

Alnus viridis

COMMON NAMES

green alder

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Multi-stemmed shrub to about 2 m tending to layer. Broadly ovate leaves to about 7 x 6 cm with irregular serrate margins held on petioles of 1-2 cm. Male and female catkins borne separately, but on the same plant. Male catkins 3-6 cm long in clusters of up to 3 at shoot apices. Female catkins in loose racemes of up to 6. Seed about 2 mm long, broadly ellipsoid and winged.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can easily be distinguished from the *Alnus glutinosa* by the shrub form. May be some hybridisation with other less common shrubby alders.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. High country slopes and screes.

GENUS

Alnus

FAMILY

Betulaceae

AUTHORITY

Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC.

FLOWERING

October, November

YEAR NATURALISED

1988

ORIGIN

Mountains C. & S. Europe.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Can tolerate very cold and dry conditions. Can fix nitrogen via root nodules so can tolerate very low nutrient conditions.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Most reproduction appears to be vegetative, although seed is produced in abundance. Dispersed by humans, gravity, wind and water.



ETYMOLOGY

alnus: From an old Latin name for alder

viridis: From the Latin viridis 'green'

NVS CODE

ALNVIR

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alnus-viridis/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026