

Botanical Name: Alnus rhombifolia

Common Name: White alder

Type of Plant: dicot; tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a very erect, large, single trunked plant (occasionally will develop 2-3 leaders) with ascending branches forming a pyramidal canopy that becomes rounded with age; the trunk is grayish white, with A-shaped scars

Height 40-80' (100') Spread 1/3-2/3 Growth Rate very rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoor full or partial sun; can tolerate shade at inland locations

Soil prefers moist habitats with good drainage

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-9, 14-21); thrives with seasonal climates

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oval to somewhat rhombic, 2-4" long, finely serrate; dark green above; pale beneath, petioles are 1-1-1/2" long

Flowers tiny, in catkins: the male catkins are cylindrical, 3/4" to 1" long, mostly terminal; female catkins are oval, 1/2" long, axillary

Fruit a nutlet: flat, tiny, borne between scales of female 'cone'

Propagation: seed

Usage: a widely used large-scale vertical accent or shade tree, tolerant of lawn watering; groves, has shallow aggressive root system; suitable for rustic, woodsy, temperate-climate theme landscapes

Landscape Care:

Watering regular; thrives with heavy watering-not drought tolerant

Fertilizing balanced, plus iron, in locations where drainage is poor

Pruning head high when young, otherwise leave alone

Pests/Diseases relatively free; tent caterpillars in native habitat

Special Conditions

Origin: Mountains of CA. - Wash. Family: Betulaceae