

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

As stated last month I had been writing more about leaves and deciduous plants than I had been about needles and boughs. Well now to confuse the issue, how about a deciduous evergreen? Yes, such a tree exists. It is one of the choices you have for a tree to be planted in moist areas. The key word here is moist — not wet. The name of this deciduous evergreen — *Larix decidua* (lar-iks de-sid'u-a) European or Common Larch.

Leaves: Of long shoots up to 1 1/4" long, narrow pointed or blunt, those of short shoots 30 to 40 together, 1/2 to 1 1/2" long, narrower and blunter than those of the long shoots, both kinds keeled below, soft deep green, turning yellow in autumn.

Buds: Terminal of long shoots globose, short pointed, with many brown pointed scales, lateral buds shorter, blunter, buds of short shoots small, rounded.



Stems: Young terminal gray or yellowish, furrowed, without pubescence, those of the second year roughened by cushion-like leaf bases of the previous year.



Cones: Ovoid, 1 to 1 1/2" long, 3/4 to 1" wide, scales rounded and entire above striated margin sometimes wavy.

Size: 70 to 75' in height by 25 to 30' in width, can grow to 100 to 140', but you and I won't see that.

Culture: Readily transplanted when dormant; should have sufficient moisture, well-drained and sunny conditions, intolerant of shade, dry shallow chalky soils and polluted areas; prune in mid-summer.

Every golf course should have a place for this beautiful and graceful tree.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants"
by Michael Dirr

FOR THE FINEST IN SOD
THORNTON'S SOD NURSERY

708 - 742-5030

Rt. 2 Box 72

Elgin, Ill. 60120

 **RHÔNE-POULENC**



Any questions?

Call
Arthur Clesen, Inc.



543 Diens Drive • Wheeling, IL 60090 • (708) 537-2177 • FAX (708) 537-2199