

Alnus

Alnus, Alder (*Betulaceae*)



cordata

Origin: Southern Italy, Corsica. Deciduous tree, grows spontaneously in Italy, very beautiful and decorative. It has a broadly conical crown, with the lateral branches arranged horizontally. Cordate leaves, shiny dark green, among the first to appear and the last to fall, at the end of November. Flowers: catkins, 5-7cm long, yellowish-green in February-March on bare branches. Fruit: ovoidal cones, 2-3cm initially green, later brown. This is the alder which has the least requirements as regards type of soil, in fact it grows well in the most unrewarding and dry soils.

glutinosa

Origin: Europe, North Africa, Caucasus. Deciduous tree with a conical to oval crown. Bright, dark green ovate leaves, 5-10cm. Flowers: dark yellow catkins in spring. Fruit: ovoidal cones 1-2cm. Grows in humid places, alongside ditches and riverbeds where water makes the ground marshy. The root system is very useful for protecting the ground from erosion and to improve its fertility.



Alnus



incana

Origin: Europe, Western Asia, North America. Deciduous tree with thick, pyramidal crown. Broad, oval, pointed leaves, dark green and grey on the under side. Flowers in catkins, 7-10cm long. Fruit: greyish-brown cones which measure less than 2cm. Adapts to various types of soil, from moderately dry to moist and calcareous, but does not tolerate stagnant dampness.

X spaethii

Deciduous tree with olive-grey bark and long, striking winter buds. Large green lanceolate leaves, rather shiny and coriaceous, that fall in late autumn. Flowers in drooping, brownish yellow catkins, followed by small, cone-shaped fruits. Hardy, wind-resistant, adapts to all soils.

