

## ALDER (*Alnus glutinosa*)

### ALL ABOUT THE ALDER

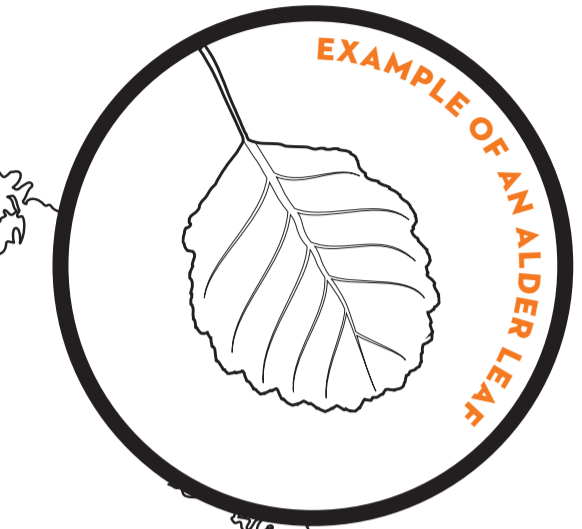
- Alder trees have dark-grey bark which splits into deep cracks, or fissures.
- The leaves on an alder tree are round or oval and dark-green. Alder trees are deciduous though, which means they their leaves fall off in the autumn, then grow again in spring.
- Alders have catkins, which are small groups of flowers that hang down from the branches. The catkins on an alder tree are yellowish brown.
- Alders grow quickly but don't live as long as other trees - they usually live to be around 150 years old.
- The alder tree is a nitrogen-fixing tree - this means it takes nitrogen from the air and feeds it into the soil. This is good for the soil and helps to keep the alder tree and any surrounding plants well-fed.

### HOW BIG IS IT?

The Alder tree can grow up to 25 metres tall and is usually between 4 to 8 metres wide.

### WHAT SORT OF LEAVES DOES IT HAVE?

Draw a leaf from this tree here, or why not collect one and stick it here instead?



WHY NOT COLOUR ME IN?

### AMAZING FACT

The trunk and roots of an alder tree don't rot away in water - in fact, the wood gets harder! This makes it a great tree to stop the banks of rivers and lakes from washing away.

Find out about over 240 trees and shrubs in STIHL's Encyclopaedia of Trees at [www.stihl.co.uk/encyclopaedia-of-trees](http://www.stihl.co.uk/encyclopaedia-of-trees)