

Black alder

Alnus glutinosa

Description

Capable of displacing native vegetation; fixes nitrogen; has been planted on highly disturbed or infertile sites and for windbreaks; vulnerable to tent caterpillar.

Habit

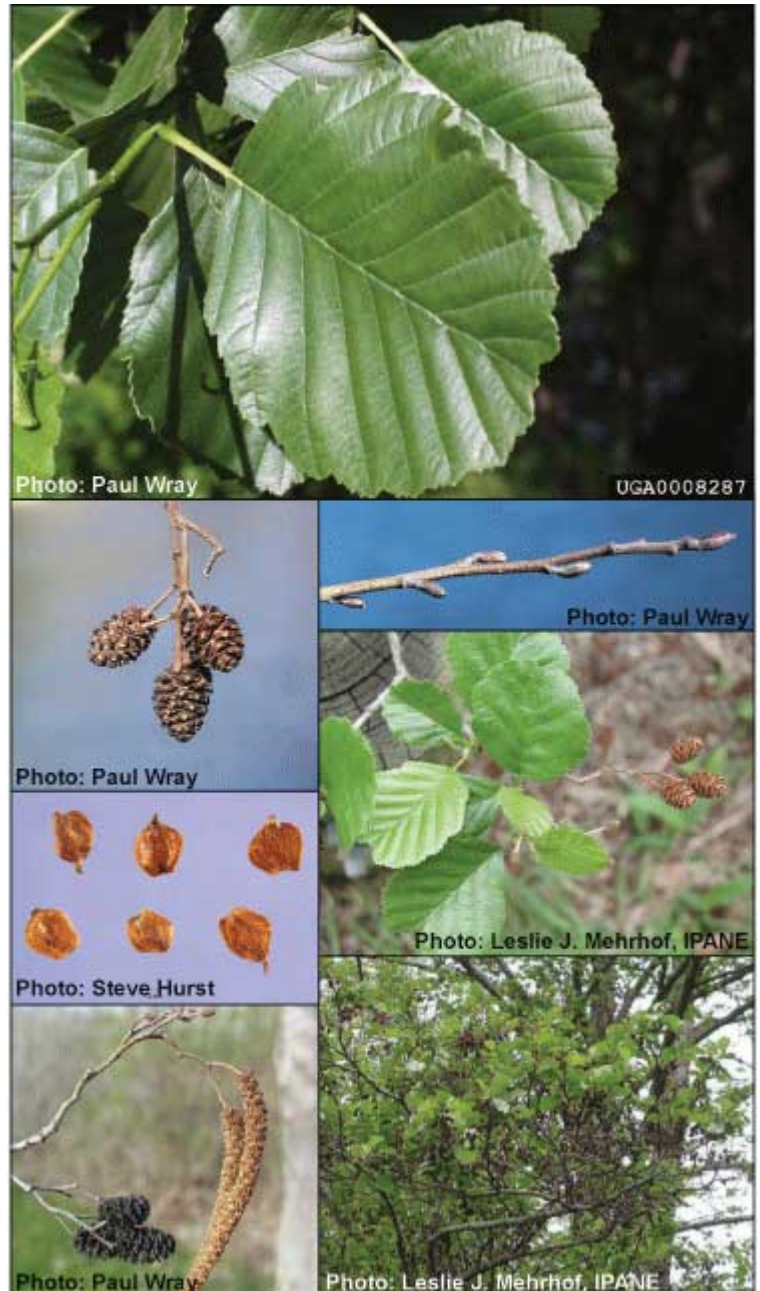
Deciduous; medium tree; ranging from 9-18 m (30-60 ft) in height and 25-38 cm (10-15 in) in diameter; narrow pyramidal shape when young, becoming more irregular with age.

Leaves

Simple, alternate, broadly rounded to truncate or notched at the apex, 5-13 cm (2-5 in) long and 5-10 cm (2-4 in) wide, toothed leaf margin, young leaves sticky to the touch, fall leaves green or brown in color.

Stems

Dark green-brown, smooth or rough, speckled with short lenticels, bark with prominent warty strips; buds stalked.





Flowers

Male and female flowers in separate structures, male flowers borne on long narrow catkins, female flowers borne in small woody structures resembling pinecones; bloom March through May.

Fruits and Seeds

Small, woody, pinecone-like structure borne on long, narrow stalks; seeds are small and narrowly winged.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia and North Africa; prefers full sun and wet soil but tolerant of drier soil and a range of pH conditions; found along rivers, in wetlands and moist forests.

Reproduction

By seed and spreading roots.

Similar

Native speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*) has leaves with a distinct (acute) tip; usually shrubbier than *A. glutinosa*.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor pond, river and wetland margins; distinguishable year-round by its rounded leaves, catkins, cones and stalked vegetative buds. Begin control efforts in highest quality areas. Hand pull seedlings and remove mature trees that provide a source of seed. Cutting, girdling, and mowing are ineffective unless cut stumps are treated with herbicide to prevent resprouting.

Credits

The Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) has partnered with MISIN to provide the information



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