

and when polished and varnished it affords a good imitation of Ebony. With sulphat of iron the bark forms a black die for colouring wool, and, as it is procured at a very low price, it is extensively substituted for gall nuts by hatters and driers. The wood of the Alder, when deeply buried in earth that is constantly humid, is found to endure a great length of time; it is therefore used for the pipes of conduits. In Flanders and Holland it serves for the piles upon which buildings are erected in marshy places.

In France, England and Germany, the Alder is considered as a valuable tree, on account of its rapid growth in wet grounds. It is frequently observed on the sides of streams flowing through meadows, and, as its roots penetrate to a great distance, it contributes more effectually than most other trees to support the banks at the season of the overflowing of the waters.

The European Alder shoots with such vigour, that copses formed of it may be cut every seven years, and at the end of 18 years they furnish trees exceeding 35 feet in height, whose wood is far superior to that of the Lombardy Poplar. It is obtained from the seed, or from cuttings of a proper length, buried in very moist ground, except a few inches that appear above the surface. The young plants should be cut the second year, to invigorate their roots. The seeds of the Alder are very small, and are in danger of perishing if they are not very lightly covered with earth.