

The Lovely Larch



Inspiration from Nick Lenz

- *Larix laricina*
- Est. age: ~140yrs
- Trained since 1972



What's in a name?

- Larignum
 - Town in the Alps defended by a tower made from Larch beams
- Tamarack
 - Algonquian: wood used for snowshoes
- Muckigwatig
 - Ojibwa: swamp tree



Taxonomy of Genus Larix

- Eurasia Species

- ★ decidua - European
 - sibirica - Siberian
 - gmelinii - Dahurian
- ★ kaempferi - Japanese
 - potaninii - Chinese
 - mastersiana - Master's
 - griffithii - Himalayan

- North America Species

- ★ laricina - Tamarack
 - lyallii - Subalpine
 - occidentalis - Western

- Hybrids

- Most can be hybridised
- ★ Larix × marschlinii -
Dunkeld



Interesting Facts

- 1 of 5 groups of deciduous conifers
 - Needles turn a brilliant golden yellow before falling
- Very hardy
 - Tamarack is hardy to zone 3 (-40F/-30F)
 - Keep it outdoors in winter!
- Tamarack is often found in boggy/swampy areas



Bonsai Care

- Likes sun, but can dry out quickly & scorch in summer
 - Keep well watered!
- Fertilize when buds appear in spring through fall
- Repot in spring just as buds start to extend
- Pruning
 - Heavy pruning in late winter
 - Maintenance pruning
 - Pinch back new shoots after they extend
 - Very vigorous and can replace cut foliage quickly



Foliage Closeup



Bonsai Care (cont.)

- Wiring
 - Spring before buds extend
 - Branches thicken quickly!
 - Watch out for wire eating into the branch
- Propagation
 - Grow from seed works if patient
 - Difficult to air layer, but possible
 - Semi-ripe & hardwood cuttings



