

Western Larch (Tamarack) *Larix occidentalis*

Distribution: Western Larch is predominantly found in the Northeast region of Washington. It also occurs in the Blue Mountains in southeast Washington between 2,000 and 4,500 feet.

Growth: Western Larch is the only *deciduous* conifer native to this region. It can exceed 150' tall, with a straight trunk that grows to 3' in diameter.

Adaptability: Western Larch can form dense forests at high altitudes but can occur in hills, mountains, rocky slopes, peat lands, swamps and lowland. It is a drought tolerant species once it is established.

Comments: Western Larch is an important commercial species. The wood is strong with a long, straight grain. It is used in construction where exceptionally strong wood is required. It is often found as a pioneering species and is therefore a good species for use in open, disturbed restoration sites. Several birds and mammals eat its seeds and grouse eat the fallen needles. Its bright gold autumn color is valued in the ornamental industry and very spectacular in large native stands.

