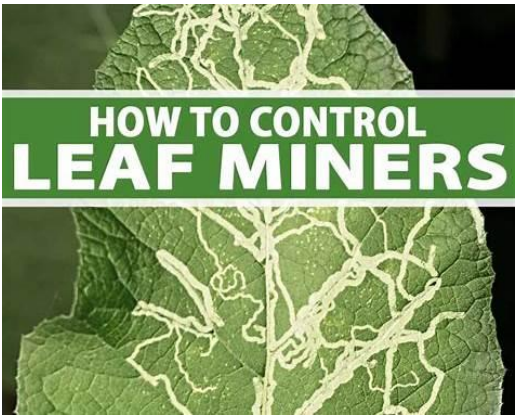


Alder

(*Alnus* spp. — *European Alder*, *Red Alder*, *Thinleaf Alder*)

Alders are moisture-loving deciduous trees valued for their **fast growth**, **catkins**, and **attractive bark**. In Colorado, they struggle in **hot, dry, alkaline environments**, and are prone to **borers**, **leaf miners**, **aphids**, **canker diseases**, and **leaf spot**. They perform best in **cooler, irrigated locations** with well-drained but moist soil.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Alder leaf miner (major issue)	Insect	Spring–Summer	🌸☀️
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Bark beetles / borers	Insect/borer	Summer	☀️
Canker diseases	Fungus	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Leaf spot / anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	🌸☀️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Root rot (Phytophthora)	Fungus	Spring–Fall in wet soils	  
Heat/drought scorch	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Alder Leaf Miner (Very Common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown, blotchy tunnels in leaves • Thin, papery leaf sections • Heavy infestations cause early leaf drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually cosmetic • Rake leaves to reduce next year's larvae • Pro treatment only if severe
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew • Sooty mold on leaves • Leaf curling or distortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage lady beetles • Systemic insecticide if population is large
Borers / Bark Beetles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawdust-like frass • Small exit holes • Branch dieback • Often follows drought stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep tree well-watered (critical) • Avoid trunk injury • Pro preventive sprays if borer pressure is high
Canker Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunken, dead bark patches • Cracking bark • Branch dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune infected limbs back to branch collar • Sanitize tools • Improve vigor—no chemical cure

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Leaf Spot / Anthracnose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown or black leaf lesions • Early defoliation in wet springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake & remove fallen leaves • Improve airflow • Fungicide rarely required
Root Rot (Phytophthora)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilting despite wet soil • Poor growth • Decline in chronically wet areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve drainage • Avoid overwatering • Remove if decline is severe
Environmental Stress (Heat/Drought)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaf scorch (brown edges) • Early yellowing • Sparse canopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep watering every 2–3 weeks • Mulch 2–4" deep • Avoid hot, exposed planting sites in Colorado

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Extensive cankers causing branch dieback
- Repeated heavy leaf miner damage with thinning canopy
- Borer exit holes + declining foliage
- Rapid decline in compacted, alkaline, or waterlogged soils
- Chronic scorch every summer despite irrigation
- Whole branches wilting suddenly (possible root rot or canker)

Alders are **not ideal for many Colorado landscapes** unless given irrigation and cooler site conditions.

● Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)

- Light leaf miner activity
- Minor aphid honeydew
- A few scattered leaf spots
- Early color change in drought years
- Some scorch during extreme heat

These usually improve with **watering, sanitation, and seasonal weather changes.**