

# Alder

*Alnus glutinosa*



## What to look for

Grey-brown bark with a network of shallow fissures

Very rounded, dark green, shiny leaves

Male and female catkins, the latter look like miniature cones

Can grow up to 25 metres tall

## Where found

Germinates particularly where soils are seasonally waterlogged

It is often found beside streams

Its seeds actually float and are distributed by streams to germinate in muddy banks

## When to look

Flowers (catkins) in March

Leaves in April/May



### Did you know?

It is a member of the birch family (*Betulaceae*)

Nodules on roots which contain bacteria that 'fix' nitrogen make it a valuable species for enriching poor ground

Alder wood was used to build the underpinnings for buildings in Venice and Amsterdam, as it does not rot in water

The twigs, bark and buds are used in traditional Norwegian brewing to colour and flavour beer

It was the traditional wood used to produce smoked fish, as well as other smoked products

Alder is host to a wide variety of mosses and lichens such as the moisture-loving tree lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*)

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