



Alnus incana ssp. rugosa

speckled alder

Family Betulaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FACW CoC 7

DESCRIPTION

This multi-stemmed shrub forms dense thickets. Stems (2 to 6 m tall; to 15 cm diameter), have reddish brown to gray bark with distinctive white horizontal lenticels (pores). Stem buds are erect, stalked, and elliptic. Leaves are leathery, alternate (to 15 cm long), elliptic with a pointed tip and with raised veins and irregular double-toothed margins. The upper leaf is smooth, and lower leaf is dull green and hairy.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

April to May, July to August. Flowers are clustered in spikes (catkins) that develop in summer, persist over winter, and bloom before spring leaves emerge. Male catkins are purplish-brown, slender, cylindrical, drooping (4 to 8 cm). Female catkins are also drooping, oval to egg-shaped (1 to 1.5 cm), becoming reddish-brown, stout and cone-like containing winged nutlets (samaras).

HABITAT

Swamps, forested seeps, bogs, and stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Alnus serrulata, smooth alder, has inconspicuous lenticels, erect fruiting (female) cone-like catkins (not drooping), and leaf margins that are evenly and finely toothed (not irregularly double-toothed). *Physocarpus opulifolius*, common ninebark, which also grows along stream banks, differs in its peeling bark, three-lobed leaves, white petal flower clusters and inflated fruit capsules.



© Owen Clarkin



© Peter M. Dziuk



© Whitcomb



© Kitry Maurey

A. incana ssp. rugosa



© Evan Roskin

A. serrulata