

WACD PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

16564 Bradley Road, Bow WA 98232
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Western Larch (*Larix occidentalis*)

Distribution

Western Larch also known as Tamarack is predominantly found in the Northeast region of Washington. It also occurs sporadically along the east slope of the Cascades at elevations above 3,000 feet, and in the Blue Mountains in southeast Washington between 2,000 and 4,500 feet.

Growth Habit

Western Larch is the only deciduous conifer currently native to this region. Larch is a vigorous, upright tree that can exceed 150 feet tall. It has a straight trunk that can grow to 3 feet in diameter.

Adaptability

It is often found as a pioneering species, and is therefore a good species for use in open, disturbed restoration sites. It grows best in moist to dry, well drained sites with partial shade to full sun.

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.
- Its seeds are eaten by several species of birds and mammals, and grouse eat the fallen needles.
- Its bright gold autumn color is valued in the ornamental industry, and even more spectacular in large native stands.

