

Prairie Horizon® Manchurian Alder

Alnus hirsuta 'Harbin' (Family: *Betulaceae*)

Description: The most drought tolerant alder evaluated in NDSU trials. Rapid-growing, medium-sized tree with lush dark green leaves is an attractive tree for dry difficult sites. Bark is gray and beech-like. Purple catkins and clusters of brown, cone-like strobiles add interest to the tree throughout winter. Manchurian alder is native to Central and Northern Asia and is tolerant of the cold as well as the dry conditions of those regions. Drought tolerant.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zone 3 to 7

Mature Size: Height: 30', Spread: 25'

Form (Shape): Upright oval form.

Growth Rate: Moderate to fast.

Foliage:

Summer: Dark green with serrated margin.

Autumn: Yellow

Texture: Medium

Flower: Slender catkins, no ornamental value.

Fruit: Purple catkins (male) and cone-like strobiles (female).

Special Features: The bark is particularly striking; smooth, pearl-grey and beech-like. Decorative purple catkins in spring followed by cone-like strobiles that persist into winter.

Light Preferences: Full sun to part shade.

Soil Preferences: Prefers moist well-drained soil but performs well in compacted, dry soils. It is pH tolerant including alkaline soils.

Propagation: Softwood cuttings and grafting.

Ornamental Attributes: Shape and texture of summer foliage is unique and interesting. Strobiles add interesting winter feature to the tree.

Landscape Attributes: Recommended as a landscape specimen tree. An excellent tree for difficult, dry locations. Drought tolerant.

Comments: Tree mulching recommended. Susceptible to woolly alder aphid (AKA Maple blight aphid), which can be unsightly but not detrimental to the tree. May have issues with sap suckers.

Availability: Available in trade.

