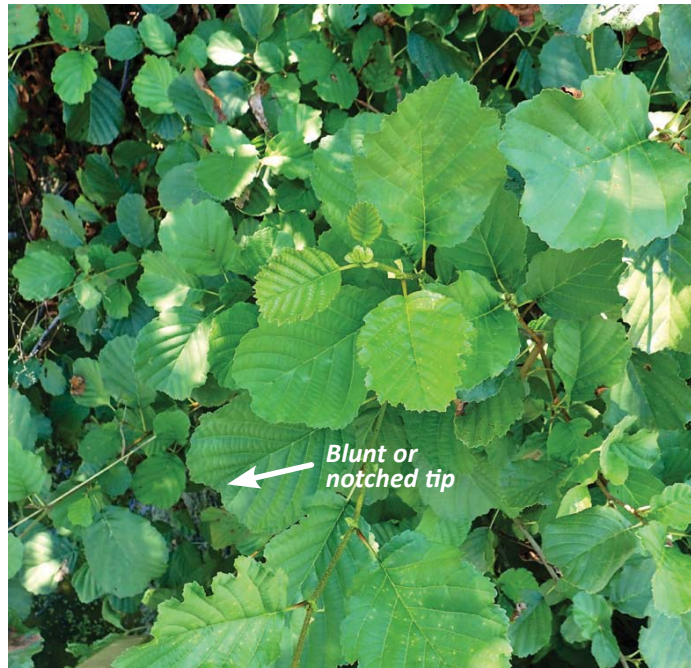


EUROPEAN ALDER

Alnus glutinosa

Status in Maine: localized



Description: Deciduous, fast growing small tree, 30-50' tall, usually with multiple vertical stems (not leaning or arcing). Bark is a speckled greenish-gray with irregular horizontal lenticels. **Leaves:** Simple, glossy dark green, round to slightly oval, 2-3" wide and 2-4" long, doubly serrate. Often with a broadly blunt or notched tip. Young leaves and buds have sticky resin. **Flowers/seeds:** Monoecious with separate male and female catkins. In fall, female catkins become cone-like woody structures, ¾" long, each containing many tiny flat seeds. **Roots:** Shallow, dense, and with nitrogen fixing nodules.

Native range: Europe and Western Asia. **How arrived in U.S.:** Planted as a windbreak and for firewood; accidentally used in some wetland restorations (mistaken for native *Alnus incana*).

Reproduction: Primarily by seeds, which are wind and water dispersed. Vegetatively by stump sprouts and suckering.

Habitat: Streamside woodlands, canal banks, pond edges, moist meadows, and other wetland habitats. Can tolerate drier sites but is intolerant of shade. Can form pure stands and thickets in disturbed wetlands. Its association with a nitrogen fixing bacterium allows it to establish on infertile sites.



EUROPEAN ALDER

Similar native species: Similar to all three native alder species: speckled alder (*Alnus incana*), smooth alder (*A. serrulata*), and green alder (*A. viridis*). Native alders are more shrub-like and have many arcing or leaning stems per plant. Native alders also have leaves rounded to acute at the apex vs broadly blunt for European alder.

Similar non-native species: None.

Control methods: Seedlings can be pulled up; saplings can be pulled with a weed lever or cut, but re-sprouting will occur so follow-up will be necessary. Larger trees can be cut, but will also re-sprout unless the cut stump is immediately treated with concentrated herbicide (triclopyr or glyphosate). However, this is not effective in early spring due to sap rising. Repeated follow-up cutting can control re-sprouting from cut stumps. Foliar spray can also be effective for seedlings, short saplings, or re-sprouts (glyphosate or triclopyr), as long as you can reach the top of the plant. For stems up to about 4-6" diameter, basal bark treatment can be effective any time of year (spray lower 18-24" of trunk with triclopyr in penetrating oil).

Special rules apply to herbicide use in or near wetlands and waterbodies - see the section in the back of this guide titled "Use of Herbicides to Control Invasive Plants in or Near Wetlands and Waterbodies."

