PLANT FACT SHEET

Larix laricina (Du Roi) K. Koch

GENUS *Larix* **FAMILY** Pinaceae

COMMON NAMES Tamarack, Alaska larch, American larch, Eastern larch

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Leaves - tea, Resin

The resin from the bark is chewed.
The branches and needles are used to make tea.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous conifer. It is a medium sized tree. It grows to 25 m high and 40 cm across the trunk. The trunk is slender and straight. The crown is a narrow cone shape. The bark is smooth and grey when young and becomes reddish-brown and scaly with age. The leaves are flattened above and have a keel below. They are triangular or four sided in cross section. They are 2-5 cm long. They are bluish-green. There are 15-60 leaves per tuft. The seed cones are oval and 1-2 cm long. They are light brown. They are on short curved stalks. There are about 20 smooth scales.

HABITAT

It is a cool temperate plant. It grows in cold, wet, poorly drained sites. It grows better on moist well-drained sites. It can grow in the Arctic circle. It suits hardiness zones 2-8. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seed production begins after about 10 years. Seed are produced in most years. Seeds are abundant every 3-6 years. Trees live for 150 years.

NOTES

It has medicinal uses. There are 10 to 14 Larix species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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