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The leaves are finely sawtoothed with regular sharp teeth. They are usually broadest (1-2.5 inches) beyond the middle with 9-12 nearly straight parallel veins.

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Alnus serrulata

Hazel Alder

Common Alder

Alnus serrulata

Hazel Alder

Common Alder



The Common Alder blooms in the spring with drooping catkins up to 3 inches long. The later cone is about a half inch long in clusters of 5-10. The cones remain attached throughout winter.

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The Hazel Alder is most often a bush which can be up to 20 feet tall. The bark is dark gray or brown, and smooth without notable white specks (lenticels) on the stems.

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Alnus serrulata

Hazel Alder

Common Alder

Alnus serrulata

Hazel Alder

Common Alder

All the Alders are water lovers and are often planted as ornamentals at edges of ponds and lakes. The Hazel Alder is distinguished from the Speckled Alder both by the regularity of serrations at the edge of the leaf, as well as the absence of white specks or lenticels on the twigs.

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