

Alnus viridis

COMMON NAME

green alder

FAMILY

Betulaceae

AUTHORITY

Alnus viridis (Chaix) DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ALNVIR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. High country slopes and screes.

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.

FLOWERING

October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1988

ORIGIN

Mountains C. & S. Europe.

ETYMOLOGY

alnus: From an old Latin name for alder

viridis: From the Latin *viridis* 'green'



Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Most reproduction appears to be vegetative, although seed is produced in abundance

Seed

Prolific seed produced

Dispersal

People, gravity, wind and water.

Tolerances

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

MORE INFORMATION

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