

Tamarack

Larix laricina

Tamarack trees are deciduous conifers, which means it is a conifer (has cones and needles), that loses its needles in the winter. Tamarack trees turn a beautiful golden yellow in the fall and can be seen for miles across wetlands. The “leaves” are needle-like in tight clusters of 10 to 35 needles. They are about 1 inch long and slightly fattened. The needles are not sharp like a spruce needle; they are very soft. The cones are an egg-like shape that are ½ inch to ¾ inch long. The young cones are reddish purple and ripen to a brown color the first year. It has a very shallow root system. Historically the wood of Tamarack trees has been used for the runners of dog sleds but now days it is used for pulpwood.

Height: 40’ to 70’

Grow relatively quickly, about 1 – 2 ft per year.

Planting environment:

Soil: rich peat in wet areas, or clay.

Soil moisture: Moist. Sensitive to drought.

Sunlight: Full sun (needs 6 hours of direct sun per day)

Plant seedlings 10’- 30’ apart, depending on your goals

Maintenance:

Protect seedlings and saplings from animal browsing. Tamarack trees do not require a lot of maintenance in normal weather, but if in the first few years there is a drought the seedlings will need to be watered as they do not do well in droughts.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Larch casebearer and larch sawfly
2. Wind damage

