

## Western Larch Species Overview

*Western larch (or tamarack) is the most widely and successfully planted conifer in north Idaho. It is the "bread and butter" of reforestation in the region.*

### Tree Planting Properties of Western Larch

#### 1. Excellent Survival

- Western larch generally has the best planting survival of any species in the area.
- Larch is ecologically adapted to be the first species that comes back after a wildfire. A disturbed logging site provides similar conditions of bare soil and plenty of sunlight – just what larch needs to thrive!

#### 2. Fast Early Growth

- Larch thrives in full sunlight and has by far the fastest early growth of any native conifer.
- Seedlings are commonly **6+ feet tall** within 2-5 years.

#### 3. Browse Resistance

- Deer and elk browse is a major tree planting challenge.
- Western larch loses its needles in the fall so is less palatable to deer in March and April when they are hungry. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine are both much more susceptible to browse than larch.

#### 4. Disease Resistance & Broad Soil Suitability

- Western larch is resistant to root rot diseases that cause significant problems with Douglas-fir and grand fir. Reforesting root-diseased stands with western larch is often a good plan.
- Larch is suitable for all local soil types except for dry and rocky ponderosa pine sites.

#### 5. Strong Wood Quality

- Larch is sold together with Douglas-fir as the Fir-Larch species mix which has the highest wood strength ratings and generally the second highest log prices after cedar.

#### 6. Aesthetic Value

- Larch turns a bright gold in the fall enhancing aesthetics for your timberland or even around your home or cabin.

