



## *Alnus glutinosa*

### Common Name(s):

common alder

### Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

### Distribution:

Widespread, especially common in the Waikato and Wairarapa, where it can be a problem weed.

### Habitat:

Riparian areas along rivers and lakes.

### Features\*:

Tree to c. 15m high (to c. 20m in cultivation). Bark dark brown, strongly fissured. Young shoots glabrous but glandular-viscid. Winter buds shortstalked, purplish. Petiole 7-15 mm long, often purplish. Lamina 4-10 x 2.5-10cm (to 14 x 13cm on vigorous vegetative shoots), broadly oblong to obovate, plicate in bud, hairy on veins beneath at first, soon glabrous except for tufts axillary hairs, serrulate to coarsely serrate, lobulate on basal vegetative shoots; veins in 6-7 pairs, prominently raised beneath; base usually cuneate; apex rounded to retuse. Buds stipitate, not enclosing female catkins in winter. Male catkins 3-8 together behind shoot apices, 2.5-7cm long (to 12 cm in cultivation), cylindric, opening in spring before lvs; peduncles to c. 5 cm long; bracts peltate, purplish; anthers yellow. Female catkins 3-7 together behind shoot apices, c. 5mm long, glandular. Cone (1)-1.3-1.7-(2) cm long, ellipsoid; scales becoming horizontal after dehiscence and persistent on tree. Nutlet c. 3mm long, broadly ovoid; wing narrower than nut.

### Flowering:

Late winter to spring

### Fruiting:

Summer

### \*Attribution:

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description and life cycle and dispersal and tolerances information from Webb et. al. (1988).

### References and further reading:

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

### Wikipedia - *Alnus glutinosa*

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2491](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2491)



**Caption:** Young 'cones'. Whanganui. Aug 2011.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



**Caption:** Male inflorescence, old and young 'cones'. Whanganui. Aug 2011.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle