
COMMON EUROPEAN ALDER.

ALNUS GLUTINOSA. *A. foliis subrotundo-cuneatis, obtusis, subretusis, glutinosis; axillis venarum subtis villosis.*

THE Common European Alder bears so great a resemblance to the Common American Alder, in its flowers, its seeds, its leaves, its wood and its bark, as to render a separate figure unnecessary: the only difference observable between them is that the European species is larger and has smaller leaves.

The Common European Alder is a fine tree of more than 50 feet in height: its trunk is generally straight, and tapers gradually from the base to the summit, and it is garnished with numerous branches, tending rather to close round the stock, than to diffuse themselves widely: hence the Alder, like the Lombardy Poplar, grows in great numbers in a small space, without impediment from the proximity of the stocks.

The wood of this tree is fine-grained, compact, susceptible of a fine polish, and not destitute of strength. When perfectly dry, it is light and easily wrought; hence it is in request with manufacturers of wooden ware. In France immense quantities of wooden shoes are made of it, which are seasoned by fire before they are sold. The Alder takes a better black than any other wood,