

# Hazel alder

*Alnus serrulata*

Species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec



## CHARACTERISTICS

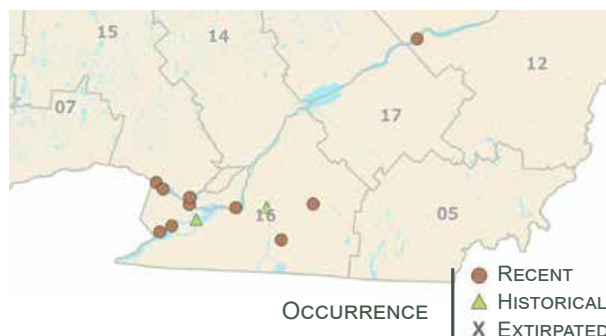
- Large shrub, branching from the base.
- Finely serrated leaf margins with sharp, single teeth, unlike the double-toothed edges of speckled alder.
- Leaves are slightly glutinous (sticky) when young, unlike the non-glutinous leaves of the speckled alder.
- Identification sometimes difficult because of hybridization with speckled alder.

## OBSERVATION PERIODS

IDENTIFICATION FLOWERS | summer  
| early spring, before the foliage



## DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



## HABITAT

- Stream and river banks, lake shores and swampy areas.



## MAIN THREATS

- Destruction of shoreline shrub cover for cottage development.
- Drainage of wetlands in southern Quebec.
- White-tail deer browse.
- Canopy closure from vegetative succession.

*The very low number of occurrences of the species in Quebec, with very small local populations of low viability, partly explain its precarious situation at the northern limit of its range.*

## MANAGE YOUR FOREST WHILE PROTECTING AT-RISK FLORA

Your woodlot contributes to the protection of forest species in precarious situations. It is often preferable to avoid forest management interventions in their habitats. If such activities must be carried out, the protection of these species requires the following precautions:

### STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SPECIES

Onsite, during the appropriate identification period, locate all the plants of the species (or have this done by a competent person). Then outline the zones where they are found (occupied zones) as well as the surrounding buffer zone.



### STEP 2: PROTECT THE PLANTS

This species requires particular attention. It is listed as a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable because the available information suggests that its survival is compromised.



### STEP 3: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES in the occupied and buffer zones

- Ø Landing (wood piling) areas
- Ø Forest road construction
- Ø Forest drainage
- Ø Clearcuts
- Ø Scarification of the forest floor



### STEP 4 : ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY

#### Sensitivity to opening of the forest canopy

Low

#### Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

High

#### Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

High

- IN THE OCCUPIED AND BUFFER ZONES
- Avoid cutting or damaging hazel alder specimens.
  - Opening of the forest canopy is allowed because this is a shade-intolerant (light-loving) species.

- IN THE OCCUPIED ZONE
- Carry out forestry operations in winter, on frozen ground, and keep machinery out of this zone, given the species' sensitivity to changes in drainage and to physical damage.
  - Avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).

- IN THE BUFFER ZONE
- Avoid altering drainage and minimize soil compaction: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan logging trails on soils with adequate load-bearing capacity.



*If the plant cannot be identified or located, apply the protection measures to the entire forest stand.*

*Advise forest workers about plant locations as well as protection measures to apply.*

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MRNF and the MELCCFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit [afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies](http://afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies).