PINACEAE
Larix lyallii Parl.
Laly

subalpine larch, alpine larch, Lyall larch

FORM: Timberline tree, up to 15m (50ft) tall; long, spreading limbs with broad crown, often stunted or gnarled.

IDAHO CHAMPION: 1970. 50in dbh; 157in circum. + 95ft tall + 9.5ft crown = 261pts; Bonners Ferry RD. Kaniksu NF.

STEMS: Young twigs covered with dense, white or yellowish woolly hairs (1).

BARK: Thin, ashy grey, becoming brown, initially smooth, becoming separated into scaly, deep furrows.

LEAVES: Deciduous, 30-40 rigid needles borne on short spur, light bluish-green, 2-4cm (1-2in) long, 4-angled with visible resin ducts in cross-section (2); turning color earlier than Larix occidentalis.

CONES: Reddish-yellow to purplish-green 3-5cm (1-2in) long; bracts much longer than cone scales; ripens Aug.-Sept.; seed shed in Sept.

ENEMIES: Diseases: Fomes pini and Phaeolus (Polyporus) Schweinitzii.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Larix occidentalis, p.13.

HABITAT: Timberline above 2000m (6550ft) elevation in the spruce-fir zone.

NOTES: Rare tree, seldom encountered near roads; it is accessible on the old Nezperce Trail, FS Rd #468.