

European larch

Larix decidua



What to look for

A tall, deciduous (drops its leaves) conifer

Bright pink, feathery female flowers (larch roses)

Vivid green needles

Smells strongly of turpentine

Can be distinguished from Japanese larch which has rose-like cones with scales turned back



Where found

Forestry plantations – grown both for timber and as a 'nurse' for other species

Seeds blow on wind to spring up in sheltered hollows and upland valleys



When to look

Leafing March-April

Flowers March-May

Did you know?

Native to the mountain ranges of central Europe

It was introduced into the UK as an ornamental tree in the 17th century, but later discovered to be a valuable source of timber and extensively planted in Scotland because of its fast growing qualities (up to 10cm a week) and ability to withstand the cold, down to -50°C

The wood is strong and virtually weatherproof, and has been used for construction work in mines and for shipbuilding

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