

Alnus serrulata

Hazel alder



Sources:

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

NC State. *North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*.

The Birch Family (Betulaceae)

It is a thicket-forming shrub/small tree reaching 8-12 feet at maturity; and has dark green, alternate leaves with wavy, toothed margins and hairy undersides.

Habitat:

The tree prefers wet bottomlands and stream margins; and will also grow in well-drained upland areas.

Interesting Facts:

This tree is suitable for streambank stabilization because of its flexible stems and fibrous root systems.

Fruit:

One inch cones resembling small pine cones mature in fall and remain into winter. It contains winged nutlets that house the seeds.

Flower:

Birch-like catkins bloom in mid- to late March.

Wildlife value:

Harvester butterfly and carnivorous larvae eat the aphids commonly found on alder. White-tailed deer browse the foliage. Birds and small mammals eat the pollen-rich male flower clusters in the spring.