch hazel leaves turn bright yellow in Autumn. As they fall, small flower clusters with yellow, ribbon-like petals appear along the zig-zag stems. The flowers impart a subtle, spicy fragrance to the air.

Witch hazel is a good choice for home grounds with ample growing room. It does well in various garden situations, but especially in moist, shady locations. You

can grow it alone as a specimen plant, or combine it with other shrubs in a border, Tatnall says. The Fall foliage and flowers contrast nicely against a background of evergreen trees.

You can cut and use the leafless flowering branches for artistic indoor arrangements. During the Winter, witch hazel's distinctive branching habit is interesting, especially when traced with new-fallen snow.

The witch hazel's unusual ornamental qualities, hardiness, adaptability, and relative freedom from pests, will make it a favorite in your garden.

Microwave ovens to be shown

NORRISTOWN — Microwave ovens offer a whole new way of cooking. Some of the magic of microwave cooking is quick defrosting of frozen foods, green vegetables cooked to perfection, and bacon prepared without any odor or greasy pans to wash.

Is microwave cooking for you? Velma Musser and Lee Puphal Extension Home Economists invite everyone to attend a demonstration at the 4-H Center, Snyder Road, Lansdale on November 14, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Betty

Clark, a free lance microwave demonstrator will show "The Magic of Microwave." People will have an opportunity to see the advantages of cooking in this new appliance. There will be several different ovens to work with to show some of the variables in ovens and suggestions for adapting recipes

There is so much to learn a second session will be held Thursday 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. entitled "A Holiday Meal From Your Microwave". From turkey and cranberry sauce to pumpkin bread and pecan pie the meal will be prepared.

As the old saying goes, the proof is in the eating so the

audience will sample the food prepared. There is a charge of \$2.50 for each meeting to cover costs. Reservations may be made by writing the extension office, 400 Markley Street, Norristown, Pa., 19401 or calling 215-277-0574.

There will also be a repeat session of Tuesday morning "Magic of Microwave", Tuesday evening, November 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m., for persons not free to come during the day

For families considering purchasing a microwave but really want to see how it works this is a great opportunity. Everyone is welcome but asked to please make a reservation



Pa. man pays reparation award

Charles N. Simeone of Bethel Park, trading as the Fruit Basket, has paid a reparation award of \$909 that had been set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in favor of a Pennsylvania commission merchant.

Officials of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said that the award was for 14 lots of potatoes shipped from June through September, 1977.

Now that Simeone has paid the award he is once again eligible to conduct business under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, (PACA) after he obtains a PACA license.

PACA establishes a code of good business conduct for the produce industry. Under it, all interstate traders in fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables must be licensed by USDA. A trader's license can be suspended or revoked by USDA for violating the Act.

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