



photo: Arthur Haines

AMERICAN LARCH

Larix laricina

In boreal and other northern forests, its brilliant yellow fall foliage is unmistakable. It is the only New England conifer to drop its needles.

A lovely specimen tree for rich soils.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Nesting habitat for veerys, warblers, and song sparrows
- Crossbills and grouse eat the seeds
- Porcupines snack on inner bark in winter

Host to 128 caterpillar species, including: (common names) Larch Sawfly; Columbia Silkmoth; Eastern Panthea; Apple Sphinx; Pale Beauty; Hickory Tussock Moth; Imperial Moth

Benefits for People

- Stunning seasonal interest
- Very cold tolerant
- Sometimes called Tamarack, the Algonquin word for “wood used for snowshoes”
- Early settlers used rot-resistant wood for roads

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Full sun to part shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	High organic matter, moist to wet, acidic to neutral
<i>Height</i>	40-80'
<i>Width</i>	15-30'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	April to May

Natural Habitat

- Cold areas, wetlands, moist Woodlands

