

***alizō** Runic: ᚱᚠᚱᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'ɑ.li.zɔː/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

alder (tree)

Etymology

Of uncertain origin; recent scholarship increasingly favors a European substrate source. The noun belongs to an irregular complex reflected by Proto-Slavic **olbša*, **elbša*, Lithuanian *alksnis*, Latvian *alksnis*, and Latin *alnus* < **al-i(s)no-*. The recurrent *a* ~ *e* vocalism, *-s-* ~ *-is-* variation, and alternation of nasal and non-nasal formations across several branches are difficult to derive from a single inherited Proto-Indo-European formation and have been interpreted as evidence of prehistoric borrowing (Kroonen 2024: 8–10; Matasović 2024: 57; Šorgo 2020: 432). Hittite  (*a-la-an-za* /*alanza(n)-*/), formerly adduced in support of the noun's PIE antiquity, is botanically uncertain and has recently been argued to denote ‘oak’ instead of ‘alder’ (Peled 2025: 30–31). A traditional reconstruction **h₂elis-* is therefore less likely.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	alizō	alizōz
Acc.	alizō	alizōz
Gen.	alizōz	alizō
Dat.	alizōi	alizōmaz
Inst.	alizō	alizōmiz
Voc.	alizō	alizōz

Descendants

***aliru, alisu, aluru** (Proto-West Germanic)

***alisa** (Old Dutch)

else (Middle Dutch)

els (Dutch)

els (Afrikaans)

***aliru, alisu, aluru** (Proto-West Germanic)

alor, aler (Old English)

aldre, alder, aldur, aldyr, aleyre, aller, alre, althir, olr (Middle English)

alder (English)

aller (Scots)

***aliru, alisu, aluru** (Proto-West Germanic)

alar, erila, elira, *alisa, *elisa (Old High German)

alze, els, eller, elre (Middle High German)

Erle (German)

***aliru, alisu, aluru** (Proto-West Germanic)

***alisa** (Vulgar Latin)

qlr, alr (Old Norse)

el (Danish)

elri (Icelandic)

or, older (Norwegian Bokmål)

or, older (Norwegian Nynorsk)

al (Swedish)

***𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌰 (*alisa)** (Gothic)

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