

Tree factsheet

images at pages 3 and 4

***Larix decidua* Miller**

taxonomy	
author, year	Miller
synonym	<i>Larix europaea</i> DC; <i>Larix sudetica</i> Domin; <i>Pinus larix</i> L.
Family	Pinaceae
Eng. Name	European larch, Common larch
Dutch name	Europese lariks (Boom, 2000) Europese lork (Heukels' Flora, 2005)
subspecies	-
varieties	<i>L. decidua</i> var. <i>polonica</i> (Racib) Ostenf. & Syrach Larsen (syn. <i>L. polonica</i> Racib.) <i>L. decidua</i> var. <i>carpatica</i> Domin (syn. <i>L. carpatica</i> Domin.)
hybrids	<i>Larix x marschlinsii</i> Coaz (<i>L. decidua</i> x <i>L. kaempferi</i>) (syn. <i>Larix x eurolepis</i> Henry)
cultivars, frequently planted	-
references	Earle, C.J. Gymnosperm database www.conifers.org USDA Forest Service www.pfaf.org/database/index.php Westra, J.J. Het geslacht Larix. In Schmidt (ed.). 1987. Ned. Boomsoorten 1 Syllabus vakgroep Bosteelt en Bosecologie, Landbouwniversiteit Wageningen Plants for a Future Database; www.pfaf.org/index.html
morphology	
crown habit	tree, pyramidal
max. height (m)	Europe: 30-50 The Netherlands: 30
max. dbh (cm)	100-200
oldest tree	year 988 AC, tree ring count, Val Malenco, Italy.
actual size Europe	year ..., d(130) 95, h 46, Glenlee Park, Dumfries and Galloway, UK. year ..., d(130) 271, h 30, Ulten Valley, Saint Nicholas, Italy.
actual size Netherlands	year 1844, d..., h ..., Schovenhorst, Putten year 1830-1840, d(130) 114, h 17 year 1850-1860, d(130) 115, h 20 year 1860-1870, d(130) 97, h 28
leaf length (cm)	2-4 single
leaf petiole (cm)	0
leaf colour upper surface	green
leaf colour under surface	green
leaves arrangement	alternate
flowering	March - May
flowering plant	monoecious
flower	monosexual
flower diameter (cm)	?
pollination	wind
fruit; length	cone; 3-4 cm
fruit petiole (cm)	0,3
seed; length	samara (=winged nut); ... cm
seed-wing length (cm)	
weight 1000 seeds (g)	5,0-5,9
seeds ripen	October same year
seed dispersal	wind

habitat	
natural distribution	Alps, Central Europe
in N.W. Europe since	1629
natural areas The Netherlands	not indigenous
geological landscape types The Netherlands (Hoek 1997)	
forested areas The Netherlands	dry and moist sandy soils; former oak coppice forests
area Netherlands	uncommon forest tree
% of forest trees in the Netherlands	<0,7
soil type	sandy or loamy soils
pH-KCl	
soil fertility	nutrient medium to nutrient rich
light	light demanding
① shade tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	1.5
① drought tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	2.3
① waterlogging tolerance (0=no tolerance to 5=max. tolerance)	1.1
plant communities in the Netherlands	Vaccinio-Piceetea (klasse der naaldbossen)
management	
status Europe	frequent indigenous species in forests <i>var. polonica</i> listed as rare on the 1996 IUCN Red List
status The Netherlands	infrequent exotic species in forests
application	timber tree
propagation	seed
regeneration	planting; natural regeneration; seeding
optimal gap size for regeneration	2x tree length
first plantation Netherlands	?
resprouting after cutting	no
growth rate (M.A.I. in m ³ ha ⁻¹ j ⁻¹)	fast ...
diseases	<i>Lachnellula willkomii</i> , fungus affecting phloem also (Dutch: lariks-kanker) <i>Armillaria mellea</i> , fungus on roots (Dutch: Honingzwam) <i>Meria laricis</i> , fungus on leaves (Dutch: Lariksschot) <i>Heterobasidion annosum</i> , fungus on roots and stem (Dutch: wortelzwam) <i>Phomopsis pseudotsugae</i> , fungus on young trees (Dutch: insnoeringsziekte)
insects	<i>Coleophora laricella</i> (Dutch: Lariksmotje, Lariks-spinselmotje) <i>Cephalcia alpina</i> (Dutch: Spinselbladwesp) <i>Pristiphora laricis</i> (Dutch: bladwesp) <i>Ips cembrae</i> (Dutch: Lariksbastkever)
wood	
wood	Larch (Dutch: lariks)
wood structure key characteristics of pores	resin canals present, transition from earlywood to latewood abrupt
density heartwood (kg/m ³)	470-650 (12% moisture content)
elastic modulus (N/mm ²)	?
durability heartwood	fungus 3-4
heartwood colour	yellowish brown to reddish brown
sapwood colour	yellowish white
contents	resin (Dutch: hars)
products	construction timber, windows, doors, cladding, furniture
non-timber products	
resin	for turpentine

① Ülo Niinemets and Fernando Valladares. 2006. Tolerance to shade, drought, and waterlogging of temperate Northern Hemisphere trees and shrubs. Ecological Monographs 76:521–547



Larch forest, Binntal, Switzerland



Solitary old larch, Wageningen



Young plant, Binntal, Switzerland

photography 3x ©Leo Goudzwaard, Wageningen University



short shoots (Wikipedia)



Larch wood (©Chris Sonnemans)



Bark (©Leo Goudzwaard)



Pollen flowers, hanging; (above), female flower (right) and mature cone (far right) (3x ©Paul Wray, Iowa State University. www.forestryimages.org)





Otto Wilhelm Thomé, 1885