

Alnus serrulata

Hazel alder

Betulaceae

Seed Propagation: Plants can be propagated from seed. Collect fruit when they become woody just as fruits open and seeds are dispersed; avoid collecting seed when the fruit is green and fleshy to ensure seed maturity. Others have reported closed fruits can be collected and air dried or placed in dry heaters set at 80-100°F (USDA, 1974). Others have reported cold stratification (3 months) is needed to overcome physiological dormancy in seeds (Vandevender, 2008; Dirr and Heuser, 2006).

Cutting Propagation: Cutting propagation is possible using this plant. Low rooting percentages (<10%) were recorded for 6" stem cuttings taken 9/21/2019 and stuck without auxins in 72-cell liners with a peat based potting mix (MetroMix 830, Sunagro) and placed under intermittent mist in a climate-controlled greenhouse. Cuttings that did root had a few ~ 3-inch-long roots after several weeks. Others have reported 52% and 30% rooting of late-June and late-May cuttings stuck in vermiculite with 8,000 ppm IBA talc (Dirr and Heuser, 2006).

Production: Plants are easily produced using standard greenhouse and nursery procedures. 72-cell plugs (seedlings and cuttings) placed in 1-gallon containers filled out pots after a few months when grown within a 3:1 mix of aged pine bark with fines to peat-based bagged mix (MetroMix 830), fertilized with a ¼ tsp of slow-release fertilizer (Osmocote 18-6-12), and placed in an outdoor nursery with overhead irrigation.

Comments: Plants were easily installed into a garden landscape setting. Seedlings grown in 1-gallon containers performed satisfactorily when planted in an upland pine soil and mulched with modest amounts of hardwood bark. Plants were frequently browsed by deer. Potential use in streambank stabilization and restoration projects in riparian habitats. Attractive flowers appear in early spring before the foliage appears.



Top. Fruit. Top Mid. Seeds with 1mm² background. Mid Bot Left. Rooted cutting. Mid Bot Right. Seedling. Bot Left. 1-gallon seedling. Bot. Female (red) and male (yellow) catkins.