

Alnus rubra

COMMON NAME

red alder

FAMILY

Betulaceae

AUTHORITY

Alnus rubra Bong.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Deciduous tree 26–30 m tall; leaves 760–152 × 25–38 mm, coriaceous; adaxially glabrous, dark green, abaxially pale covered in fine rust-red pubescence; lamina pinnately veined (orange-reddish veins), obtuse to elliptic, base obtuse to rounded, apex acute; margins finely doubly serrate (teeth gland-tipped), sometimes revolute.

HABITAT

Moist disturbed sites

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous tree 26–30 m tall, 0.3–1.2 m diam. Trunk clean with a straight bole, usually devoid of branches for one third to half of length; crown narrowly pyramidal or dome-shaped and rounded; branches ± pendulous. Bark ash-grey to grey-brown, generally smooth but breaking with age into flat, irregular plates near the base; inner bark initially tan but turning red when exposed to air. Buds distinctly stalked. Leaves 760–152 × 25–38 mm, coriaceous, adaxially glabrous, dark green; abaxially pale covered in fine rust-red pubescence; lamina pinnately veined, obtuse to elliptic, base obtuse to rounded, apex acute, margins finely doubly serrate (teeth gland-tipped), sometimes revolute.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

YEAR NATURALISED

1990.

ORIGIN

Western North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Timber tree



Seedlings on side of cycle track on old railway, Spooners Tunnel, Wakefield, Nelson.

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Seedlings on side of cycle track on old railway, Spooners Tunnel, Wakefield, Nelson.

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ETYMOLOGY

alnus: From an old Latin name for alder

rubra: Red

ATTRIBUTION

Ecroyd CE. Rotorua Botanical Society Newsletter 52: 29-32 (2009)

MORE INFORMATION

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