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Corylopsis spicata

COWSLIP BUSH is a deciduous shrub. Native to Japan it has tassel-like spikes of small fragrant, yellow flowers.

It is also known as Spike witch hazel, and Winter hazel.

Spicata is derived from Latin *spica* (ear of corn, spike) meaning 'spiky, spiked or in spikes' with reference to the flower arrangement.

Authorities believe cowslip bush was introduced to Britain in about 1863.