

Tamarack

Larix laricina



The Tamarack is a medium to large deciduous conifer found in northern North America—stretching from New England and the Great Lakes, through Canada, and up into Alaska. It is the only deciduous conifer in the northeast, which means that it grows needles in the spring and summer and loses them by winter. The needles also change color during the fall, from green to yellow or orange. The Tamarack can be distinguished by its clusters of needles, ranging from 10 to 20 per cluster, and are 1 inch in length. It has small, scaly cones that stay on the tree for 2-5 years. When young, its bark varies from gray or reddish-brown and becomes grayer as it gets older, while maintaining a flaky inconsistent pattern. They are commonly found within land-water ecotones, including bogs and marshes, and are very tolerant of cold temperatures, with the ability to survive to -85°F .