

Tamarack

Larix laricina

Height: 6-15 meters

Diameter: 30-60 centimetres

Distinguishing feature: The Tamarack tree is the only native coniferous tree in our region to shed its needles in the autumn.

USES

Historical- The flexible roots were peeled and split, and used to stitch the seams of birch bark canoes. Rotted tamarack wood is burned for smoking fish and smoke-tanning hides. Europeans used tamarack for ship building as the wood was considered nearly indestructible, even against the elements.

Commercial- Tamarack wood is heavy, durable, and decay-resistant which makes it good for posts, poles, mine timbers, and railroad ties.

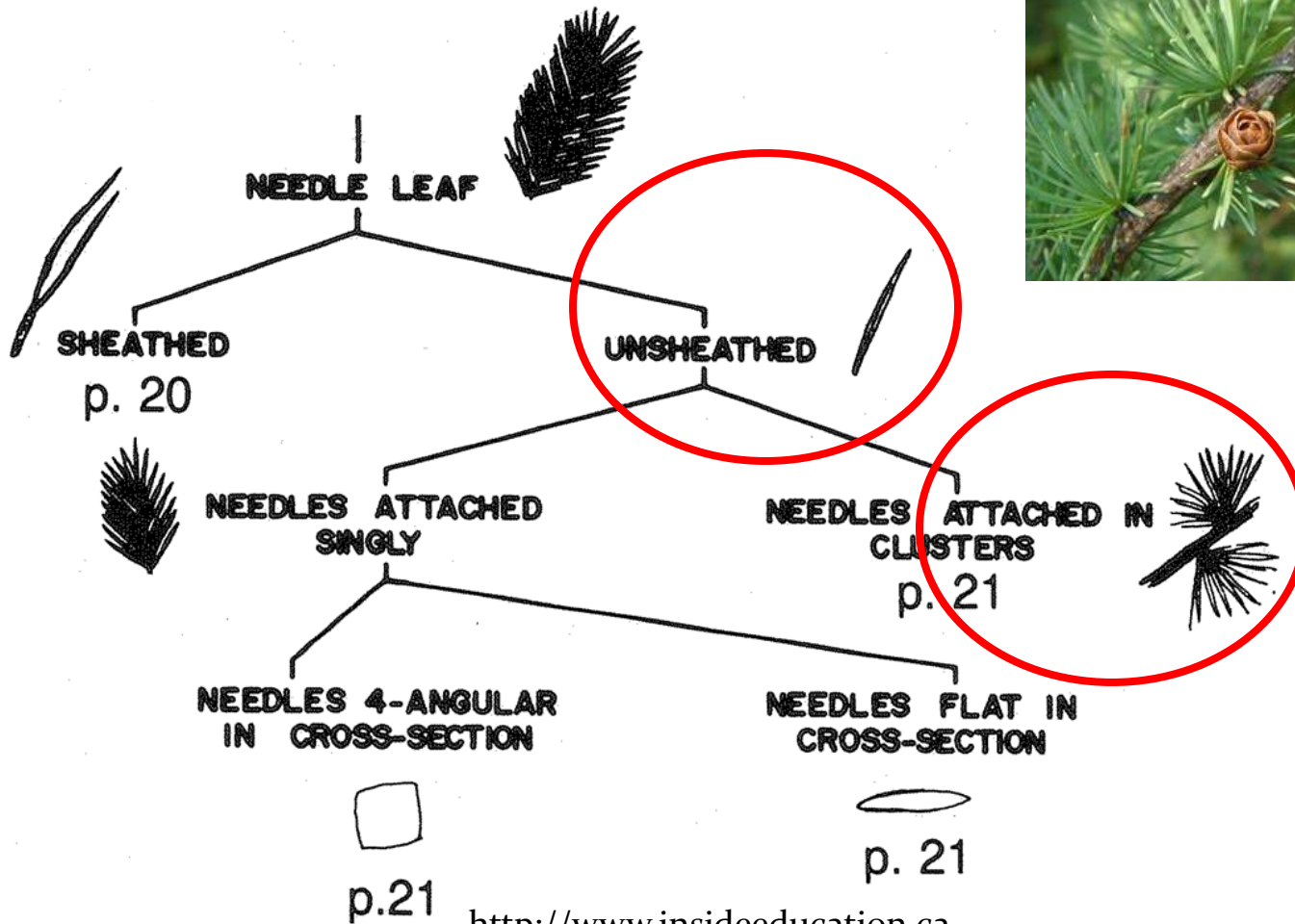
Natural - Grows in cold, poorly-drained, nutrient-poor sites such as bogs and fens.

Medicinal- Tamarack needles are high in vitamin C so aboriginal people and European travellers made a tea from the needles and young twigs to prevent scurvy. Tea made from the needles, bark and roots was recommended for treating sore muscles, arthritis and diabetes.



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Identification



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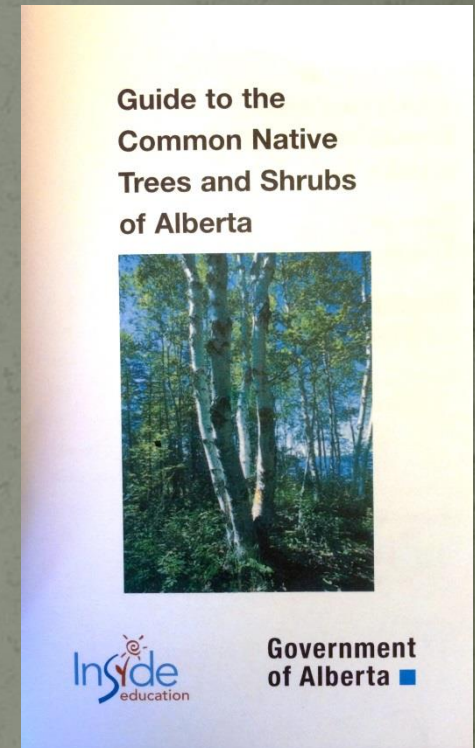
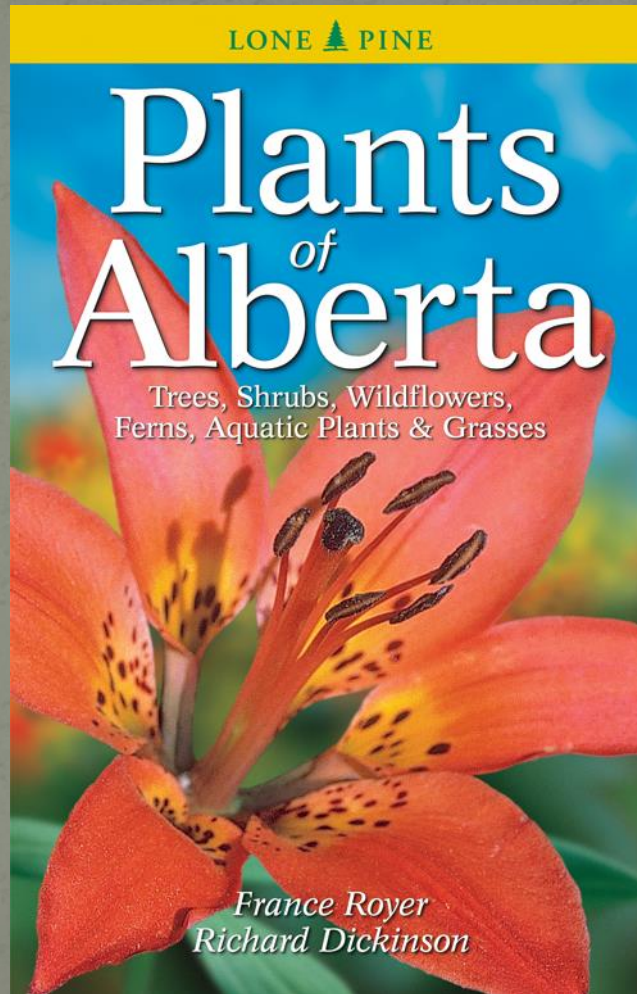
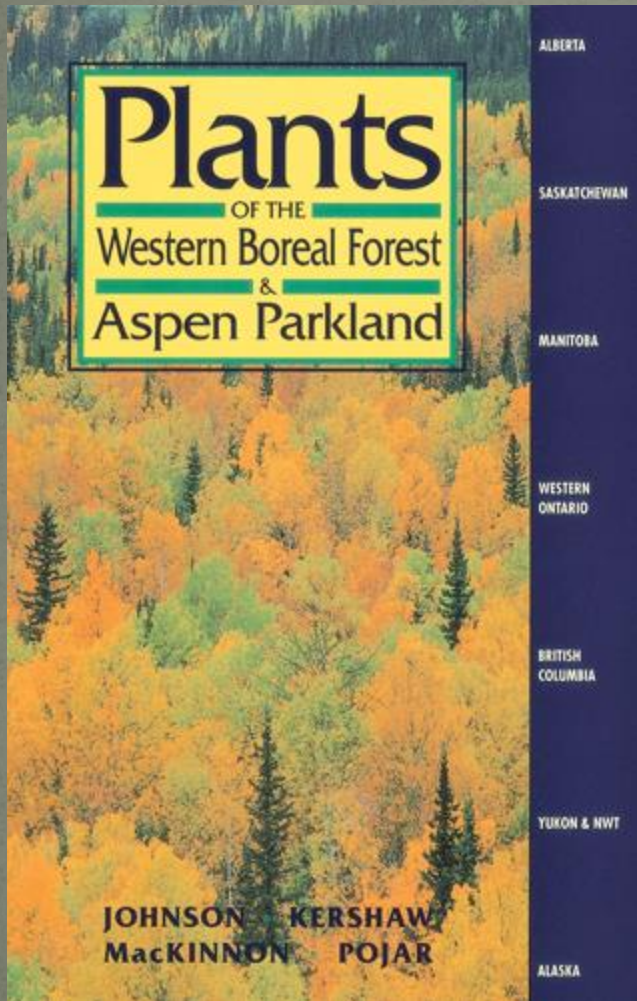
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Resources



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