

## 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

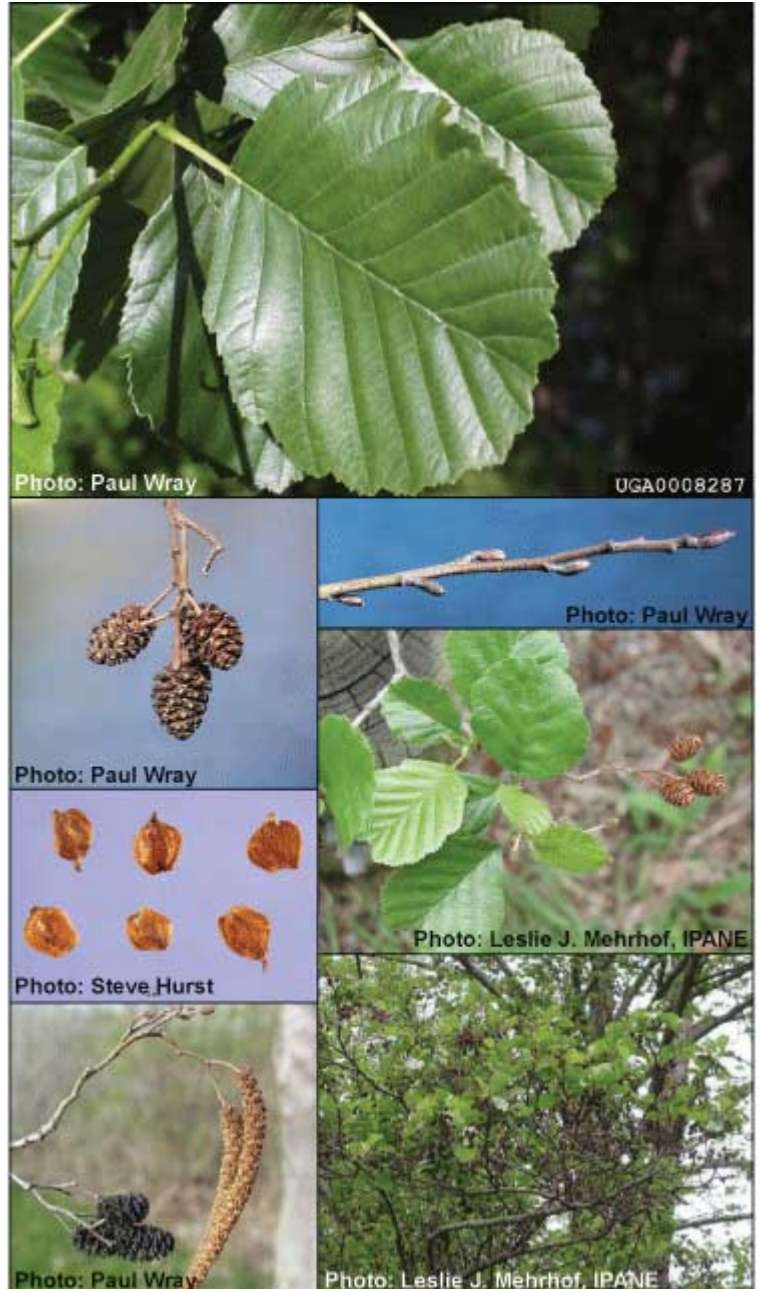
Deciduous; medium tree; ranging from 9-18 m (30-60 ft) in height and 25-38 cm (10-15 in) in diameter; narrow pyramidal shape when young, becoming more irregular with age.

#### 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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