

Alnus serrulata

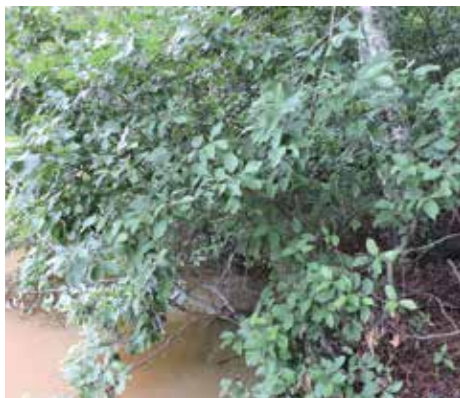


smooth alder

Family	Betulaceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	OBL	CoC 5

DESCRIPTION

Shrub with gray to brown relatively smooth multiple trunks (2 to 7 m tall), with light brown inconspicuous lenticels (pores). The alternate leaves (2 to 14 cm) are egg-shaped or broadly elliptic, round tipped, and with slightly wavy and evenly fine toothed margins. Leaf veins are distinct, and surfaces are smooth with the lower being only sparsely hairy along the central vein.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

March to April, July to October. Flowers are clustered in spikes (catkins) that develop in summer, persist over winter, and bloom before the leaves emerge in spring. Male catkins are long, slender, cylindrical, drooping (to 10 cm), and female catkins are erect, oval to egg-shaped (1.2 to 1.8 cm), becoming stout and cone-like and containing narrowly winged nutlets (samaras).



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HABITAT

Swamps, forested seeps, bogs, and stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

See *Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*, speckled alder, page for differences between these two *Alnus* species.



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