

Smooth Alder



Attracts:
Butterflies
Pollinators
Predatory
Insects
Songbirds

It is native to boggy ground along streams/lakes/streams, wetland Informal specimen plant or could be used as a mass planting or hedge in moist areas. It is usually a multi-stemmed tall shrub.



Alnus serrulata

- **Uses:** Tag/Smooth Alder is a small, deciduous tree that may grow 10 to 15 feet tall. It can be found naturally in wet areas including streambanks and bogs. The leaves are alternate with a wavy, toothed margin and hairy underside. The bark is smooth and gray-brown with a fluted appearance. In late winter, slim, green, male flowers and red, female flowers mature. The small tree produces a seed that matures in the fall and persists through the winter.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Prefers full sun to partial shade and tolerates wet soils.
- **Growth:** Quickly growing to 5-30' tall and 5-10' wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4a-9b; Shrub/Tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Dull green 2-4" long serrulate margins pointed tips and wedge-shaped at the base.
- **Flower:** In late spring this monoecious tree bears separate male and female flowers on the same plant. The male flowers are yellow-brown and the females are red catkins. Female catkins develop into 1-inch long fruiting cones (strobiles) to 3/4" long containing winged nutlets (seeds). Fruiting cones mature to dark brown in fall, with persistence into winter. Cones have woody scales and resemble small pine cones. The fruit attracts butterfly larvae, mammals, and birds which feed on the seeds.

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