

Scientific Name: *Alnus glutinosa*

Common Name: European Alder or Black Alder

Environmental Conditions:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Soil Moisture:

VERY WET						VERY DRY					
occasionally saturated or very wet soil			consistently moist, well drained soil			occasional periods of dry soil			prolonged periods of dry soil		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	

Sun/Shade: prefers full sun, tolerates partial shade

Salt: some observed tolerance

pH: ≤ 8.2

Insect/Disease Factors: numerous insects and diseases are potentially problematic (including leaf miners, tent caterpillars, woody alder aphids, and cankers)

Growth Characteristics:

Height: 40'-60'

Width: 20'-40'

Form/Habit: pyramidal to oval, multi-stem form available, should specify single-stem form

Rate: fast in youth, slows down with age

Ornamental Characteristics:

Flower: not typically considered ornamental, yet attractive, male - reddish-brown, 2"-4" long catkins open yellow, female - purple, in an upright egg-shaped strobile, both spring

Fruit: small winged nutlets inside ½" long, egg-shaped pine cone-like fruit, persists through winter

Seasonal Foliage Color: dark glossy green in summer, typically no fall color, yellow possible

Bark: attractive, lustrous gray-green to green-brown in youth, polished brown with age

Transplant Issues: easy to transplant B&B, moderately difficult to transplant bare root, better success in transplanting bare root in fall, do not attempt to transplant > 2" caliper trees bare root

Management Issues: relatively short lived, may naturalize when planted next to open areas

Suggested Uses: narrow or wide street tree lawns/pits, parks, good for reclamation sites (fixes own nitrogen), often used for windbreaks

Cultivars: 'Pyramidalis' or 'Fastigiata' (upright columnar habit, 10'-15' wide, somewhat denser and lower branched)

