


Japanese larch [Pinaceae](#) *Larix kaempferi* (Lam.) Carrière 
symbol: LAKA2

vTree

Leaf: Deciduous, appearing singly on new growth and in whorls on older growth, 1 to 1 1/4 inches long, green to glaucous blue-green in color.

Flower: Species is monoecious; males light yellow, small and round; females yellow to red, with long, curved scales.

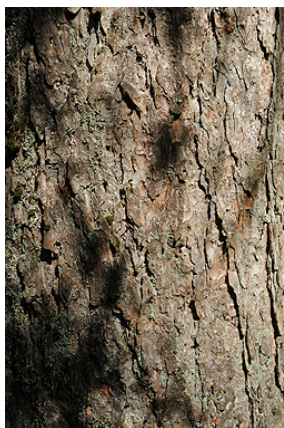
Fruit: Cones are 1 to 1 1/2 inches long, almost round, cone scales strongly reflexed, flower-like in appearance, borne upright on the twig, maturing fall to early winter.

Twig: Reddish brown to glaucous purple, bearing rounded buds. Spur shoots present on older growth.

Bark: On young trees the bark is scaly and gray, later becoming furrowed with a reddish brown inner bark.

Form: Well formed, with a straight stem and pyramidal crown. Lateral branches commonly droop.

Looks like: [Dunkeld larch](#) - [European larch](#) - [tamarack](#) - [western larch](#)



Native to Japan, planted as a timber tree and an ornamental in zones 4-7, known to escape.

Additional Range Information:
Larix kaempferi is planted in the [USDA hardiness zones](#) shown above and may seed into the landscape. [See states reporting Japanese larch.](#)

External Links:
[USDA Plants Database](#)

© Copyright 2012, Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, all rights reserved.
Photos and Text by: John Seiler, Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera, and John Peterson.