



## tamarack

*Larix laricina*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Coniferophyta  
Class:  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

The tamarack tree may grow to 100 feet tall. Its reddish-brown bark is scaly. The light green, needlelike leaves grow in clusters. Each needle is about one inch long and falls off in autumn. Fruits are cones, up to one-half inch long.

### BEHAVIORS

The tamarack grows in peatlands. It may be found in McHenry, Lake and Cook counties. This tree flowers from October through November.

### HABITATS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests        | <input type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan             | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes                   | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands      |  |

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- |  |                                     |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> common            | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic     |  |

Drainage of peatlands, water table depression, flooding, competition with the introduced shrub called glossy buckthorn, bark beetle infestations and fire have all contributed to the decline of the species in Illinois.

### ILLINOIS RANGE

McHenry, Lake and Cook counties

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.