

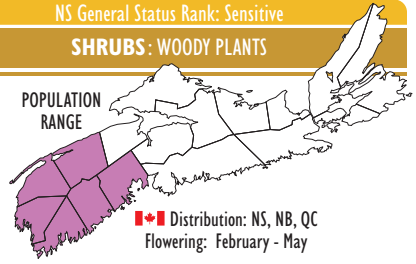
Brookside Alder

Alnus serrulata

NS General Status Rank: Sensitive

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION RANGE



■ Distribution: NS, NB, QC
Flowering: February - May



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Leaf wide at top and narrow at the base



Leaves can be variable

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Dark brown and speckled stem

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Female catkins

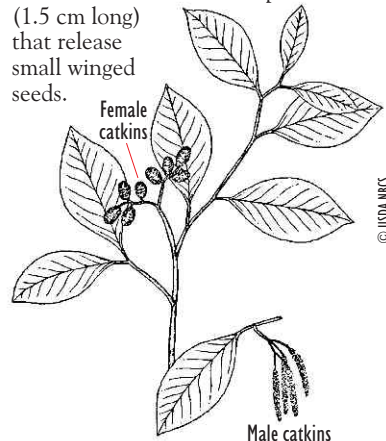
SIZE: 2-3 m tall.

LEAVES: 4-5 cm long, widest near the tip and strongly narrowing from the middle toward the base. The leaf edges are serrated with many sharp, irregular teeth (not double toothed) and there are straight and parallel veins running from the central vein towards the edges. They are glossy above and green, smooth and slightly sticky below. Winter buds are on 5 mm stalks. Individual leaves can be variable, examining multiple leaves is recommended.

STEM: Smooth, woody, dark brown with few white speckles, and up to 5 cm wide.

FLOWERS: Male catkins are long, narrow, 2-5 cm long, and in clusters at the tips of branches. Female catkins are round, woody, 1-2 cm long, and on short stalks (up to 3 mm long).

FRUITS: Resemble small pinecones (1.5 cm long) that release small winged seeds.



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Habitat:

Lake and river shores in southwestern NS.

Interesting point: All alders can produce nitrogen in their roots via symbiotic bacteria housed in special nodules to help them grow.

Similar species: Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*) leaves do not strongly narrow from the middle toward the base, the leaf edges are double toothed (the large teeth have fine small teeth) and the leaf undersides are whitish and not very sticky. It is abundant in moist habitats throughout NS. Green (or Downy) Alder (*A. viridis* ssp. *crispa*) is generally shorter and the leaves are broadly rounded with finely toothed leaf edges (not double toothed). The leaf undersides are also green and sticky but the female catkins are on 1-5 cm stalks. Winter buds have stalks less than 1 mm long. Found on rocky lakeshores or open disturbed areas.



Male catkins and winter buds on stalks © MEGAN CROWLEY