

TREES *of* BC

Red alder

(*Alnus rubra*)



Bark

Thin, greenish on young trees, turning grey to whitish with age. The inner bark and fresh wounds tend to turn deep reddish-orange when exposed to air.

Leaves

Bright green above and greyish underneath. They are oval-shaped, with pointed tips, and coarsely toothed edges that tend to curl under. The hair-covered veins form a ladder-like pattern. Leaves stay green until they drop off.

Flowers and Fruit

The flowers occur as either male or female clusters. Male flowers are in long, drooping, reddish catkins, and female flowers are in short, woody, brown cones. The female cones are oval-shaped, 2 centimetres long. The seed is a narrow winged nutlet.

Habitat

Red alder occurs with all of the low elevation coastal tree species, including Black cottonwood, Grand fir, Douglas-fir, and the cedars. It tends to be associated with a dense layer of shrubs and herbs, including Salmonberry, Red elderberry, and several ferns.

24 m



Pacific dogwood

(*Cornus nuttallii*)



Bark

Smooth and grey.

Leaves

Opposite, oval leaves have pointed tips and a slightly toothed edge. Pacific dogwood leaves are dark green and turn orange in fall.

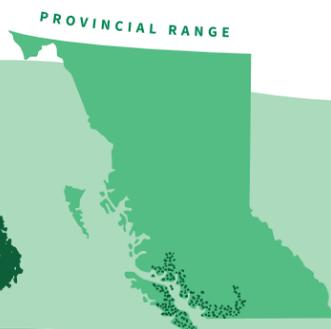
Flowers and Fruit

The showy, white flowers are actually four to six modified leaves that surround a cluster of 30 to 40 small, green flowers. Dogwoods usually flower in spring and again in fall. The Pacific dogwood blossom is the floral emblem of British Columbia.

Habitat

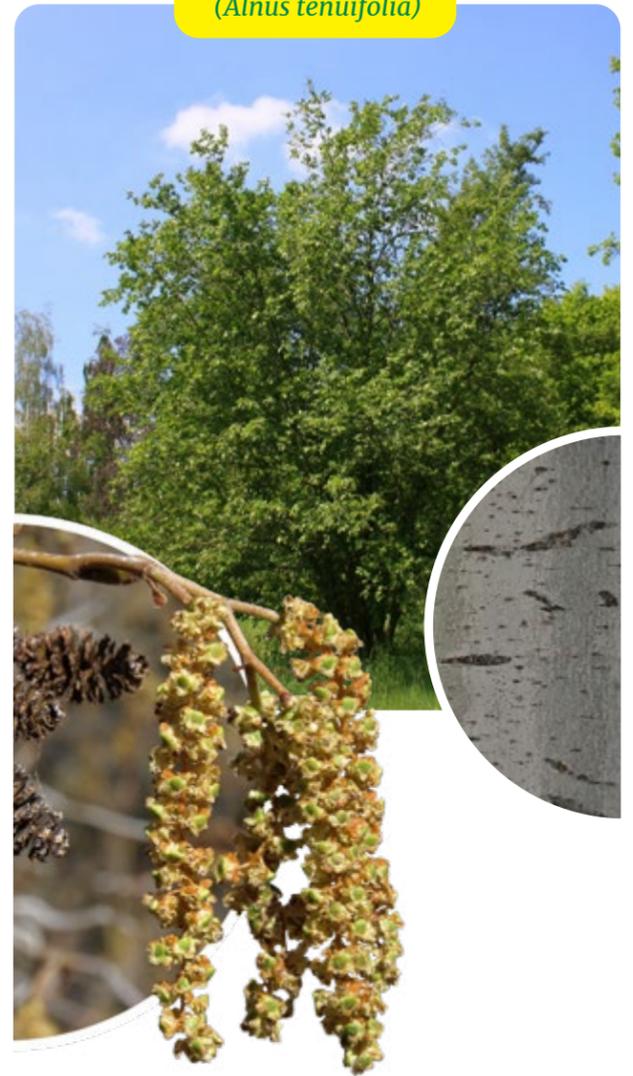
Pacific dogwood grows best on deep, coarse, well-drained soils, often underneath Douglas-fir, Grand fir and Western hemlock.

15 m



Mountain alder

(*Alnus tenuifolia*)



Bark

Yellowish-brown with distinct oval-shaped ruptures or tears on the bark called lenticels.

Leaves

Leaves are thin, oval-shaped, and rounded to somewhat heart-shaped towards the base. The tips are rounded to blunt shaped and the margins are shallowly lobed and double toothed. The upper surfaces are green, with the lower surfaces hairy and pale.

Flowers and Fruit

Male flowers are long, drooping catkins, 3 to 4 centimetres in length. Female flowers are in short, woody, brown cones. They are produced on the previous season's twigs before the leaves appear. Seed cones have very short stalks. The seeds are nutlets with a very narrow wing.

Habitat

Mountain alder occurs in moist, nutrient-rich forests along streamsides and bogs. It often occurs as dense clumps with Willows, Twinberry, Red elderberry and Horsetails.

10 m

