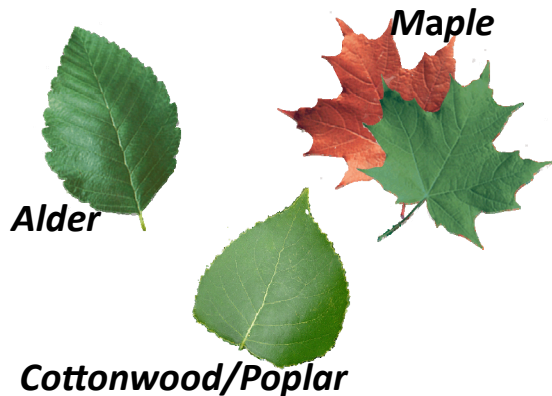


*"The Alder, whose fat shadow nurisheth, Each Plant set neere to him, long flourisheth" – Browne in "Britannia's Pastorals"*

## Do you have forestland that has, or upon which you would like to grow, Northwest native HARDWOODS

Native hardwoods can diversify your forest both economically and ecologically. The four most widely dispersed species in Western Washington and Oregon are **red alder**, **bigleaf maple**, **cottonwood/poplar**, and **Oregon white oak**. Bitter cherry, pacific madrone, aspen and Oregon ash are also widespread. Paper birch is primarily confined to NW and NE Washington and chinquapin and tanoak mostly to SW Oregon.



## What are the markets for hardwood logs?

Good alder and maple logs with at least an eight inch dibse (diameter inside bark, small end of log) are commonly sold as sawlogs. **Alder, by far the dominant hardwood species, can sell for more than Douglas-fir**, and a market for hybrid poplar sawlogs is emerging. Alder and maple 5" to 7" dibse produce "chip and saw" usually logs sold on a ton basis. The pulp market (fiber logs) normally takes most species on a "ton" basis, but the prices are quite variable. The highest economic return is attained in the veneer markets, which only take the best logs. Veneer logs are very rare in most forests. Finally, Bigleaf maple's "figure" or "music" wood, while uncommon in the forest, is very valuable.

## Where can I sell my logs or get marketing help?

For a list of mills taking hardwoods in Washington, go to:

[www.wahardwoodscomm.com](http://www.wahardwoodscomm.com)

For Oregon, go to:

[www.orforestdirectory.com](http://www.orforestdirectory.com)

WSU Extension or OSU Extension Service may be able to provide some marketing help, or refer you to the appropriate consulting forester.

## What are the ecological benefits of native hardwoods on my forest lands?

Hardwoods may produce seeds or fruits eaten by birds or small mammals and their leaves (both on the trees and when they drop in the fall) can be a seasonally important food source. Hardwoods can support different species of lichens, mosses, and ferns on their stems and on the ground nearby. Alder adds nitrogen to the soil and other species may serve different roles in nutrient cycling, plus hardwoods are often resistant to root rots affecting conifers.



Always seek and utilize advice from a forestry professional. There are many sources of information to help you accomplish your management objectives.

## What do I need to know to grow alder?

As easy as alder seeds in naturally, it would seem planting and growing it would also be easy. However, establishing a successful alder plantation requires knowledge and a commitment.

- Some sites are **not** suitable for plantation alder.
- Site preparation is usually necessary.
- Timing and quality of planting are important.
- A continued investment in stand management is required after planting seedlings.



Alder saw logs in deck ready for sorting and grading.

Obtain professional advice and/or utilize the contacts and publications below before spending time and money on trying to establish an alder plantations. Following recommended management guidelines will greatly increase the plantation's economic and ecological benefits for many years to come.

Note: web links for these contacts are available on the Washington Hardwoods Commission website.

- UW/WSU Rural Technology Initiative-(for reports and copy of March 2005 "Alder Symposium" computer CD [http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2005/alder\\_symposium/index.asp](http://www.ruraltech.org/video/2005/alder_symposium/index.asp))
- Washington State University Extension offices
- Oregon State University Extension offices
- Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Stewardship Program
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Washington Farm Forestry Association
- Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association
- USDA Forest Service PNW Research Station Gen. Tec. Report #669 - Red Alder: A State of Knowledge <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr669/>

## Now that I am ready to plant native hardwoods, where can I find seedlings?

The Washington Hardwoods Commission Website [www.wahardwoodscomm.com](http://www.wahardwoodscomm.com) lists nurseries supplying to Washington State. In Oregon, find a listing of commercial nurseries with northwest hardwood seedlings at [www.nurseryguide.com](http://www.nurseryguide.com). Click on “search” and enter the species under “name”.

State nurseries, as well as local Conservation Districts, may also sell alder and other native hardwood seedlings for planting in Washington State.

### What is old age for northwest hardwoods?

Old age for alder is 85, but harvested at  $\pm$  40 years. Bigleaf maple can grow to 200+ years. Oregon Oak will live from 300 – 500 years before it is considered old age. Hybrid poplar is usually harvested between 8 and 15 years, well before its old age.

## Summary on Alder

Red alder’s root rot resistance, easy natural regeneration, and rapid growth make it a promising silvicultural alternative to conifers, Washington and Oregon’s traditional forestry focus. As a short or intermediate rotation crop, it can produce high-value sawlogs suitable for production of furniture-grade lumber in rotations of only 25-40 years.



Portions of this brochure were provided by Andrew B. Perleberg and James R Freed, WSU Extension. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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## Managing Hardwoods



**Diversify your forest both economically and ecologically**

**Advice for family forest owners and those who work with them**

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